Notes for an address by Ms. Katharina Rose,
Geneva Representative of the International Coordinating Committee
of National Human Rights Institutions, on behalf of
the Canadian Human Rights Commission

Item 8 – Follow-up and Implementation
of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

General Debate

UN Human Rights Council 24th Regular Session
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Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished participants,
Ladies and gentlemen:

On behalf of the Canadian Human Rights Commission, Canada’s A-status National Human Rights Institution, I am pleased to contribute to the important discussion of gender integration in the context of the VDPA and Resolution 6/30.

Equality between women and men is a fundamental human right. Although progress has been made toward achieving gender equality in Canada, women continue to face obstacles. Equality is particularly difficult to attain for women facing discrimination on multiple or intersecting grounds — for example, women with disabilities, Indigenous women, women from visible minority communities, elderly women, single mothers, women living in poverty and sexual minorities.

The Canadian Human Rights Commission recognizes the need to systematically integrate a gender and intersectional perspective into all aspects of its work including discrimination prevention activities, dispute resolution processes, policy development, and research.

To this end, the Commission has developed a Gender Integration Framework. This framework strengthens and promotes the Commission’s commitment to gender equality by ensuring the systematic assessment of the differential impacts on women and men throughout all of the Commission’s work.
The Framework also enables gender differences to be understood through a cultural lens, when appropriate, as illustrated by the Framework’s application to Indigenous women’s rights in Canada.

Using the Framework enables a systematic approach to assessing the differential impacts of policies, programs, and decisions. The Commission would like to offer the Framework for consideration by the UN Human Rights Council and its mechanisms, as an example, when integrating a gender perspective in their work.

Thank you.