Mr. President,
Madam High Commissioner,

The International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC) is pleased to participate in today's discussions on your annual report.

Madam High Commissioner, the universality of human rights and the principle of non-discrimination have been central to the core of your leadership and your Office's activities during your tenure. The ICC commends your focused and renewed attention to those who are discriminated against, be it on the grounds of race; gender; age; disability; sexual orientation or other discriminatory grounds. The ICC also commends your continued support to human rights defenders who seek to promote and protect the rights of those who are discriminated against.

Your leadership during debates that at times were difficult and sensitive has highlighted once again the importance of having a strong and independent Office, with a principled commitment to the universality of human rights, and with the integrity to stand up and reaffirm that human rights indeed apply to everyone, everywhere, at every moment, without distinction whatsoever.

The ICC strongly supports your advocacy in advancing the full integration of human rights into the UN system at large, as one of the key UN pillars, next to peace and security, and development. Only with a unified voice and action on human rights throughout its work can the UN live up to the vision of the UN Charter and UDHR and responsibilities bestowed to it as an organisation.

The ICC welcomes the Secretary General's Rights Up Front initiative and encourages a strengthened focus on UN cooperation with, and support of, national level stakeholders, including civil society, human rights defenders and national human rights institutions.
Madam High Commissioner, the ICC welcomes the six thematic priorities that your Office has identified for the period from 2014 through 2017.

Given their broad mandates under the Paris Principles, NHRIs are uniquely placed to work with the OHCHR in all six thematic priorities. The ICC therefore encourages the OHCHR to continue and strengthen the process of mainstreaming and integrating NHRIs into all aspects of the Office’s overall work and priority setting.

This will be in keeping with the OHCHR’s mandate to support and help strengthen NHRIs, as requested by the General Assembly and Human Rights Council in their respective resolutions on NHRIs.

Finally, it is noted that this is your final report as High Commissioner and the ICC wishes to acknowledge and thank you for the support that has been afforded to the ICC and NHRIs during your tenure.

Thank you.