High level representatives from the A status accredited national human rights institutions (NHRIs) from Jordan, Malaysia (SUHAKAM), Mauritius, Mexico, and Nigeria convened in Geneva as their states' human rights record was reviewed at the United Nations Human Rights Council during the session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

The 17th meeting of the UPR Working Group, took place from 21 October to 1 November 2013 in Geneva. 15 UN Member states were reviewed by their peers during an interactive dialogue featuring comments and recommendations. The review was based on the national report provided by the State under review, the compilation of UN information and the OHCHR summary of contributions from NHRIs and NGOs.

While in Geneva, the NHRI representatives participated in the Working Group session of their respective states, and met with State representatives, OHCHR officials and civil society representatives, to discuss the UPR process.

Commenting on the UPR of Malaysia, Suhakam Chairperson Tan Sri Hasmy Agam said 'the UPR session was a great success on the part of the Government, which we commend, but a more focused and in-depth deliberation of the human rights situation in the country would have been more beneficial to Malaysia as it undertakes measures to fulfill its commitments to further improve the human rights situation in the country.

Chairperson Mr. Agam was supported by SUHAKAM officer Kasim Wan during the UPR of Malaysia.
‘SUHAKAM has developed an action plan in follow-up to the UPR process which it hopes to implement throughout the second cycle of Malaysia’s second UPR. The plan includes timetables for regular consultations and workshops between relevant stakeholders including Government agencies, civil society organisations and the media; publication of an awareness-raising document on Malaysia’s second UPR; and a strategy for developing a mid-term report on the implementation of Malaysia’s UPR recommendations. In addition, SUHAKAM plans to intensify its engagement with the media to encourage wider media coverage on the UPR process as a means to promote greater awareness and understanding of the UPR mechanism especially among the general public’, said SUHAKAM’s Chairperson Mr. Agam, speaking at a panel in the Palais des Nations, organised by Malaysian civil society.

In an interview with UPR Info Executive Director Roland Chauville, Suhakam’s Chairperson reflected on Suhakam’s expectations for following cycles of the UPR. A video recording of the interview is available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kWNAVNacL14

Following Malaysia's review, Suhakam issued a press release, which is attached for ease of reference.

ICC Geneva Representative Katharina Rose assisted in the organisation of meetings between NHRI representatives and State, OHCHR and civil society representatives. She also facilitated the participation of NHRIs in high level side events.

NHRIs have an important role to play in relation to all stages of the Universal Periodic Review. While they can bring authoritative and independent information on national situations to the UPR, in turn they can monitor and promote implementation of UPR recommendations in-country.

Please see the ICC website for information on the important role of NHRIs in UPR-follow up: http://nhri.ohchr.org/EN/IHRS/UPR/Documents/FINAL%20ICC%20paper%20on%20NHRIs%20UPR%20follow%20up.pdf
Information submitted by states and relevant stakeholders, including concerned A status
NHRIs, as well the timetable of State reviews are available on the OHCHR’s webpage:
http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRMain.aspx

Contact
Katharina Rose
ICC Geneva Representative
k.rose@europe.com