

2.8 New Zealand: New Zealand Human Rights Commission

Recommendation: The Sub-Committee recommends that the Commission be accredited **status A**. The Sub-Committee also refers the Commission to the General Observations of the Sub-Committee on ensuring pluralism and on the selection and appointment of the governing body.

2.9 Panama: Defensoría del Pueblo de Panama

Recommendation: The Sub-Committee recommends that the Defensoría be accredited **status A**. The Sub-Committee notes that according to the 2004-2005 Annual Report, the budget of the Defensoría has recently been reduced by 20%. The Sub-Committee encourages the Defensoría to advise the ICC should its funding adversely affect the ability to operate in accordance with the Paris Principles.

3. SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS – NEW ACCREDITATION APPLICATIONS

3.1 Armenia: Human Rights Defender of Armenia

Recommendation: The Sub-Committee recommends that the Defender be accredited **status A**.

3.2 Azerbaijan: Human Rights Commissioner (Ombudsman)

Recommendation: The Sub-Committee recommends that the Commissioner be accredited **status A**. The Sub-Committee further notes that the promotional and educational functions of the Commissioner are found in the regulation and recommends that consideration be given to entrenching these functions in the enabling legislation. The Sub-Committee refers the Commissioner to the General Observation on the selection and appointment of the governing body.

3.3 Egypt: National Council for Human Rights

Recommendation: The Sub-Committee recommends that the Council be accredited **status A**. The Sub-Committee also encourages consideration of the removal of the provision allowing the President to convene the Commission on the basis that it could potentially compromise the independence of the Commission. The recommendation for A status is based on the Sub-Committee's understanding that the work of the Committee of Five is in an advisory capacity only and that the Committee does not review and study individual complaints prior to their referral to the concerned authorities. The Sub-Committee refers the Council to the General Observation on government representatives on National Institutions.