

- c. the Equality Act include a specific reference to pluralism with regard to the appointments process. The Sub-Committee refers to General Observations 2.1 “Ensuring pluralism” and 2.2 “Selection and appointment of the governing body”;
- d. the grounds for dismissal of a Commissioner be more clearly defined. The Sub-Committee refers to General Observation 2.9 “Guarantee of tenure for members of governing bodies”.

The Sub-Committee also notes the requirement for the Minister’s consent in relation to the following issues: payment of Commissioners; the numbers, terms and conditions of staff appointments; and the appointment of investigating commissioners. The Sub-Committee emphasizes that this relationship should not negatively influence the EHRC’s ability to function independently. The Sub-Committee refers to General Observation 1.6 “Recommendations by NHRIs”.

3.2. Qatar: National Committee for Human Rights (NCHR)

Recommendation: The Sub-Committee recommends that consideration of the application of the NCHR **be deferred** to the March 2009 Sub-Committee session **while keeping its current accreditation B Status**.

The Sub-Committee notes that insufficient information was provided for it to make a determination and encourages the NCHR to seek advice and assistance from OHCHR and the Asia Pacific Forum of NHRIs.

3.3. Russia: Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights (OCHR)

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

The Sub-Committee notes the following:

- 1) It recommends that the OCHR engage systematically with the international human rights system as well as the European human rights system. The Sub-Committee emphasizes the importance of General Observation 1.4 “Interaction with the international human rights system”;
- 2) It encourages the continued interaction of the OCHR with civil society organizations;
- 3) It encourages the OCHR to institutionalize the cooperation with the regional human rights institutions of the subjects of the Russian Federation and refers to General Observation 1.5 “Cooperation with other human rights institutions”. The Sub-Committee acknowledges the existence of the Coordination Council;
- 4) It refers to General Observation 2.2 “Selection and appointment of the governing body” and in particular the need for the appointment process to be transparent;
- 5) It refers to General Observation 1.6 “Recommendations by NHRIs”.

3.4. Switzerland: Commission fédérale pour les questions féminines (CFQF)¹

Recommendation: After consideration of the application of the CFQF, the Sub-Committee is not satisfied that the CFQF is in compliance with the Paris Principles and recommends that the application be **deferred**, to allow the CFQF to take such steps as necessary to expand its powers. The Sub-Committee encourages the CFQF to also consider consolidating together with other

¹ Please note: The ICC Sub-Committee on Accreditation will review the CFQF again at its March 2009 session.