

the members of the Sub-Committee. Once the recommendations of the Sub-Committee are adopted by the ICC Bureau, according to the procedures, the summaries and the comments and the statement of compliance will be posted on the NHRI Forum (www.nhri.net). The summaries are currently only prepared in English, due to current financial constraints.

- 2.4. The Sub-Committee considered information received from civil society. The Sub-Committee shared that information with the concerned NHRIs and considered their responses.
- 2.5. The Sub-Committee amended paragraph 3.6 (new), 4.2 and 6.1 of its Rules of Procedure as well as its General Observations 6.3 and 6.6, in keeping with the ICC Statute and its current procedures. The Sub-Committee **recommends** that the ICC Bureau approve the amendments to the Rules of Procedure and General Observations.
- 2.6. The Sub-Committee considered the issue of re-accreditation of status B NHRIs and **recommends** that all NHRIs that hold B status be subject to re-accreditation on a 5 year cyclical basis.

3. SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS – ACCREDITATION APPLICATIONS

3.1. Qatar: National Human Rights Committee (NHRC)

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

The Sub-Committee expresses appreciation for the work done by the NHRC, as well as the inclusion of non-citizens under its mandate, especially given the national circumstances and societal composition.

It expresses appreciation for the legislative changes that have increased the number of civil society representatives on the NHRC, their majority status on the NHRC and the removal of voting rights for Government representatives.

It also expresses appreciation for the regular increase in funding for the NHRC and that the NHRC has management and control over the use of those funds.

The Sub-Committee (“SCA”) notes the following:

- While the NHRC considers and proposes new members, the existing legislative process refers to the selection of new members by the Emir. The existing legislation should establish a clear, transparent and pluralistic nomination process. The SCA refers to General Observation 2.1 “Ensuring pluralism” and General Observation 2.2 “Selection and appointment of the governing body”;
- There is no legislative provision guaranteeing the immunity of NHRC members for actions undertaken in their official capacity. The SCA refers to General Observation 2.5 “Immunity”;
- Financial security and autonomy through the creation of an individual entry in the budget which is solely attributed to the NHRC is not ensured. The SCA refers to General Observation 2.6 “Adequate Funding”;
- There is no legislative provision for the dismissal of NHRC members. The SCA refers to General Observation 2.9 “Guarantee of tenure for members of governing bodies”;

- The SCA encourages the NHRC to monitor developments in the international human rights system and to use such developments to inform and develop their domestic activities where applicable. Furthermore, and where relevant, the SCA encourages the NHRC to interact directly with the international human rights system (UN Human Rights Treaty Bodies, Special Procedures Mandate Holders and Human Rights Council, including the UPR), providing information independently of the Government and ensuring follow up action to recommendations resulting from that system. It refers to General Observation 1.4 "Interaction with the International Human Rights System".

The Sub-Committee will consider these issues at its first session of 2010. The Sub-Committee encourages the NHRC to seek advice and assistance from OHCHR and the regional network of NHRIs.

3.2. Sri Lanka: Human Rights Commission (SLHRC)

Recommendation: after reviewing the information provided by the SLHRC, the Sub-Committee recommends that its **B Status** be maintained. It encourages the SLHRC to submit a complete accreditation application for a future session.

The Sub-Committee ("SCA") notes the following:

- It observes that new SLHRC members are due to be appointed in April 2009. While recognising that the Constitutional Council may not be constituted at this time to make recommendations on appointments as provided for in the SLHRC's legislation, the SCA nevertheless stresses the need for a transparent and consultative selection process in practice. The SCA strongly encourages the SLHRC to engage with the government to ensure the adoption of such a process. The SCA refers to General Observation 2.2 "Selection and Appointment of the Governing Body".
- It expresses its concern that the SLHRC does not appear to have released regular and detailed reports or statements in relation to killings, abductions and disappearances stemming from the human rights crisis in Sri Lanka. While the SCA acknowledges the work of the SLHRC's regional offices in extremely difficult circumstances, it reemphasises the need for the SLHRC to carry out its core protection mandate to demonstrate its vigilance and independence during the ongoing state of emergency;
- It commends the SLHRC on its concrete efforts to implement a regular consultation mechanism with civil society organisations in line with the ICC recommendation on the same. However, the SCA notes that consultation so far has been described as selective. The SCA emphasises that engagement with civil society must be broad based, to ensure the pluralistic representation of social forces as required by the Paris Principles;
- It welcomes the publication of the 2006-07 Annual Report in line with the ICC recommendation on the same, but notes that the report provides insufficient information to assess the ongoing work of the SLHRC and appears to be only available in English. The SCA refers to General Observation 6.7 "NHRI Annual Report";
- It further notes that the Tamil and Sinhala sections of the SLHRC website are not functioning. The SCA highlights the importance of ensuring that the SLHRC is accessible to all groups in society.