

4.2 Qatar : National Human Rights Committee (NHRC)

Recommendation: The SCA recommends that consideration of the review of the NHRC be deferred to the next session while keeping its current accreditation **A Status**.

The SCA acknowledges and commends the efforts of the NHRC to address the recommendations made by the SCA in March 2009 regarding the required revision of its founding law. It notes that on 23 March 2010, the draft law was approved by the Council of Ministers and is proceeding through the legislative process.

The SCA encourages the NHRC to continue to promote the development of legislation in full compliance with the Paris Principles, specifically to address the absence in the draft law on provisions detailing the nomination, selection, appointment and dismissal processes of Committee members. It refers to General Observations 2.1 “Ensuring pluralism” and 2.2 “Selection and appointment of the governing body”. It further encourages the NHRC to seek advice and assistance from OHCHR and the regional coordinating committee (Asia Pacific Forum of NHRIs).

The SCA draws the NHRC’s attention to article 16.3 of the ICC Statute, which provides that “any review of the accreditation classification of a NHRI must be finalized within 18 months”.

4.3 Greece : Greece National Commission for Human Rights (GNCHR)

The SCA was provided with an update from the GNCHR regarding developments to ensuring the financial autonomy over the funds allocated to it, as requested at its November 2009 session.

5 REVIEWS UNDER ARTICLE 16.2 OF THE ICC STATUTE

5.1 Azerbaijan: Human Rights Commissioner (Ombudsman)

The SCA considered:

- The following Concluding Observations of the Committee Against Torture (CAT/C/AZE/CO/3): “The Committee is concerned that the Ombudsman lacks the requisite level of independence to be the national institution responsible for investigating complaints of torture and other human rights violations, as well as to serve as the National Prevention Mechanism under the OPCAT. The State party should take effective measures to ensure that the Ombudsman’s Office is in practice a functioning, independent body, in compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles)”.
- The circumstances surrounding the reappointment process of the Ombudsman.

The SCA decided to undertake a Special Review of the accreditation status of the Ombudsman at its next session.
