

**UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW**

**Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review \***

**Saudi Arabia**

**Addendum**

**Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments  
and replies presented by the State under review**

**RESPONSES OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA TO THE  
RECOMMENDATIONS MADE TO IT WITHIN THE  
FRAMEWORK OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC  
REVIEW ON 10 FEBRUARY 2009**

**Recommendation 1:**

Go ahead with its intention to examine the ratification of some international human rights instruments, in particular ICCPR and ICESCR (Algeria); undertake thorough and comprehensive studies of international instruments and conventions, including ICCPR and ICESCR, prior to its accession to those instruments (Malaysia); consider the possibility of acceding to those international instruments it is not yet a party to, through the committee of the Human Rights Commission tasked to examine the compatibility of laws with international conventions and human rights treaties (Nicaragua); continue with the reform process and ratify a number of its outstanding international instruments to provide full enjoyment of all human rights to its people (Nigeria).

**Response:**

1. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation.
2. The implementation of this recommendation forms part of the Kingdom's ongoing policy of conducting a periodic review of all international human rights instruments with a view to considering accession thereto through a comprehensive study of the provisions of those instruments by the Human Rights Commission in collaboration with all the governmental authorities concerned and the relevant civil society organizations and after ensuring that all the obligations provided for therein, including legislative requirements and control and implementation mechanisms, have been met.

**Recommendation 2:**

Become a party to the ICCPR and ICESCR (Canada, New Zealand, Republic of Korea).

**Response:**

3. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation on the basis that its implementation will form part of the comprehensive periodic review referred to in the response to Recommendation 1 above.

**Recommendation 3:**

Consider positively the ratification of the conventions on enforced disappearance, the migrant workers, refugees, statelessness and the reduction of cases of statelessness, and the Optional Protocol to CAT (Mexico).

**Response:**

4. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation.
5. The implementation of this recommendation will form part of the comprehensive periodic review referred to in the response to Recommendation 1 above.

**Recommendation 4:**

Become party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (France, Mexico).

**Response:**

6. The Kingdom is not currently considering accession to the Statute of the International Criminal Court.

**Recommendation 5:**

Reinforce its efforts in the area of the implementation of obligations under international human rights law, in particular those pertaining to freedom of opinion and expression (Mexico).

**Response:**

7. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation.

8. The Kingdom is making its utmost endeavour to fulfil all its international obligations in the field of human rights by, inter alia, taking all the measures needed to protect rights in regard to freedom of opinion and expression concerning which explicit provisions have been made in the Basic Law of Governance, the Press and Publications Act and other relevant laws and regulations.

**Recommendation 6:**

Abide by its commitments made through the ratification of international instruments (Chad).

**Response:**

9. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation.

10. The implementation of this recommendation forms part of the comprehensive periodic review referred to in the response to Recommendation 1 above and Recommendation 7 below.

**Recommendation 7:**

Modify the domestic legislation to be in accordance with the standards and requirements contained in the international human rights instruments (Chile).

**Response:**

11. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation.

12. The review of domestic legislation to ensure its consistency with the provisions of the international human rights instruments to which the Kingdom is a party forms part of the comprehensive periodic review conducted by the competent authorities in the Kingdom to ensure fulfilment of all the Kingdom's obligations under those instruments. That review covers the existing legislation as well as the promulgation of any new legislative enactments required. To this end, the legislative authorities are currently studying a number of enactments relating to the promotion of human rights, including the Child Protection Act, the Protection from Harm Act, the Civil Society Institutions Statute, the Enforcement of Judicial Judgements Act, the Prevention of Embezzlement of Public Property and Misuse of Authority Act and the Domestic

Workers Ordinance. Consideration is also being given to fundamental modifications to some legislative instruments such as the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Code of Civil (Shari'a) Procedure and, in this regard, the Kingdom is seeking to benefit from all the observations and recommendations made during the discussion of its periodic reports in the Human Rights Council or the mechanisms relating to the human rights instruments to which the Kingdom is a party.

**Recommendation 8:**

Continue efforts and endeavours to improve overall human rights protection in the country (Azerbaijan, Oman, Russian Federation); persist on the path of the protection and elevation of human dignity, taking into account relevant international standards (Morocco); continue its efforts to take all measures to promote and protect the universal characteristic of human rights while protecting its historical, religious and civilizational specificity (Palestine).

**Response:**

13. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation.

14. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, acting through the Human Rights Commission in accordance with its Statutes and in collaboration with the National Society for Human Rights and a number of governmental and non-governmental bodies, is making concerted efforts to promote, protect and disseminate awareness of human rights in the Kingdom in accordance with international human rights standards in all fields and to help to ensure the application of those standards in accordance with the provisions of the Islamic Shari'a. The Kingdom is also in the process of launching a comprehensive public awareness and educational project to promote a culture of human rights among all sections of society.

**Recommendation 9:**

Disseminate a culture of human rights and strengthen its national efforts to protect human rights, while respecting its cultural specificities and the Islamic Shari'a (Egypt).

**Response:**

15. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation.

**Recommendation 10:**

Continue to enhance dialogue and propagate tolerance among people (Bahrain).

**Response:**

16. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation.

**Recommendation 11:**

Continue its efforts to promote respect of cultural and religious particularities of each society and enhance dialogue among religions and civilizations (Kuwait).

**Response:**

17. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation.

18. In the light of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's belief in the importance of dialogue among nations and peoples, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz, launched an initiative calling for dialogue among all mankind. This began with a conference held at Makkah during the period from 30/5 to 2/6 1429 AH (5-7 June 2008) which was attended by a large number of Muslim scholars from various theological and jurisprudential schools of thought. This meeting gave rise to the "Makkah Appeal" which invited peoples, governments and organizations throughout the world, regardless of their religions and cultures, to pursue the path of mutual understanding and dialogue in order to meet the challenges facing mankind.

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques then gave an international dimension to his initiative by convening the "World Conference on Dialogue", held at Madrid in July 2008, which was attended by a large number of followers of world religions and cultures under the generous patronage of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz, and H.M. King Juan Carlos of Spain. This Conference issued the Madrid Declaration which affirmed, inter alia, the unity of origin and equality of human beings notwithstanding differences of colour, race and culture and called for respect for divinely-revealed religions, preservation of their status, condemnation of defamation of their symbols and opposition to the use of religion to incite racial discrimination.

In continuation of this process, at the request of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York held a high-level meeting on 12-13 November 2008, attended by a large number of heads of State, in which it was stated that the religions through which Almighty God sought to bring happiness to mankind should not be turned into instruments to cause misery, since human beings were created as equals and partners on this planet.

It is noteworthy that this initiative remains a matter of considerable personal concern to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and will be followed by practical steps and future plans to achieve its goal of promoting mutual understanding and tolerance among all nations.

**Recommendation 12:**

Continue with measures and programmes aimed at increasing the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights of its people (Cuba).

**Response:**

19. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation.

**Recommendation 13:**

Allow all international human rights organizations wishing to do so to visit the country (Norway); continue to engage with human rights organizations, and look to deepen and broaden its engagement to include a wider representation of groups (New Zealand).

**Response:**

20. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation within the framework of the organizational and regulatory procedures pertaining thereto.

21. In recent years the Kingdom has been visited on several occasions by a number of non-governmental organizations including, most recently, Human Rights Watch.

22. The Kingdom's Government is involving national non-governmental organizations in many human rights-related fields and civil society institutions recently contributed to the Kingdom's UPR report which was presented to the Working Group at its fourth session.

**Recommendation 14:**

Follow-up on the recommendations from the treaty bodies in the areas of the rights of women, non-discrimination, torture and children (Mexico).

**Response:**

23. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation.

**Recommendation 15:**

Continue to strengthen cooperation with international mechanisms, through a favourable response to the special procedures that have requested to visit the country (Mexico).

**Response:**

24. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation.

25. The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is cooperating with the international human rights mechanisms by, for example, diligently replying to allegations received from the Special Rapporteurs at the Office of the High Commissioner and, if necessary, inviting them to visit the Kingdom. The last such visit, by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, took place in 2008.

**Recommendation 16:**

Continue progress in the promotion of women's and children's rights, in accordance with Islamic Shari'a and its international commitments (United Arab Emirates); continue to give priority attention to the protection of the rights of the child (Belarus); intensify its efforts aimed at harmonizing elements of the Shari'a with existing laws, with a view to ensuring maximum protection for women and children as well as victims of human rights abuses (Malaysia); take all appropriate measures to develop a framework of law prohibiting trafficking and other forms of exploitation, and incorporate into such legislation the comprehensive protection of children as well as the development and implementation of a reintegration assistance programme for victimized persons (Israel).

**Response:**

26. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation.

27. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia wishes to point out that all the criminal elements of human exploitation constitute offences under the provisions of the Islamic Shari'a. The Kingdom has drafted a Prevention of Human Trafficking Act meeting international standards in regard to prevention, protection, prosecution, rescue, rehabilitation and reintegration which is in the final stages of promulgation.

**Recommendation 17:**

Combat discrimination and violence against women and reinforce their participation in the labour market (Egypt); develop a comprehensive national action plan for the promotion of gender equality, with a view to addressing key challenges facing women (South Africa); continue and further increase its efforts aimed at empowering women in Saudi society (Turkey); adopt all necessary measures to incriminate violence against women and to conduct a resolute penal policy to combat this scourge (France).

**Response:**

28. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation.

29. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia emphasizes that gender equality is guaranteed in its territory in accordance with the provisions of the Islamic Shari'a, which are in line with general international human rights standards.

30. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia emphasizes that violence against women is a criminal act under the provisions of the Islamic Shari'a and special legislation to protect persons from harm is currently being studied.

**Recommendation 18:**

Abolish all legislation, measures and practices that discriminate against women, further to the report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women. In particular, to abolish legislation and practices which prevent women from participating fully in society on an equal basis with men, including strict gender segregation practices, limitations on freedom of movement, the prohibition on women driving and restricted access by women to work, public places and commercial facilities (Canada); take further steps in enabling fuller participation of women in Saudi Arabian public life by guaranteeing women and girls their right to education, employment, freedom of movement, marriage with their free and full consent and health, including protection from and redress for family violence (Finland); develop and adopt a comprehensive national plan of action for the incorporation of human rights for women into national legislation and practices to ensure the eradication of violence against women, a dismantling of the male guardianship system, an allowance of the freedom of movement, access to work, study, and health care, as well as equal standing before the courts and the right to vote and participate in public affairs, and incorporate and implement the concluding observations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (Israel).

**Response:**

31. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation in accordance with the commitments that it has undertaken under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

**Recommendation 19:**

Amend legal provisions to guarantee equality between men and women, prevent violence against women, prevent threats to the safety and integrity of persons deprived of their liberty, guarantee non-discrimination on grounds of religion, belief and ethnicity, also for foreign workers, and to achieve effective implementation of these provisions (Chile).

**Response:**

32. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation within the limits of its obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

**Recommendation 20:**

Adopt an awareness-raising programme at the local level to ensure much wider knowledge of CEDAW, and take steps to ensure the cessation of practices, including those under the guardianship system, which are inconsistent with the Convention (New Zealand); end the strict system of male guardianship and give full legal identity to Saudi women (Norway); increase efforts to bring legislation in line with the principle of equality between men and women as well as to develop human rights education programs for its citizens to increase awareness of their rights under international human rights instruments (Austria); implement the 2008 recommendations by the CEDAW Committee, in particular by abolishing the system of male guardianship over women and enacting comprehensive and effective regulations on gender discrimination (Germany); abolish the guardianship system which severely limits the rights of women to act as autonomous and equal members of Saudi society (United Kingdom).

**Response:**

33. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation in accordance with the commitments that it has undertaken under the CEDAW Convention.

34. The Kingdom emphasizes that there are no statutory requirements that necessitate guardianship or make a woman's enjoyment of her rights conditional on approval. In the Kingdom women conduct all their affairs in full independence and the Shari'a notion of the tutelage link between men and women is not a legal stipulation; on the contrary, it is a devotional matter in which every individual, whether male or female, is free to define the notion of tutelage in accordance with his or her school of Shari'a jurisprudence. This is the difference between the Shari'a notion of tutelage and the concept of guardianship, which cannot constitute a statutory stipulation since Islam guarantees a woman's right to conduct her affairs and enjoy her legal capacity.

**Recommendation 21:**

Eradicate hate-speech against minorities and establish oversight mechanisms to ensure the elimination of all forms of discrimination (Israel).

**Response:**

35. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation.

36. The Kingdom emphasizes that the practice to which the recommendation refers is not a current practice in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Kingdom's legislation and regulations strictly prohibit any discrimination between the various sections of society.

- In keeping with this policy, the Kingdom has promulgated a number of legislative instruments such as the new Press and Publications Act which prohibits the establishment of organizations which are of a racist character or which support or advocate racial discrimination

or propagate ideologies based thereon. Under the Act, it is also a punishable criminal offence to issue pamphlets or material inciting hatred or encouraging the funding of racist activities, which are contrary to the law.

- In the Kingdom it is prohibited to use the Internet to advocate discrimination, commend or in any way encourage criminal acts or instigate aggression against others. It is also prohibited to engage in any form of defamation or calumny of individuals (Ordinance Regulating the Use of the Internet).

- Police officers, law enforcement officials and military personnel receive periodic training in the prevention of all forms of discrimination and a number of specialized training courses have been held to meet the needs of all government agencies..

**Recommendation 22:**

Protect the rights of those facing the death penalty, including through strengthened application of international safeguards in the use of the death penalty (New Zealand).

**Response:**

37. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation.

**Recommendation 23:**

Amend the Code of Criminal Practice to stipulate that only individuals aged over 18 will be tried as adults. As a result, the execution of any individuals who were less than 18 years old when they committed the crime should be commuted to a custodial sentence (United Kingdom); review its practice of imposing capital and corporal punishment and prohibit any form of corporal punishment (Germany, Austria); consider to end the use of corporal punishment for persons under 18 and to establish a moratorium on executions of persons having committed crimes before the age of 18 (Austria).

**Response:**

38. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation in accordance with its commitments undertaken under the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

39. Corporal punishment is prohibited in all governmental and private schools as well as in nursery schools and child care institutions. Under the regulations any form of violence against children, including violence by parents, even for disciplinary purposes, constitutes a criminal offence.

**Recommendation 24:**

Cease application of torture, other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and corporal punishment of prisoners in accordance with Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights treaties to which it is a party, including CAT and the CRC (Canada); identify and implement legal and procedural machinery to monitor and sanction cases of torture in keeping with national legislation and international commitments (Morocco).

**Response:**

40. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts the second part of the recommendation “identify and implement legal and procedural machinery to monitor and sanction cases of torture in keeping with national legislation and international commitments” With regard to the first part of the recommendation, prisoners in the Kingdom are well protected from torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment through, inter alia, visits by authorities exercising oversight. The Kingdom is a party to CAT as well as the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

**Recommendation 25:**

Strengthen the criminal procedural code and the code of practice of lawyers and ensure that they are in line with international standards (Lebanon); amend its criminal procedural code to bring it in line with international human rights standards and conduct a systematic campaign among Saudi Arabian judges to apply this amended Code (France).

**Response:**

41. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation.

42. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia emphasizes that the Code of Criminal Procedure guarantees the right to a fair trial. Moreover, all persons working in the criminal justice system, including police officers, investigators and judges, undergo training courses to ensure that they perform their duties in the manner prescribed by law.

**Recommendation 26:**

Continue its efforts to reform the legal and judicial systems (Egypt).

**Response:**

43. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation.

**Recommendation 27:**

Consider the elaboration of specific legislative guidelines for codification of discretionary penalties and dissemination of such guidelines among all judges, lawyers and prosecutors concerned (Azerbaijan).

**Response:**

44. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation.

**Recommendation 28:**

Expedite the implementation of the legal guarantees to ensure the independence of the judiciary (Morocco).

**Response:**

45. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation.

**Recommendation 29:**

Take measures to make the juvenile justice system more effective, in particular by ensuring the separate detention of juveniles as well as expeditious access of juveniles to legal counsels (Austria).

**Response:**

46. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation.

47. The Kingdom emphasizes that its Code of Criminal Procedure guarantees the provision of separate accommodation for juveniles as well as the full right of access to legal counsel. The requisite procedures are currently being completed for promulgation of the Child Protection Act, which contains provisions concerning juvenile delinquents.

**Recommendation 30:**

Increase efforts in order to effectively combat impunity (Sweden).

**Response:**

48. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation.

**Recommendation 31:**

Take into consideration, when examining recommendations made during this session of the Working Group, those that are in line with its religious, social and cultural specificities, in particular those emanating from the Islamic Shari'a, which adds to general human rights principles without replacing them (Algeria).

**Response:**

49. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation.

**Recommendation 32:**

Pursue its policies aiming at the promotion of dialogue among religions and civilizations, and to activate its role in this regard at the international level (Algeria, Malaysia); in commending their initiatives to promote dialogue between religions and civilizations, continue its efforts to promote universal peace and tolerance (Cuba).

**Response:**

50. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation.

**Recommendation 33:**

Reform its legislation on religious freedom in order to ensure adequate protection for all religious minorities, with a view to gradually allowing public practice of other faiths and beliefs (Italy); provide for freedom of religion in its national legislation so that the rights of religious minorities can be ensured (Finland); adopt legal provisions to prohibit religious discrimination in all areas including in that of labour (Belgium).

**Response:**

51. Practice of the observances of other faiths and protection of all minorities in the Kingdom are guaranteed in accordance with the provisions of the legislation and regulations prohibiting all forms of religious discrimination in all fields.

- In the Kingdom non-Muslims have a fully guaranteed right to worship and engage in their religious observances in their private premises. This in no way detracts from the freedom of religion of non-Muslims in the Kingdom, nor does it indicate any lack of respect for other faiths.

- Personal freedom of religion and belief for the Kingdom's non-Saudi residents is not prohibited by the Kingdom's laws and no one has the right to interfere in their individual religious observances or compel them to renounce their beliefs.

- Discrimination based on religion or belief is prohibited by a number of specialized regulations such as the Labour Law, in which article 61 of the section entitled "Obligations of the Employer" stipulates that: "The Employer shall not require a worker to perform forced labour, nor shall he withhold all or part of the worker's wage without judicial authorization. He shall treat his workers with due respect and shall refrain from any utterance or act prejudicial to their dignity or their religion". Article 104 of the Law further stipulates that: "Friday shall be the weekly day of rest for all workers. However, after notifying the competent labour office, the employer may replace this day with any other day of the week for some of his workers and shall enable them to perform their religious obligations. It shall not be permissible to pay financial compensation in lieu of the weekly day of rest". Furthermore, the Press and Publications Act prohibits the establishment of organizations which are of a racist character or which support or advocate racial discrimination or propagate ideologies based thereon. Under the Act it is also a criminal offence to issue pamphlets or material inciting hatred or encouraging the funding of racist activities.

- The authorities in the Kingdom punish anyone who violates the recognized rights of non-Muslims in accordance with the regulations in force.

**Recommendation 34:**

Adopt appropriate measures to disseminate widely and ensure full observance of the Declaration of Human Rights Defenders (Norway); remove obstacles to freedom of expression and movement against human rights defenders, including all travel bans (Norway); with a view to a rapid ratification of the ICCPR, guarantee the rights of representatives of civil society and human rights defenders organizations to set themselves up and exercise their rights to freedom of expression (Switzerland).

**Response:**

52. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation to the extent to which it is compatible with the relevant regulations.

53. The Kingdom encourages the establishment of institutions that promote human rights and, a few years ago, permitted the establishment of the National Society for Human Rights as a non-governmental organization enjoying full independence and unrestricted freedom to engage in its activities. None of its members have been subjected to any form of harassment or curtailment of their freedom of expression. The adoption of the Civil Society Institutions Statute

will make the procedures for the establishment of such organizations clearer and will promote their wider propagation.

**Recommendation 35:**

Swiftly promulgate the statute on civil societies, which will enable the civil society to perform its tasks effectively and in full autonomy (Bahrain); enact and implement a Law of Association to guarantee the right to form civil society organizations and to protect those organizations from government interference (United Kingdom); realize a law on associations and establishment of civil society to enable them to work in independence without being supervised by official authorities (Palestine).

**Response:**

54. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation.

**Recommendation 36:**

Take appropriate measures with a view to facilitating access to work for women (Norway).

**Response:**

55. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation.

**Recommendation 37:**

Expediently attend to the issue of forced labour as raised by the ILO Committee of Experts (South Africa).

**Response:**

56. The Kingdom emphasizes that forced labour is not a systematic practice in its territory. The situation of foreign workers is regulated by the Labour Law which designates such treatment as a criminal offence.

**Recommendation 38:**

Share its good practices in terms of affording decent housing for vulnerable groups, so that others could benefit from such a positive experience (Yemen).

**Response:**

57. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation.

**Recommendation 39:**

Continue its work in the health area in support of its entire population (Venezuela).

**Response:**

58. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation.

**Recommendation 40:**

Continue its efforts to integrate human rights in school curricula (Qatar); develop a national strategy to include in the school system at all levels appropriate measures in the field of human rights education, in accordance with the Plan of Action 2005-2009 of the World Programme for Human Rights Education (Italy).

**Response:**

59. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation.

60. The Kingdom has formulated a plan to integrate human rights concepts in academic curricula at the various educational levels. It has also made an effective contribution to the drafting of the Arab model plan for education in human rights principles (for the period 2009-2014), which was adopted by the Council of the League of Arab States, and is also participating effectively in the supervision of its implementation.

**Recommendation 41:**

Continue its efforts to create a positive working environment for all foreign workers (Algeria); continue its efforts to protect the rights of migrant workers (Belarus, Philippines, Singapore); extend migrant workers' rights equally to all migrant workers, regardless of their age and gender (Thailand).

**Response:**

61. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation.

62. The Kingdom emphasizes that all foreign workers enjoy all their statutory rights in accordance with the Labour Law and wishes to make it clear that all such workers in the Kingdom are employed under the terms of a temporary contract. Hence, there are no migrant workers in the Kingdom. (It is requested that the term "foreign workers" be used instead of "migrant workers" in the other related recommendations)

**Recommendation 42:**

Report regularly to relevant mechanisms of the HRC on the remittances sent by those migrant workers to their families back home in various countries of the world, in order to estimate the contribution of such remittances to the promotion of economic and social rights in developing education, housing and health in these countries (Sudan).

**Response:**

63. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation.

64. The remittances sent by foreign workers in Saudi Arabia to their families and countries in 2008 were estimated at about 78.5 billion Saudi riyals, equivalent to US\$ 21 billion.

**Recommendation 43:**

Actively promote awareness of the 2005 Labour Code and establish an accessible complaint mechanism, such as a free phone service, to which migrant workers can confidentially report

instances of abuse and exploitation as well as seek assistance (New Zealand); review article 7 of the Labour Law and expand its coverage to include migrant workers (New Zealand).

**Response:**

65. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation.

66. The new Labour Law makes provision for a mechanism for the submission of complaints by foreign workers covered by the Law. The Department of Expatriate Workers in the Ministry of Labour has assigned a special telephone number for the reception of foreign workers' complaints concerning violation of their rights by their employers.

67. With regard to a review of article 7 of the Labour Law, a Domestic Workers Ordinance has been drafted and submitted to the Consultative Council for discussion prior to its adoption.

**Recommendation 44:**

Strengthen efforts to ensure that violations of physical abuse and discrimination of migrant women who come to serve as domestic workers are acted upon and take steps necessary to ensure full enjoyment of human rights of all women in Saudi Arabia (Sweden).

**Response:**

68. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation and refers to the response to Recommendation 43.

**Recommendation 45:**

Establish a broad-based media information campaign on the rights of migrants in Arabic and in the languages of main groups of migrants (Belgium).

**Response:**

69. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation.

70. The Kingdom regularly publishes information brochures and pamphlets in various languages explaining the rights and obligations of foreign workers and the Kingdom's Ministry of Labour, in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and Information, is expanding the scope of the information campaign to include the various information media with a view to reaching the largest possible number of foreign workers in all regions of the Kingdom.

**Recommendation 46:**

Further its efforts to fight terrorism and protect human rights at the same time, especially the support to the conclusion of a comprehensive international treaty to combat terrorism (Algeria).

**Response:**

71. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation.

72. The gravest challenges with which the Kingdom, like other States, has been faced have been posed by acts of terrorism. However, in all the measures that it has taken to combat this scourge, the Kingdom has respected human rights standards and individual freedoms. These

measures have not been confined solely to deterrents and penalties, since the Kingdom has also taken care to inaugurate preventive and remedial programmes such as the counselling programmes for persons imprisoned or detained in terrorism-related cases and the thought-provoking debates that have induced a large proportion of these persons to abandon their misguided ideology.

73. The Kingdom has supported the conclusion of a comprehensive treaty to combat terrorism, has participated effectively in all the meetings, committees and working groups that have been established within the framework of the United Nations for this purpose, and is still hoping that concerted international endeavours will be made to complete this important project. At the First International Counter-Terrorism Conference held in Riyadh on 28/12/1425 AH (8 February 2005), the Kingdom also proposed the establishment of an international counter-terrorism centre.

**Recommendation 47:**

Continue its efforts in further developing the system of international treaties to combat international terrorism (Sudan).

**Response:**

74. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation.

75. In this connection, reference can be made to the response to Recommendation 46 above. It should also be noted that the Kingdom is a party to all the 13 international conventions against terrorism as well as numerous other regional and bilateral agreements to combat terrorism.

**Recommendation 48:**

Enhance its successful experience in the field of rehabilitation of suspected and imprisoned persons for terrorism and to expand it to other penal affairs and to exchange its experience in this field with other countries (Bahrain); intensify its successful endeavours to rehabilitate persons accused or imprisoned in cases involving terrorism, to extend these endeavours to persons accused or imprisoned in other criminal cases and to engage in an exchange of experience in this field with other States (Uzbekistan).

**Response:**

76. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation.

**Recommendation 49:**

Continue to seek support to establish an international centre or agency, in collaboration with the United Nations, in the field of combating terrorism (Kuwait).

**Response:**

77. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation.

**Recommendation 50:**

Share its experience in combating terrorism (Kuwait).

**Response:**

78. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation.

**Recommendation 51:**

Continue to cooperate in a generous way with developing countries (Cuba).

**Response:**

79. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation.

**Recommendation 52:**

Seek assistance from international community to face its challenges (Chad).

**Response:**

80. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation.

**Recommendation 53:**

Disseminate information and raise awareness about the Arab Peace Initiative launched by the King of Saudi Arabia (Palestine).

**Response:**

81. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia accepts this recommendation.

82. Saudi officials at all levels are promoting the Arab Peace Initiative launched by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques when he was Crown Prince. This Initiative is continuing to enjoy wide support among the international community.

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