



INTERNATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF  
NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS FOR THE PROMOTION AND  
PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (ICC)

Office of the ICC Chairperson  
Mabedle Lourence Mushwana

Ref: ICC/2016/CSW  
Johannesburg, 19 January 2016

To: H.E. Mr. Antonio de Aguiar Patriota (Brazil), Chair  
Ms. Fatma Al Zahraa Hassan (Egypt), Vice-Chair  
Ms. Šejla Đurbuzović (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Vice-Chair  
Mr. Jun Saito (Japan), Vice-Chair designate  
Mr. Andreas Glossner (Germany), Vice-Chair designate

*Per email*

Your Excellencies,

### CSW AND NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS

On behalf of the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC), I wish to warmly congratulate you on your election to the Bureau of the 60<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 60).

The ICC represents the global network of over 100 national human rights institutions (NHRIs) worldwide, 72 of which are currently accredited in full compliance with the United Nations Principles Relating to the Status of National Institutions (Paris Principles). The ICC provides a platform for NHRIs from across the globe to share experiences, to support and to learn from each other.

NHRIs are unique, independent, legal bodies. They are created by States and have broad mandates which allow them to apply the full range of international human rights norms and standards in their work. They are also subjected to a rigorous internationally recognised accreditation system which ensures their independence, pluralism, accountability and impartiality.

NHRIs provide an important bridge to close the critical implementation gap: they are mechanisms for the national application of international standards, with full understanding of the local context; and they are trusted and legitimate partners to report to international bodies the human rights situation on the ground. NHRIs have a critical role to play in promoting and protecting women and girls human rights at the domestic and international level.

The Commission on the Status of Women has also recognised the role and contributions of NHRIs in its Agreed Conclusions of 2009, 2011, 2013 2014, and 2015. In particular in 2013, CSW acknowledged the important contribution of NHRIs to the elimination of discrimination and violence against women and girls and NHRIs were recognised as institutions to address and change attitudes, behaviours and practices that perpetuate and condone gender stereotypes and all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls.

Further, the importance of NHRIs has been recently recognised in the General Assembly Resolution on national human rights institutions (A/C.3/70/L.49). This resolution was adopted without vote by the Third Committee in November 2015 and subsequently adopted by consensus by the General

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Copy to: International Coordinating Committee (ICC)  
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Assembly in December 2015. The resolution enjoyed broad consensus with 90 co-sponsoring UN member states from across all regions. A copy of the resolution is attached for your reference.

I wish to kindly draw your attention to paragraph 16 of the GA resolution:

*“16. Encourages all relevant United Nations mechanisms and processes, in accordance with their respective mandates, including the Commission on the Status of Women, the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the high-level political forum, to further enhance the participation of national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles and to allow for their contribution to these United Nations mechanisms and processes, bearing in mind the relevant provisions dealing with their participation contained in General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1, 5/2 and 16/21 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 2005/74;”*

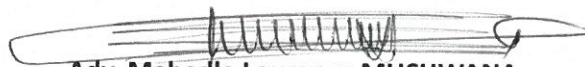
In light of these developments and the recognition of NHRIs by Member States, the ICC wishes to encourage the CSW to welcome and recognise the GA resolution (A/C.3/70/L.49) in the CSW 60 Agreed Conclusions (2016) and consider the enhancement of the participation of national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles and to allow for their future contribution to the Commission. In this regard the ICC would encourage the CSW to request to its Bureau or to UN Women, whichever is appropriate, to propose steps forward such as procedures or measures to give effect to the enhanced participation of NHRIs at CSW on a continuing basis by its sixty-first session to be held in 2017.

The ICC will be sending a delegation of NHRIs to CSW 60 and it will be led by Ms Pip Dargan, Deputy Director, Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF). Ms Dargan would welcome the opportunity to meet with the Bureau members and UN Women to discuss CSW and NHRI contributions.

Please address return correspondence to Ms Pip Dargan, Deputy Director, Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions: [pipdargan@asispacificforum.net](mailto:pipdargan@asispacificforum.net) and copy in Ms Katharina Rose, ICC Geneva Representative: [k.rose.icc@gmail.com](mailto:k.rose.icc@gmail.com).

Please accept my highest considerations.

Yours sincerely,



**Adv. Mabedle Lourencia MUSHWANA**

ICC Chairperson and Chairperson of the South African Human Rights Commission



CC: Ms Christine Brautigam, Director, Intergovernmental Support Division, UN Women

Ms Aina Lyambo, Executive Secretary and Policy Adviser, UN Women

Attachment: (A/C.3/70/L.49)