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

**Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

**Addendum**

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

1. **Introduction**
2. The KSA reaffirms the importance of the Universal Periodic Review mechanism under the Human Rights Council, which helps to bring about improvements in human rights situations worldwide. In this context, the KSA has demonstrated maximum cooperation with the Universal Periodic Review mechanism during its four cycles held in the years (2009, 2013, 2018, and 2024). This cooperation includes supporting most of the recommendations made thereto during such cycles and implementing the majority of them (with an implementation rate of recommendations presented to the KSA in the previous three cycles exceeding 85%). The KSA also works constructively with Troika, the Human Rights Council Secretariat, and provides positive recommendations to many countries.
3. During the 45th session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review in its fourth cycle in January 2024, the KSA received (354) recommendations from (135) countries. These recommendations were studied at the national level by the Standing Committee for Preparation of Reports, established by Royal Order No. (13084) on 27/03/1436 AH (18 January 2015), which represents the national mechanism for follow-up and reporting. They were further studied at the level of the Council of Human Rights Commission, comprising experts in various fields of human rights, and finally reviewed by a governmental committee to adopt the KSA's positions on each recommendation.
4. The extensive national review of the recommendations made to the KSA during this cycle resulted in (273) recommendations being supported, (24) recommendations being partially supported, (52) recommendations being noted, and (5) recommendations being rejected.
5. **The Kingdom’s views and conclusions concerning the recommendations made to it**
6. **The following recommendations have been** **supported:**
7. The KSA has positively and constructively engaged with the recommendations made to it during the 45th session of the Universal Periodic Review, as evidenced by its endorsement of most of these recommendations. The endorsement rate during this session reached (83%), including those partially supported: The KSA would like to emphasise that endorsing a recommendation does not necessarily imply the absence of or making measures that promote it, nor does it imply the existence of violations or breaches as mentioned. The analysis revealed that some recommendations made to the KSA were based on an inaccurate understanding or perception of the human rights situation in the Kingdom or were built upon unreliable or inaccurate sources. Nevertheless, the KSA has positively engaged with these recommendations out of its commitment to human rights and its willingness to cooperate with the Universal Periodic Review mechanism.

**The Kingdom supports the following recommendations** (25), (26), (27), (28), (29), (31), (32), (34), (35), (37), (40), (44), (45), (46), (47), (48), (49), (50), (51), (53), (54), (55), (56), (57), (62), (64), (66), (67), (68), (69), (70), (71), (72), (73), (74), (75), (76), (77), (78), (79), (80), (81), (82), (83), (84), (85), (86), (87), (88), (89), (90), (91), (109), (113), (114), (115), (118), (120), (123), (125), (126), (127), (128), (129), (130), (131), (132), (133), (134), (136), (137), (138), (139), (140), (141), (142), (143), (144), (145), (147), (151), (152), (153), (154), (155), (156), (157), (158), (159), (160), (162), (163), (164), (165), (166), (167), (168), (169), (170), (171), (172), (173), (174), (175), (176), (177), (178), (179), (180), (181), (182), (183), (185), (186), (187), (188), (189), (190), (191), (192), (193), (194), (195), (196), (197), (198), (199), (200), (202), (203), (204), (205), (206), (207), (208), (209), (210), (211), (212), (213), (214), (215), (216), (217), (218), (219), (220), (221), (222), (223), (224), (225), (226), (227), (228), (229), (230), (231), (232), (233), (234), (235), (236), (237), (238), (239), (240), (241), (242), (243), (244), (245), (246), (247), (248), (249), (250), (251), (252), (253), (254), (255), (256), (257), (258), (260), (261), (262), (263), (264), (265), (266), (267), (268), (269), (270), (271), (272), (273), (274), (275), (276), (278), (279), (280), (281), (282), (283), (284), (285), (286), (287), (288), (289), (290), (291), (292), (293), (294), (295), (296), (297), (298), (299), (300), (301), (302), (303), (304), (305), (307), (308), (309), (310), (311), (312), (313), (314), (315), (316), (317), (318), (319), (320), (321), (322), (323), (324), (325), (326), (327), (328), (329), (330), (331), (332), (333), (334), (335), (336), (337), (338), (339), (340), (341), (342), (344), (348), (349), (350), (351), (352), (353).

1. **The following recommendations have been partially supported:**
2. The KSA received a number of recommendations that include parts that are not fully endorsable for several reasons; including these parts of the recommendations contradict the values and principles of the KSA, go beyond the scope of national priorities, or include specific descriptions and timelines for measures encouraged, while other parts consist of recommendations that are endorsable. Given that the Universal Periodic Review mechanism helps to bring about improvements in the human rights situations worldwide through its tools, particularly the recommendations presented within its framework, it is not appropriate for a state under review to completely not support some of these recommendations because they contain parts that are not endorsable for that state. Such an approach may lead to missed opportunities to achieve the main goal of this mechanism (improving human rights situations worldwide). Therefore, the KSA believes that the position of "partial support" aligns with this goal and promotes positive interaction and constructive engagement with recommendations made to the states within the framework of the Universal Periodic Review.
3. KSA partially supports Recommendation (24) as follows:

***The following part has been supported:*** *Ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.*

***The following part has been noted:*** *Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.*

1. KSA partially supports Recommendation (30) as follows:

**The following part has been supported:** Ratification of International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

**The following part has been noted:** Ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

1. KSA partially supports Recommendation (52) as follows:

***The following part has been supported:*** *Accelerate its studies on acceding to the core human rights treaties.*

***The following part has been noted:*** *The part related to the two international covenants.*

1. KSA partially supports Recommendation (61) as follows:

***The following part has been supported:*** *Strengthening cooperation with special rapporteurs.*

***The following part has been noted:*** *Issuing a standing invitation to mandate holders.*

1. KSA partially supports Recommendation (63) as follows:

***The following part has been supported:*** *Processing ongoing requests from special procedures.*

***The following part has been noted:*** *Continuing the permanent invitation to all United Nations human rights procedures.*

1. KSA partially supports Recommendation (107) as follows:

***The following part has been supported:*** *Reducing the number of crimes punishable by the death penalty and limiting them to the most serious offences under international law.*

***The following part has been noted:*** *Issuing an official moratorium on the imposition of the death penalty for drug-related crimes.*

1. KSA partially supports Recommendation (108) as follows:

***The following part has been supported:*** *Commitment to limiting the imposition of the death penalty to the most serious crimes in accordance with the provisions of international law.*

***The following part has been noted:*** *Issuing an official moratorium on imposing the death penalty for drug-related crimes.*

1. KSA partially supports Recommendation (124) as follows:

***The following part has been supported:*** *Ensuring that counter-terrorism legislation complies with international human rights standards to avoid criminalising peaceful expression of freedom of speech and associations.*

***The following part has been noted:*** *The freedom of assembly, as this falls outside the Kingdom's commitments.*

1. KSA partially supports Recommendation (135) as follows:

***The following part has been supported:*** *Creating a supportive environment for local non-governmental organisations concerned with human rights.*

***The following part has been noted:***Registering international non-governmental organisations, considering that the Law of Civil Society Associations and Organizations does not stipulate the registration of such organisations.

1. KSA partially supports Recommendation (146) as follows:

***The following part has been supported:*** *Adopting legislation to ensure the right to freedom of opinion, expression, and association, including the protection of journalists, human rights defenders, and civil society, in accordance with International Human Rights Law and standards.*

***The following part has been noted:*** *The freedom of peaceful assembly, as this goes beyond the Kingdom's commitments.*

1. KSA partially supports Recommendation (148) as follows:

***The following part has been supported:*** *Amending the counter-terrorism and cybercrime legislation, considering that the KSA’s laws are subject to regular and continuous review.*

***The following part has been noted:*** *Amending the Basic Law of Governance.*

1. KSA partially supports Recommendation (149) as follows:

***The following part has been supported:*** *Harmonizing domestic legislation with international standards to protect the freedom of association and expression.*

***The following part has been noted:*** *the freedom of assembly, as this falls outside the Kingdom's commitments, as well as the phrase "without imposing any exceptions," considering that international law allows some rights and freedoms to be subject to legal restrictions necessary to protect several paramount interests (national security, public order, public health, public morals, the rights and reputations of others).*

1. KSA partially supports Recommendation (150) as follows:

***The following part has been supported:*** *Harmonizing legislation with international standards to protect the freedom of association and expression.*

***The Following******Part has been noted:*** *The freedom of peaceful assembly, as this falls outside the Kingdom's commitments, and the phrase "lifting imposed restrictions," considering that international law allows some rights and freedoms to be subject to legal restrictions necessary to protect several paramount interests (national security, public order, public health, public morals, the rights and reputations of others).*

1. KSA partially supports Recommendation (259) as follows:

***The following part has been supported:*** *Harmonizing nationality laws with the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.*

***The following part has been noted:*** *The provision of Article (9.2) of the Convention, as the KSA has reservations about it.*

1. KSA partially supports Recommendation (277) as follows:

***The following part has been supported:*** *Continuing efforts to improve women's rights.*

***The following part has been noted:*** *Amending nationality laws to apply equally to men and women, considering that the KSA has reservations about Article (9.2) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.*

1. The KSA partially supports recommendations (93), (94), (101), (106), (110), (111), and (306) due to the issuance of the Juveniles Law, which provides for abolishing the imposition of the death penalty on Juveniles in retaliatory crimes. The death penalty in the KSA is only imposed on the most serious crimes. Thus, these recommendations are considered partially implemented, prompting partial support.
2. KSA partially supports Recommendation (347) as follows:

***The following part has been supported****: Conducting thorough and transparent investigations into all claims alleging that Saudi security forces are killing and mistreating migrants crossing the Yemeni borders and halting any violations - ensuring accountability for any violations or abuses, as the KSA has actually done.*

***The following part has been noted:*** *Issuing a general report on the results of the investigations, as there is no justification for such action or a legal international obligation requiring the KSA to share its internal investigations.*

1. KSA partially supports Recommendation (354) as follows:

***The following part has been supported:*** *Ensuring accountability for alleged killings of Ethiopian migrants and asylum seekers.*

***The following part has been noted:*** *Sharing the investigation results, as there is no justification for such action or a legal international obligation requiring the KSA to share its internal investigations.*

**The following recommendations have been noted:**

1. The KSA has noted the following recommendations: (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), (12), (13), (14), (15), (16), (17), (18), (19), (20), (21), (22), (23), (33), (36), (38), (39), (41), (42), (43), (58), (59), (60), (92), (95), (96), (97), (98), (99), (100), (102), (103), (104), (105), (112), (119), (121), (122), (161), (184), (201), (343).

**The following recommendations have been rejected:**

1. (65), (116), (117), (345), (346).
2. The KSA rejects these recommendations because some of them represent unfounded allegations based on unreliable sources, and some contradict the KSA's values and principles, falling outside the scope of its commitments under the International Human Rights Law.

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