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The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations Office and Other International Organizations at Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and would like to refer to the letter received on the 23 Feb 2022 to provide inputs for the preparation of the upcoming thematic report pursuant to human rights council resolution 45/7 on 'Local Government and Human Rights'. In that regard, the Permanente Mission has the honor to attach herewith the Saudi Government inputs on the above-mentioned subject.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the assurance of its highest consideration.



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The most highlighting measures taken by Saudi Arabia in order to promote and protect human rights, including the protection of rights related to equality and non-discrimination

This paper was prepared in order to contribute with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights report on the role of local government and challenges faced in promoting and protection of human rights, including in relation to the right to equality and non-discrimination and the protection of person in vulnerable and marginalized situation, to submit the report to the HRC prior to its 51 session.

Based on the Saudi Arabia's principles and constitutional values, especially Article (26) of the Basic Law of Governance which stipulates that "The State shall protect human rights in accordance with the Sharia", the Kingdom has taken several measures that aim to promote and protect the human rights, including to the right to equality and non-discrimination, and the most notable developed reforms in related to the human rights are including promoting and protecting the regulatory and institutional frameworks and measures that contributed to strengthening the legal and institutional framework for human rights, and activating general implementation measures including policy, procedural and administrative measures, human rights awareness-raising programs and activities, in addition to the combination of these measures to prohibit the establishment of the discrimination organizations or putting forward theories stating that any race or group has the superiority over others, and they do not allow promoting or inciting racial discrimination, and Saudi Arabia laws consider the dissemination and financing the ideas based on racial discrimination a crime that is punishable by law.

1. The most highlighting legislative measures that aims to promote and protect the human rights, including in relation to the right to equality and non-discrimination

1. The Basic Law of Governance included in its Articles (27), (46), and (47) of the Basic Law of Governance stipulate that the state guarantees the right of the citizen and his family in cases of emergency, sickness, disability, and old age, supports the social security system, and encourages institutions and individuals to contribute to charitable works, and both citizens and foreign residents have an equal right to litigation. In addition, all provisions set forth in the Basic Law of Governance, especially those contained in the Rights and Duties Section, are based on equality.
2. Launching the "Saudi Vision 2030", which issued in 2016, its principles, objectives and programs are combined in order to promote the principles of equality, tolerance and moderation, and included that the Kingdom's legislation is a reference in decisions and work to achieve the vision realization, and the values of moderation, tolerance, perfection, discipline, justice and transparency will be The cornerstones of success.

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3. Issuance of the Juveniles Law by Royal Decree No. (M/113), dated 1/8/2018, and its executive regulation by Cabinet Resolution No. 237, dated 1/12/2020. The law including the provisions and procedures necessary to deal with juvenile delinquents and their cases, including arrest, detention, investigation and trial procedures in conformity with their age and rectification of their behavior. The Article (15) of the law including that if the crime committed by the juvenile is punishable by death, it is sufficient to place him in a juvenile home for ten years maximum.
4. Issuance of the Personal Data Protection Law by Royal Decree No. (M/19), dated 16/9/2021, which including the rights of the personal data owner, processing personal data or changing the processing purpose, choosing the processing entity, and setting periods for access, collect, content and destruction of data, the adoption of a privacy policy, the means and elements of its collection preservation of its confidentiality, and the issuance of regulations.
5. Issuance of Law of Protection from Abuse by Royal Decree No. (M/52) dated 21/9/2013, which provided protection from abuse of all kinds, assistance and treatment, shelter, social, psychological and health care for its victims, accountability and punishment of its perpetrator, and emphasis the awareness about the Abuse concept and its consequences, and treatment of behavioral phenomena in society, which predict the existence of an appropriate environment for the occurrence of abuse cases, and it is obligatory for everyone who is aware of an abuse case to report it immediately.
6. Issuance of the Child Protection Law by Royal Decree No. (M/14), dated 24/12/2014, which including the necessary provisions to protect the children rights, and defined child as every person under the age of 18th, in accordance with the provisions of Sharia and international regulations and agreements to which the Kingdom has become a party.
7. The issuance of Anti-Harassment Law under Royal Decree No. (M/69) dated 31/5/2018, amended by Royal Decree No. (M/48) dated 14/1/2021 which is an extension of the Kingdom's efforts to legalize punitive crimes by issuing penal laws that include these crimes description and the appropriate penalties for their commission, as harassment is criminalized under the provisions of Sharia, from which the Kingdom derives all of its regulations.
8. Issuance of the Elderly Rights and Care Law Royal Decree No. (M/47) dated 6/1/2022, Article (2) of which guarantees that Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development, in coordination with the relevant entities, to enable the older persons to live in an environment that preserves their rights and dignity, awareness of their rights, support for voluntary activities in their service, and rehabilitation of public, commercial, and residential facilities to be suitable for the older persons' needs. Article (4) also including that social care homes may not accommodate the older persons except with their approval, or under a judicial

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- ruling, or in cases threaten the life or safety of the older person in accordance with the controls determined by the regulations.
9. Issuance of the Personal Status Law by Royal Decree No. (M/37) dated 9/3/2022, which regulates family affairs, including the spouses and children's rights, thus enhancing the protection of rights related to marriage and family relations.
 10. Issuance of the Evidence Law by Royal Decree No. (M/43) dated 30/12/2021, which aims to regulate the means and methods of establishing rights, contributes to the speedy review and adjudication of cases, taking into account the ways to facilitate evidence of transactions and behaviors, and adds more reliability in interpersonal transactions and establishing rights, supporting the stability of safe transactions in society, and reduces conflicts and disputes in this aspect.
 11. Law of Printing and Publication, which issued by Royal Decree (M/32) dated 29/11/2000, and it states the protection of freedom of opinion and expression in compliance with the Islamic Shari'ah and relevant international standards, in a way that ensures the protection and not infringing upon the rights of others, whereas Article (9) contained that when permission is given to a printed matter, it shall not be inciting feuds and separation among citizens.
 12. The Audiovisual Media Law, which issued under a resolution of the Council of Ministers (170) dated 12/12/2017, the Article (5) contained not to be subjected to what is exciting to fanatical instincts or stir up discord among citizens, inciting violence and threatening the community peace.
 13. Law of Civil Society Associations and Organizations, which issued by the Royal Decree (M/8) dated 1/12/2015, which contained a ban on the establishment of any association which list contained provisions in contrary with the provisions of Islamic Shari'ah, public order, public morals, or prejudice the national unity.
 14. Civil Service Law, which issued by Royal Decree (M/49) dated 27/6/1977 amended by Royal Decree (M/95) dated 30/5/2018, whereas Article (1) states that efficiency is the basis for selecting employees.
 15. Labor Law, which issued by the Royal Decree M/51 dated 27/9/2005, amended by the Royal Decree (M/134) dated 30/7/2019, amended by the Royal Decree M/5 dated 26/8/2020. Whereas Article (3) states that citizens enjoy equal right to work without any discrimination based on gender, disability, age or any other forms of discrimination.
 16. The Health Law, which issued by the Royal Decree M/11, dated 5/6/2002, and Article (2) stated that this law aims to provide comprehensive and integrated health care for the entire population in a fair, accessible.
 17. The High Order 26458 dated 7/3/2017, which states emphasizing the government and private entities to emphasize the employees to avoid everything that leads to inciting sports fanaticism or dissemination of abuse in the various media, and to avoid everything that leads thereto.

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In addition to Saudi Arabia complies with regional and international treaties to which Saudi Arabia is party of, including International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and take into account the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action 2001. These treaties are considered a part of national laws, the provisions with which Saudi Arabia complies have the same power as national laws, whereas Paragraph (1) of Article (11) of Procedures for the Conclusion of International Treaties, issued by Council of Ministers Resolution (287) dated 26/7/2010, the concerned entities - upon the treaty entering into force – shall take the necessary measures to implement the same to ensure that all Saudi Arabia's obligations under these treaties.

2. Institutional Measures:

1. The Human Rights Commission - an independent monitoring entity - in promoting and protecting human rights for all without discrimination, and receiving complaints related to human rights violations and takes legal measures regarding them and addresses practices that may constitute a violation of their rights through monitoring, awareness-raising and other measures.
2. The Human Rights Commission works to ensure that the relevant governmental entities implement the laws and regulations related to human rights, detect abuses, and take the necessary legal measures in their regard. It also monitors government entities to implement the relevant international human rights treaties which Saudi Arabia is a party, including the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and to ensure that all necessary measures have been taken by those entities, in addition to that, the Human Rights Commission takes on the mission of monitoring the implementation of the Convention, through the complaints received by it.
3. The Public Prosecution files and investigate criminal cases on its own if it deems public interest in accordance with Article (17) of the Law of Criminal Procedure.
4. "Intellectual Warfare Center" was established on April 30, 2017 which specializes in combating the roots of extremism and terrorism, consolidating the correct concepts of Islam, and immunizing young people around the world against extremism through preventive and curative programs. One of the Center objectives, developing a deep and rooted understanding regarding the problem of extremism through the causes and grounds of extremist disputes, understanding the tools and methodologies used by extremist groups, identifying the target groups by such groups, and effective cooperation with the national and international institutions.
5. Establishing the King Abdulaziz Center for National Dialogue, which takes continuous efforts in the field of promoting tolerance and coexistence through holding many meetings in which various sectors and groups of society participated at. One of the objectives of such

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meetings is to raise awareness level by the culture of dialogue and human rights, and it denounces intolerance, discrimination in all its forms, including racial discrimination. It also holds workshops, periodic meetings and events in order to enhance communication between residents and citizens within the activities of projects that aims at promoting the values of tolerance and coexistence and denouncing discrimination and hate speech, such as the Safir (Ambassador) Program which is directed at students and the Jusoor (Bridges) Program, which aims at inculcating the values of tolerance and coexistence in the hearts of young people, which is guide evidences for educators and a set of stories for different age groups in several languages.

In addition to civil society institutions contributing to spreading human rights culture related to combating discrimination and hatred, for example but not limited to the National Society for Human Rights, whereas such institutions on many occasions emphasize the necessity of respecting the international treaties that emphasize combating forms of discrimination. The National Society for Human Rights also works in coordination with regional and international human rights institutions in order to prevent and combat everything that calls for hatred and discrimination and it is consistent with the resolutions of the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council.

3. The most notable implementation measures:

1. SALAM Project for Cultural Communication carries out various activities in this field for the purpose of promoting mutual respect between the individuals and peoples' civilizations, promoting the common values and building bridges of communication and knowledge in order to achieve effective civilized communication and knowledge sharing among various cultures by hosting persons of multiple nationalities, producing short films and publications in several languages, creating an electronic platform for exchanging experiences and publishing various media materials, SALAM Project for Cultural Communication has made partnerships with several international organizations in order to implement global programs for spreading the concepts of tolerance, coexistence and global citizenship and to develop school textbooks for inculcating values of respect for pluralism and cultural diversity, among these entities are the World Organization of the Scout Movement, UNESCO and the King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID), promote common human values and effective communication in order to achieve world peace.
2. With regard to the measures taken for the purpose for denouncing all forms of discrimination through the education, The Ministry of Education periodically reviews and develops all school textbooks on a continuous manner to ensure its consistency with national and international human rights standards, and insure that it does not contain what leads - in any way - to racial discrimination, racism and xenophobia and contemporary forms of intolerance, (185) deletions, (171) replacements, and (77) amendments have been made to the contents of

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- the textbooks at all educational levels in view of the age groups and degrees of maturity, in a way that achieves the values of tolerance, coexistence and a positive view of life, to ensure that there is not content that may lead to discrimination, in light of the Saudi Arabia's laws and its obligations under the international human rights treaties to which it became a party.
3. In order to spread awareness with regard to combating all forms of discrimination, the Human Rights Commission holds seminars, workshops and training courses - continuously - aimed at defining the provisions contained in the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and exploring the best ways to promote its implementation on ground in line with Saudi Arabia's obligations, which is directed to judges, members of the Public Prosecution, law enforcement officers, and other stake holders, including representatives of civil society institutions. It should be noted that training programs were held within the framework of the Memorandum of Technical Cooperation concluded between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia represented by the Human Rights Commission and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in 2012, which reached more than (95) programs, included introducing the human rights treaties to which Saudi Arabia became a party, including the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and exploring the best ways to implement them on ground. In addition, the Justice Training Center which established by Council of Ministers Resolution (162) issued on February 24, 2014, is contributing to introduce the provisions mentioned in the international human rights treaties to which Saudi Arabia became a party.
- It should be noted that the legal and institutional frameworks and the executive and judicial measures that result from their interaction combine to prohibit racial discrimination in all its forms, all of these frameworks and measures are subjected to periodic and continuous review, especially as Saudi Arabia currently has seen major development reforms within the framework of the "Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030".

