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Excellency,

I have been following the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Jordan and welcome the constructive engagement of your Government during the 31<sup>st</sup> session of the UPR Working Group in November 2018.

As the final outcome report on the review of Jordan has been recently adopted by the Human Rights Council at its 40<sup>th</sup> session, I would like to take this opportunity to follow up on a number of areas raised in the two reports that my Office had prepared for the review of Jordan – the Compilation of United Nations information and the Summary of Stakeholders' submissions – which I consider in need of particular attention over the next four and a half years until the next cycle of the UPR. In identifying those areas, I have also considered the statements and/or recommendations made by 95 delegations, the presentation and responses made by the delegation of Jordan and the actions taken by your Government to implement the 126 recommendations it had accepted during the second cycle of the UPR. The aforementioned areas cover a range of issues and appear in the Annex to this letter.

I would like to highlight encouraging steps taken by the Government of Jordan, including the creation, in 2014, of the Government Coordinator for Human Rights in the Office of the Prime Minister. I also greatly appreciate the measures adopted to increase access to justice, combat corruption and promote the role of women in the public sector. I take note of the adoption of the National Plan for Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 and the National Strategy for Women 2013–2017.

I also welcome the adoption of the Comprehensive National Human Rights Strategy 2016–2025. I encourage Jordan to strengthen further the strategy and to effectively implement it in order to ensure the achievement of concrete results in the areas highlighted in the Annex to this letter and to facilitate the preparations for Jordan's fourth cycle of the UPR. My advice to Member States is to develop and implement national action plans in close consultation and cooperation with all stakeholders, in particular the national human rights institution and civil society organizations, and, where necessary, the support of international organizations, including the Office of the United Nations of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and other United Nations entities, under the leadership of the United Nations Resident Coordinator.

H.E. Mr. Ayman Al Safadi  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates  
The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

I encourage Jordan to establish a national mechanism for comprehensive reporting and follow-up in relation to recommendations received from all international and regional human rights mechanisms and treaty obligations, and linking this to the Sustainable Development Goals. I strongly recommend the use of the practical guide that my Office released on this topic, which is available at:

[http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/HR\\_PUB\\_16\\_1\\_NMRF\\_PracticalGuide.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/HR_PUB_16_1_NMRF_PracticalGuide.pdf).

Please kindly note that I am sharing my advice with all Member States as they go through the third cycle of the UPR with a view to assisting them with the implementation of the recommendations, following the review. An important measure that can contribute positively to follow-up action is voluntary mid-term reporting. Therefore, I strongly encourage all Member States to submit a voluntary mid-term report two years after the adoption of the UPR outcome report. In this regard, I encourage Jordan to consider submitting a mid-term report on the follow-up of the third cycle of the review, by 2021.

As stated by the Secretary-General in his 2017 report on the work of the Organization (A/72/1, paragraph 98): *“The Human Rights Council’s universal periodic review process is now entering a new cycle, with every Member State scheduled for a third round of scrutiny. We will work to strengthen the relevance, precision and impact of the Council’s recommendations, including by providing better support to Member States in implementation, stronger collaboration with United Nations country teams and the establishment of national mechanisms for human rights reporting and follow-up to link the universal periodic review to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.”*

I look forward to discussing with you ways in which my Office may further assist Jordan in relation to the areas identified in this letter and its Annex.

Please, accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Michelle Bachelet  
High Commissioner for Human Rights

## Annex

### **Scope of international obligations and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and bodies**

- Strengthening the normative framework by ratifying human rights instruments to which Jordan is not yet a party, in particular the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance; the two Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; the Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons, 1954; and the 1961 Convention to Reduce Cases of Statelessness.

### **National human rights framework**

#### **A. Cross-cutting issues**

##### *Equality and non-discrimination*

- Development of a comprehensive strategy to eliminate all forms of attitudes and stereotypes that discriminate against women.
- Repealing discriminatory provisions to end male guardianship in marriage.

##### *Development, the environment, and business and human rights*

- Expanding the process of consultation with civil society on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Consolidation of efforts to adopt policies and programmes on climate change and environment protection.

##### *Human rights and counter-terrorism*

- Amendment of the Anti-Terrorism Act and cybercrime law to bring it in line with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

#### **B. Civil and political rights**

##### *Right to life, liberty and security of person*

- Making the prohibition of torture absolute and non-derogable, in compliance with the Convention against Torture.
- Amendment of article 208 para 2 of the Penal Code to align the definition of torture with the Convention against Torture.
- Adoption of concrete measures aimed at preventing torture.
- Reinstating a moratorium on the death penalty.

*Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law*

- Strengthening the independence of the judiciary.
- Building the capacity of law enforcement officials through human rights training and other measures, especially in the areas of fair trial and detention.
- Limitation of the use of administrative detention, in accordance with article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

*Fundamental freedoms*

- Ensuring that domestic legislation is in compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, particularly in relation to the right to freedom of expression.
- Ensuring a safe environment for journalists and civil society free from interference.
- Adopting policies aimed at promoting tolerance and respect for religious diversity.

*Prohibition of all forms of slavery*

- Increase of efforts to combat trafficking of women and children with particular attention to migrant and refugee communities, including through improved legislation.
- Strengthening measures to safeguard the rights of foreign female domestic workers.

**C. Economic, social and cultural rights**

*Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work*

- Alignment of national labour laws with international labour standards, including allowing foreign workers to form trade unions.
- Strengthening labour protection with a focus on migrant workers.

*Right to health*

- Continuing efforts to improve access to health care for all strata of the population.

*Right to education*

- Taking measures for improving access to education to all children, including in rural and remote areas.

**D. Rights of specific persons or groups**

*Women*

- Strengthening laws protecting women from violence.
- Working towards withdrawal of reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
- Advancement of the role of women in economic and political life.

- Ensuring the availability of programs and measures aimed at raising human rights awareness, especially for women.

#### *Children*

- Stepping up efforts to prevent child labour, including through the enactment of legislation on minimum age of work.
- Ensuring the provision of aftercare for juveniles offenders in order to ensure that there is no return and repetition.
- Intensification of efforts to eliminate child marriages.
- Ensuring that children with non-Jordanian fathers enjoy their full rights.

#### *Persons with disabilities*

- Implementation of the National Plan to integrate Persons with Disabilities into the educational institutions.
- Promotion of the empowerment of persons with disabilities in the labour market.
- Adoption of measures to combat violence, abuse and neglect of persons with psychosocial disabilities and mental health conditions, particularly those living in “shelters”.

#### *Minorities*

- Facilitating access to services for and ensuring greater integration into society of minority groups.

#### *Migrants, refugees and asylum seekers*

- Continuing enacting laws that protect migrants and that ensure the oversight of the work of relevant state agencies.
- Ensuring effective access to justice for migrant domestic workers, asylum seekers and refugees.