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Written submission by the Rwanda: National Commission for Human Rights * **

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat of the Human Rights Council hereby transmits the communication submitted by the Rwanda: National Commission for Human Rights, reproduced below in accordance with rule 7(b) of the rules of procedures described in the annex to Council resolution 5/1, according to which participation of national human rights institutions is to be based on arrangements and practices agreed upon by the Commission on Human Rights, including resolution 2005/74 of 20 April 2005.

* National human rights institution with “A”-status accreditation from the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

** Reproduced in the annex as received, in the language of submission only.



Annex

[English only]

Submission by the Rwanda: National Commission for Human Rights

Statement of the National Commission for Human Rights of Rwanda on the Universal Periodic Review of the Republic of Rwanda

The National Commission for Human Rights of Rwanda (NCHR) acknowledges the Rwandan authorities' engagement in UPR process especially its submission and presentation of the national report to the second UPR cycle.

The NCHR welcomes the positive development in Rwanda since its first review in 2011 such as the implementation of the recommendations pertaining to economic, social and cultural rights, women's rights, child's rights, HIV/AIDS, right to health, vulnerable group towards various programs including Vision 2020 EDPRS I and II, 7 Year of the Program of the Government of Rwanda and other programs aimed at poverty reduction, performance contracts.

We express our sincere hope that this will continue in the future; the progress towards passing numerous laws legislation in order to strengthen the right to information and freedom of expression, freedom of association, the revision of the law on Genocide ideology and other national legislation laws related to the access to justice is also noteworthy. These reforms have an important impact on the promotion and protection of human rights in the concerned field. The NCHR welcomes its involvement in collaboration with the civil society, Non- Governmental Organizations operating in Rwanda, Government Departments, international and national partners, in the establishment of the roadmap of the implementation of the 2011 UPR recommendations. The roadmap highlighted key human rights priority areas for Rwanda, responsible government actors and partners and fixed timelines for the implementation of the recommendations; we therefore recommend the Government of Rwanda to continue its cooperation with all stakeholders in the follow up to this second cycle review.

The NCHR welcomes the great implementation by the Government of the Republic of Rwanda, the recommendations issued in the first UPR Review, where 63 out of 67 Recommendations have been implemented. The NCHR encourages the Government of the Republic of Rwanda to speed up the implementation of the four remaining recommendations as well as the recommendations issued in UPR second review. The NCHR welcomes the report of the working group and the important recommendations it contains and calls on the Government to develop concrete plan of action for their implementation. The NCHR appreciates the Government of Rwanda for its positive development towards the promotion and the protection of human rights, while we still make the following recall:

1. To abrogate the provisions on defamation related to freedom of media in Penal Code and the provision on solitary confinement;
2. To speed up the Draft Bill governing persons and family and Draft Bill regarding matrimonial regimes, family donations and successions standing before the parliament;
3. To accelerates the adoption of the National Human Rights Action Plan.

Finally, the NCHR encourages the government of Rwanda to translate the UPR recommendations from the second review and to widely spread them in public institutions, Parliament, Judiciary, private institutions, civil society, Non-governmental Organizations operating in Rwanda.

The NCHR will continue its mission relating to the advocacy the development of a National Human Rights Action Plan, the sensitization of the Government of abrogate all provisions on defamation related to media freedom and provisions on solitary confinement sentences, to sensitization of the Government to accelerate all legislation under examination in relation with Human Rights and the NCHR will closely monitor the implementation of these commitments and the new UPR recommendations from the second review.
