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**UPR report on Saudi Arabia**

*Speaker: Catriona Mwanika*

Thank you Chair,

RADDHO would like to recognise Saudi Arabia's accession on a number of Human Rights Conventions, and the adoption of the ILO's provisions pertaining to children. We would like to acknowledge the progress achieved in promoting women's rights, the encouragement of women to participate fully in society and for establishing mechanisms for women's advancement and protection from violence. In addition, we acknowledge the efforts to streamlining the labor situation, the combating of human trafficking and efforts to improve the protection of the rights of migrant workers.

Chair, our organization is strenuously against the exploitation, abuse and discrimination of Asian and African domestic and migrant workers in the country and any discrimination against women. It is for this reason that we invite Saudi Arabia to ratify the main human rights instruments, in particular to accelerate its accession to the ICCPR, the ICESCR and the CEDAW.

RADDHO would like to encourage Saudi Arabia to set up programs and plans to enhance training and raise awareness among the workers in an effort to combat human trafficking. We strongly support the promotion of appropriate and concrete measures to address the issue of discrimination and exploitation of migrant and domestic workers; and to provide a fair judicial process for female domestic workers who commit crimes punishable under the Saudi law. We encourage the taking of additional measures that aim at implementing labor laws that the Kingdom has ratified.

Furthermore we encourage Saudi Arabia to introduce legislation, measures and practices to ensure the effective elimination of all forms of legal discrimination against women and to allow their full participation in society, as well as the continued efforts to strengthen institutional and legal basis for the protection of human rights. We urge Saudi Arabia to take steps to abolish the practice of male guardianship over women, while continuing to promote the empowerment of women and children in Saudi Arabia through the greater participation of women in public and political processes.

We remand the delegation of Saudi Arabia to open dialogue with stakeholders, in particular with civil society, as civil society is the key to facilitation the implementation of UPR recommendations in the country.

In conclusion Mister/Madame, RADDHO invites the Saudi delegation to extend the invitation to all Special Reporters to visit their country.

Thank you Mister President