



UN Human Rights Council – 40th Session
15 March 2019
Oral Statement: Adoption of Universal Periodic Review Report of Jordan
Delivered by Hyun Soo Cho

Madame Vice-President,

The Arab NGO Network on Development (ANND), the Phenix Center for Economic & Informatics Studies and CIVICUS welcome the government of Jordan's engagement with the UPR process, including its decision to accept over 100 recommendations on a range of human rights issues.

While we applaud the government's commitment to "ensure that all domestic legislation is in compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, particularly in relation to the right to freedom of expression" we regret the government's lack of explicit commitment to review legislation that impose unnecessary and disproportionate restrictions on freedom of expression, such as the Anti-Terrorism Law and the 2015 Cybercrime Law.

We are further concerned that there are tight state controls on CSOs' registration, funding and activities and that there is a lack of commitment to review the 2009 Law on Societies which restricts the work of CSOs. In addition, the government has yet to reform the Labor Code in order to comply with the Jordanian constitution, Constitutional Court decision No. 6 of 2013 and international labor standards, so that all workers in the public and private sectors have the right to form trade unions by removing all restrictions in the Jordanian labor law and the civil service bylaw.

We also note that since the last UPR, regular protests have been staged calling for rights-based social and economic reforms. These calls should be taken into consideration and integrated in the Government's plan, including in its efforts on the implementation of the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs.

Madame Vice-President, we call on Jordan to implement recommendations it accepted on promoting the right to freedom of expression and further commit to review legislation that imposes unnecessary and disproportionate restrictions on the freedom of expression. Specifically, we urge the government to remove the provisions under the the Law on Associations that unduly restrict the activities and funding of civil society organisations.

Thank you.