

Your excellency, Chair of the Human Rights Council

Valued members,

It is my pleasure to present Oman Human Rights Commission statement regarding the rights of women and labour, the two categories facing most challenges around the world, and their rights intersect with several other groups.

First of all, In relation to women rights, last Oman's UPR comprised of (50) recommendations. OHRC commends the considerable progress achieved by the government of Sultanate of Oman in the area of supporting women and enhancing their rights of equality. Women in Oman are granted the same rights as men in nomination and participation in the elections of the Shura Council (Parliament). In addition, three women were appointed as ministers in the new formation of the Council of Ministers, whereas fifteen women were also appointed in the State Council, one of whom was elected as the First Deputy Chairman of the Council. Moreover, the Commission have observed a considerable rise in the total number of women working in both public and private sectors according to the statistics of 2019.

The Commission appreciates a particularly important progress in the women rights in Oman, namely, the withdrawal of reservation on paragraph (4) of article (15) from CEDAW.

In relation to domestic violence victims, the commission has been following with appreciation the Government's efforts to protect this group. The commission has passed a recommendation in its report highlighting the

importance and necessity to review the current law and regulations concerning women, and to establish a law to protect them from violence.

In case of the rights of the children of Omani women married to Non-Omanis under official permit, the Government stipulated the exemption from paying registration fees in public schools, and it provides them with free healthcare in the government hospitals.

Second, in relation to labour rights, the last UPR contained (24) recommendations regarding the cancellation of the sponsorship system, in addition to other rights concerned to expatriate labour and their children.

The Commission supported the cancellation of the (NOC) to allow expat labour to move freely between companies. The commission commends this step that may lead to the cancellation of the sponsorship system, which eventually grants expat labour the freedom of movement by law.

The Commission appreciates the step taken by the country to establish one ministry of labour through which all Omani and Non-Omani labour affairs will be managed, and encourages the Government to pass the new law of labour, which we understand, it is in its final stages. The commission encourages the government to ensure that the new law will correspond with the SDGs and Oman Vision 2040. The commission, as well, recommends that Oman joins all international treaties regarding the rights of labour. In addition, in relation to education, the country provides all sorts of schools such as public, private, and international that aim to provide education for all.

The commission commends the humane directives of HM the Sultan, which stated that all people infected with (COVIS-19), who are not covered by insurance, the Government shall cover their treatment expenses, including those with expired residence permits.

Finally, the Oman Human Rights Commission follows all upcoming human rights matters and envisions positive developments during the coming period regarding human rights in the Sultanate of Oman.