

# **Action plan for realization of the International Coordination Sub-Committee Recommendations**

**March 2010**

| Recommendation of ICC Sub-Committee  | Short term Activities   | Long term Activities   | Responsible Institutions/ persons   | Remarks   |
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| 1. Civil society and other groups are not involved in the appointment process. The SCA refers to General Observation 2.2 "Selection and appointment of governing body" | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Informing the B&amp;H Parliament on the process of re-accreditation and Recommendation of ICC Sub Committee</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Time frame:</u></b><br/>February – April 2010</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lobbying for the amendments to the Law on BiH Ombudsman in order to incorporate a provision related to the participation of civil society and other groups in the appointment process</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Time frame:</u></b><br/>2010 – 2011</p>                                     | <p><b><u>Responsible institution:</u></b><br/>Ombudsmen BiH</p> <p><b><u>Partners:</u></b><br/>OSCE, Council of Europe, Civil Society</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Representatives have been consulted in the process of B&amp;H Ombudsman appointment in 2008. They participated in the panel which held an interview with candidates. However, the participation of representatives of civil society has not been formalized through a legal provision which is why it is necessary to introduce amendments to the Act. In November 2010 general elections will be held in BiH. Therefore, amendments to the legislation that require approval from the Parliamentary Assembly need to be planned at post-election period.</li> </ul> |
| 2. The importance of financial autonomy, both in terms of budget submissions and financial controls. The SCA refers to general Observation 2.6 "Adequate funding".     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Informing the B&amp;H Parliament on the process of re-accreditation and recommendations of the ICC sub-committees</li> <li>Improving cooperation with the Ministry of finance on the basis of partnership</li> <li>Execution of the recommendations of the Audit Office of the Institutions of B&amp;H in order to fully ensure financial</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiation of amendments to the Law on B&amp;H Ombudsman in order to incorporate a provision specially emphasizing the financial independence</li> <li>Consultations with the Audit Office of the Institutions of B&amp;H</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Time frame:</u></b><br/>2010 – 2011</p> | <p><b><u>Responsible institution:</u></b><br/>Ombudsmen BiH</p> <p><b><u>Partners:</u></b><br/>OSCE, Council of Europe, Civil Society</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Experience in the implementation of the budget in 2009 and creating the budget for 2010 indicate that there is no significant limitation in the expenditure of funds within the budget that was adopted in the Parliament. Ombudsman may independently dispose in accordance with legal regulations which guarantee financial freedom in disposing with funds</li> </ul>   |

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|   | <p>discipline as a precondition for spending the budget funds</p> <p><b><u>Time frame:</u></b><br/>February – April 2010</p>  |  |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Execution of the recommendation of the Audit Office from 2008 removed all the irregularities related to the financial affairs of the Institution</li> </ul> |
| <p>3. The Law on Salaries in Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina has repealed the provision in the Law of the Human Rights Ombudsman that entitled members to a salary equal to that of the Constitutional Court Judge. This abrogation may impact the Ombudsmen's independence.</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Informing the B&amp;H Parliament on the process of re-accreditation and recommendations of the ICC sub-committees</li> <li>Informing the Ministry of Finance of the process of re-accreditation and recommendations of the ICC sub-committees</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Time frame:</u></b><br/>February – April 2010</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiation of amendments to Article 60, paragraph 1, item e of the Law of salary in order to abolish the transitional provisions repealing Article 10, paragraph 3 of the Law on Ombudsman</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Time frame:</u></b><br/>2010 – 2011</p>  | <p><b><u>Responsible institution:</u></b><br/>Ombudsmen BiH and BiH Parliament</p>   |  |
| <p>4. It commends the IHROBH on its concrete efforts to implement a regular consultation mechanism with civil society organizations. However, this cooperation should be formalized. The SCA also emphasizes that engagement with civil society must be broader based, to ensure pluralistic representation of social forces as required by Paris Principles.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifying relevant actors in Civil Sector that are proactive, involved in human rights issues or/and providing a free aid to the applicants</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Time frame:</u></b><br/>January – March 2010</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual meetings with those civil sector representatives</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Time frame:</u></b><br/>March – April 2010</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Convening consultation meetings and conferences</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Holding working meetings with civil society organizations quarterly</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Time frame:</u></b><br/>Every third month in the year – Permanent activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organization of thematic meetings with civil society concerning the current topics in the field of human rights</li> <li>Providing support to NGOs in the implementation of their program activities</li> <li>Evaluation and improvement of the established mechanism of consultation with civil society organizations</li> </ul> | <p><b><u>Responsible institution:</u></b><br/>Ombudsmen BiH</p> <p><b><u>Partners:</u></b><br/>OSCE, ODIHR, NGOs/ „Helsinki Committee“, Sarajevo, „Vaša prava“, „Lara“ Bijeljina, „Infoteka“ Zenica etc.</p> |  |

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|   | <p>with the support of OSCE cooperation of civil society and NHI</p> <p><b><u>Time frame:</u></b><br/>May – June 2010</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signing of Memorandum of Cooperation with NGOs</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Time frame:</u></b><br/>June – July 2010</p>   |  |  |  |
| <p>5. It recommends that the mandate of the IHROBH be strengthened to include human rights promotion and refers to General Observation 1.2 "Human rights mandate"</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raising awareness about the implementation of Antidiscrimination law</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Time frame:</u></b><br/>Druring 2010</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshops in schools to educate children on human rights, children's rights and the role of the Ombudsman</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Time frame:</u></b><br/>Druring 2010</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting Children's Rights nationally and regionally through CRONSEE network</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Time frame:</u></b><br/>2010 – 2013</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organizing of workshops for judges and prosecutors on the implementation of newly adopted Antidiscrimination Law</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Time frame:</u></b><br/>2010 – 2011</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organizing the workshops for civil servants on human rights and the implementation of the international human rights standards</li> <li>• Creation and mobilization of the public opinion on relevant human rights issues through better visibility</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Time frame:</u></b><br/>Permanent activity</p> | <p><b><u>Responsible institution:</u></b><br/>Ombudsmen BiH</p> <p><b><u>Partners:</u></b><br/>OSCE, Council of Europe, Save the Children Norway, MPDL, other NGOs</p> |  |

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| <p>6. In the absence of an Annual Report for 2008-2009, the SCA is not able to assess the activities implemented over the past year, and encourages the IHROBH to submit this in any future applications for the accreditation. The SCA refers to General Observation 6.7 on "NHRI Annual report"</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preparation and presentation of the annual report for 2009, and its submission to the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the National Assembly of Republika Srpska and the Parliament of Federation of BiH</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Time frame:</u></b><br/>January – April 2010</p>  |   |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Obligation of BiH Ombudsman to prepare annual report is set out by Article 34 of the Law on Human Rights Ombudsman of Bosnia and Herzegovina in conjunction with Article 10 of the Law on Amendments to the Law on Human Rights Ombudsman in B&amp;H, which reads: "The annual and special reports will be published."</li> </ul>   |
| <p>7. It reiterates the need for the IHROBH to interact effectively and independently with the International Human Rights System.</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organizing a meeting of the Ombudsman institutions of the Balkans area</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Time frame:</u></b><br/>May – June 2010</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishment of partnership relations with the Ombudsman of Catalonia and the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Time frame:</u></b><br/>September – December 2010</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthening of cooperation with the European Ombudsman subgroup within the ICC</li> <li>Strengthening the cooperation within the European Ombudsman Institute (EOI)</li> <li>Strengthening of cooperation with Ombudsmen Mediterranean countries</li> <li>Strengthening of cooperation with UN authorities and reporting</li> <li>Strengthening of cooperation with the Council of Europe</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Time frame:</u></b><br/>Permanent activity because the Ombudsman institution is a member of all specified networks</p> |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BiH Ombudsman has already taken measures to organize a meeting of the Balkans Ombudsman institutions scheduled for 17-19 May 2010</li> <li>It also scheduled a visit to the Ombudsman of Catalonia where details of future cooperation will be discussed</li> <li>The Ombudsman have submitted their observations for the UPR on the Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers, and the protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child</li> <li>The Ombudspersons actively participates in all the activities realized within the networks to which the Institution is a member.</li> </ul> |