

**Submission by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**

**For the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights' Compilation Report -**

**Universal Periodic Review:**

**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

**I. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The United Arab Emirates is not a State party to the *1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees*, nor to its *1967 Protocol* (hereafter the 1951 Convention). The UAE is also not a State party to the *1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons*, or to the *1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness*.

No legal framework exists to govern the relationship between UNHCR and the Government of the United Arab Emirates. Therefore, the UNHCR office in UAE, which was opened in 1986, works under the umbrella of the UNDP. UNHCR's presence is welcomed by the UAE. Under current conditions, the functional responsibilities for all aspects related to refugee status determination in the country are carried out by UNHCR.

Despite the absence of a national framework regulating issues related to asylum, the Government of UAE continues to respect international refugee protection standards, including the essential principle of *non-refoulement*.

As of 30 April 2012, there were a total of 707 asylum-seekers and refugees (recognized under mandate) registered with UNHCR Abu Dhabi, 75% of whom are Iraqis. The remaining active caseload is composed of a mix of nationalities, including Iranians, Somalis and Sudanese.

**II. ACHIEVEMENTS AND BEST PRACTICES**

UNHCR welcomes the Government's achievements in the following areas:

**Refugee Protection**

UNHCR commends the UAE's facilitation of refugee law training activities conducted by UNHCR for law enforcement personnel, including officers from the Immigration department, airports and police force. Such activities have enhanced the capacity of authorities to identify persons in need of international protection and refer them to UNHCR. As a result, the UAE respected UNHCR's intervention in several urgent cases of asylum-seekers who were stranded at the airport or in detention. UNHCR has not become aware of any case of forced

return of asylum-seekers; instead persons in need of international protection were promptly referred to UNHCR.

### **Invitation to the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons to visit the country**

UNHCR commends the initiative taken by the Government of the UAE to invite and receive the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Ms. Joy Ngozi Ezeilo in April 2012. UNHCR was pleased about the recognition expressed by the Special Rapporteur of the UAE's efforts to address the issue of human trafficking and of the country's ratification of the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent Suppress and Punish Trafficking in persons, Especially Women and Children (The Palermo Protocol).

### **Legislative amendments on nationality**

UNHCR welcomes the decree issued on the UAE's 40<sup>th</sup> national day by the Head of State, Sheikh Khalifah bin Zayed AlNahyan. To date, this decree has resulted in the acquisition of UAE nationality by 1,117 children born to women who are citizens of UAE married to foreigners who satisfied the requirements for citizenship once they reached 18 years of age.

### **Establishment of human rights departments in several ministries throughout the UAE**

UNHCR commends the UAE for being the first among the Arab States to establish human rights departments in several key ministries, namely: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2010), the Ministry of the Interior (2009) and the Human Trafficking department at the Ministry of Labour (2010). These departments are responsible for receiving individual petitions concerning the work of the ministry. Other institutions and bodies concerned with human rights have also been established at the federal and local levels in the UAE, including the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood; Shelters for women and children victims of trafficking (referred to as EWA'A centers); the Dubai Community Development Centre; and the Social Support centers affiliated to the General Directorate of Abu Dhabi Police General Headquarters of Sharjah Police.

### **Capacity-building**

UNHCR commends the advanced level of human rights training organized by the newly established human rights departments throughout 2011. These training sessions have targeted over 200 officials from various departments within these ministries. Since 2009, approximately 75 workshops on human rights subjects were organized for police academies, mainly under the supervision of the Ministry of the Interior.

## **III. KEY PROTECTION CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Issue 1: Refugee Protection**

All non-citizens in the UAE fall under national immigration laws (Expatriate law) with regard to their legal status in the country including refugees and asylum seekers who are registered with UNHCR. Thus, they are covered by national immigration laws, which clearly provide that work sponsorship is an essential pre-requisite for becoming a legal resident in

the country and that deportation is a possible consequence of overstaying a legal residence permit.

Accession to the 1951 Convention, and establishment of a national legal framework would provide a clearer basis for the Government of UAE to provide refugees with international protection. It also greatly facilitates UNHCR's task of mobilizing international support to address refugee situations that may arise in any country. UNHCR believes that it is necessary to broaden the base of State support for these refugee instruments, ensuring that the protection provided to refugees is more universal in scope and the burdens and responsibilities of governments are equitably distributed and consistently applied.

Resettlement is used by UNHCR in a strategic manner and as a tool for protection, mainly for persons who have been identified as having legal problems in the UAE, in particular those who are at risk of losing their legal residence as a result of work termination. This has been particularly common in recent years, when a large number of foreigners in the UAE lost their jobs as a result of the financial crisis. Granting a permit for refugees to stay in the UAE beyond the valid legal residence period requires a special request from UNHCR and is temporary, pending the finalization of resettlement procedures to a third country.

**Recommendations:**

- Accede to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol and adopt national asylum legislation.
- Adopt measures to avoid detention of persons in need of international protection and ensure effective referral mechanisms to allow for refugee status determination by UNHCR. Consider alternatives to detention and ensure adequate procedural safeguards.
- Facilitate access of persons in need of international protection to UNHCR and to resettlement country missions, in order to enhance the identification of a durable solution for recognized refugees.

**Issue 2: Trafficking**

The Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children completed a country visit to the UAE in April 2012, and her preliminary report included the following information on the situation of trafficking in the UAE:

“Furthermore, although the Government has adopted legislation to combat human trafficking, significant gaps remain. As it stands, the Federal Law 51 does not cover in its ambit the cases of persons trafficked for all forms of labour exploitation, including domestic servitude. As such, despite the various efforts undertaken by the Government to sensitizing law enforcement officers on the issue of human trafficking, identification of victims, especially domestic workers trafficked for labour exploitation still remains non-existent and problematic. I therefore urge the Government to expand the definition of trafficking, to

explicitly include labour exploitation, domestic servitude as well as other forms of trafficking such as forced and servile marriages.”<sup>1</sup>

UNHCR welcomes the preliminary recommendation of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking that UAE authorities should cooperate closely with UNHCR and IOM in order to safely return trafficked victims to their country of origin, while maintaining due regard for the victims’ potential need for international protection. The recommendation concluded by encouraging the UAE to adopt measures to ensure that victims of trafficking with international protection needs are identified and referred to the asylum system when appropriate.

While acknowledging the progress made by the UAE in developing protection mechanisms for victims of human trafficking, there remain concerns about the required social and psychological support for victims. The local centers are well equipped to receive the victims, provide them with shelter, food and proper clothing. They are also provided with daily care in terms of hygiene services and entertainment facilities. Nevertheless, it has been observed that the level of psychosocial support, training, and rehabilitation and recovery efforts requires further strengthening.

In the absence of a formal refugee protection system and functioning identification and referral mechanism for victims of human trafficking, UNHCR recommends strengthening cooperation among key partners on human trafficking to ensure that all persons in need of international protection, in particular victims of trafficking, have effective access to asylum.<sup>2</sup>

### **Recommendations:**

- Establish a comprehensive protection network with various government associations and national committees, including the National Committee on Human Trafficking, to ensure effective referral mechanisms for victims of trafficking and detained persons in need of international protection to the appropriate support and protection agencies.
- Continue to ensure that persons of concern who express a fear of returning to their country of origin are not forcibly returned and refer them to the attention of UNHCR as appropriate.
- Provide professional training to decision-makers on the specific protection needs of victims of trafficking, with special attention to age and gender concerns, including adequate assistance and protection measures.

### **Issue 3: Statelessness**

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<sup>1</sup> OHCHR, “The UN Special Rapporteur in Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children concludes her country visit to the United Arab Emirates: Press Release,” 17 April 2012,

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=12062&LangID=E>.

<sup>2</sup> The 2009 CEDAW Concluding Observations and Recommendations (in particular paragraphs 28-29) on the United Arab Emirates specifically refer to human trafficking. Please see the following link for more details: <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N10/242/76/PDF/N1024276.pdf?OpenElement>

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is neither a party to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, nor to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. As set out below, and in order to enhance the situation of the stateless population in the country, accession to these Conventions is recommended as a general step to strengthen the international legal framework applicable to UAE.

Accession to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons would establish a framework to protect such individuals and would work to avoid the detrimental effects of statelessness on individuals and society by ensuring minimum standards of treatment of stateless persons, providing such persons with stability and security, and ensuring that certain basic rights and needs are met.

Furthermore, the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness establishes an international framework to ensure the right of every person to a nationality by establishing safeguards to prevent statelessness at birth and later in life. This treaty is therefore complementary to standards contained in other human rights treaties. An increase in the number of States parties is essential to strengthening international efforts to prevent and reduce statelessness.

**Recommendations:**

- Accede to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.
- Undertake a study to determine the number of stateless persons in the UAE.
- Establish a mechanism to share statistics on the number of Emiratis who have benefited from the decree issued by Shaikh Khalifah granting nationality to children of female Emirati citizens and foreign fathers upon reaching the age of 18 years.

**Human Rights Liaison Unit  
Division of International Protection  
UNHCR  
June 2012**

## **ANNEX**

### **Excerpts of Concluding Observations and Recommendations from UN Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures' Reports**

#### **- Universal Periodic Review:**

### **UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

We would like to bring your attention to the following excerpts, taken directly from Treaty Body Concluding Observations and Special Procedures' reports relating to issues of interest and persons of concern to UNHCR with regards to United Arab Emirates.

#### **1. Treaty Body Concluding Observations and Recommendations**

##### **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women**

CEDAW/C/ARE/CO/1, 45<sup>th</sup> session

5 February 2010

##### **Positive aspects**

5. The Committee notes with appreciation the measures taken by the State party to address the issue of human trafficking and, in that respect, welcomes Federal Act No. 51 (2006) on the suppression of human trafficking and the ratification of the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (the Palermo Protocol).

##### **Principal areas of concern and recommendations**

9. The Committee notes the particular challenges faced by the State party in respect of social integration and implementation of gender equality policies owing to the fact that non-nationals constitute the vast majority of the population, which has a direct impact on the application of all aspects of the Convention.

**10. The Committee recommends that the State party duly take into account in its gender equality policies the contribution of migrant workers to national development, in particular women migrant workers, with a view to enabling the State party to better comply with the provisions of the Convention.**

##### **Violence against women**

26. The Committee takes note of the State party's initiatives to protect women from violence, including domestic violence, and appreciates the existence of shelters, support centres, counselling services and hotlines for women who are victims of violence. Nevertheless, the Committee regrets the absence of a specific law on violence against women, especially domestic violence, providing for remedies. It also regrets the lack of adequate statistics, research and documentation on the incidence of violence against women

and that women victims are generally reluctant to report cases of violence. While noting the existing draft legislation on domestic workers, the Committee is deeply concerned about the lack of protection of female migrant workers, especially domestic workers, when reporting cases of violence against them that may lead to them being treated as offenders, or accused of a crime or deported.

**27. The Committee urges the State party to give high priority to comprehensive measures to address all forms of violence against women and girls. It calls upon the State party to enact legislation on violence against women, including domestic violence, to ensure that it is a criminal offence. The State party should also strengthen recourse procedures so that all women and girls, including female migrant workers, who are victims of violence, have access to immediate means of redress; provide shelter and rehabilitation to victims; ensure that perpetrators are prosecuted and adequately punished; and undertake nationwide educational and awareness-raising measures.**

#### **Trafficking and exploitation of prostitution**

28. While commending the State party's efforts to combat trafficking in women and girls, including the establishment of the National Committee for the Suppression of Human Trafficking and the national plan to combat trafficking, the Committee remains seriously concerned at the persistence of trafficking in women and girls into the State party for the purposes of economic and sexual exploitation. The Committee also regrets the lack of statistical data on women who are being trafficked in and out of the country. It is also concerned at the limited protection of victims and regrets that the only shelter in Dubai providing such protection from 2001 to 2008 has been closed.

**29. The Committee urges the State party to implement fully article 6 of the Convention including by effectively implementing the recently adopted law on human trafficking and introducing and implementing a strategy that includes measures of prevention, prosecution and punishment of offenders, as well as protection, rehabilitation and reintegration of victims. It further calls upon the State party to increase its prevention efforts through international, regional and bilateral cooperation with countries of origin, transit and destination and involvement of non-governmental organizations to prevent trafficking through information exchange, as well as to provide assistance and support to victims of human trafficking using the Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (E/2002/68/Add.1). The Committee requests that the State party carefully monitor the impact of measures taken and provide information on the results achieved, as well as disaggregated statistical data in its next periodic report.**

#### **Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**

CERD/C/ARE/CO/17, 75<sup>th</sup> session

21 September 2009

#### **Positive aspects**

8. The Committee welcomes the conclusion by the State party of memoranda of understanding with several States concerning the recruitment of their nationals as contract



workers for work in the United Arab Emirates, in order to regularize the process for workers' entry into the State party so as to familiarize these persons with their rights and obligations under their employment contract.

**9. The Committee notes with appreciation the adoption of Federal Act No. 51 of 2006, which aims to combat human trafficking offences and all forms of exploitation, particularly of women and children, and the establishment by this Act of a National Committee on Human Trafficking.**

## **2. Special Procedures' Reports**

### **The UN Special Rapporteur in Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children concludes her country visit to the United Arab Emirates**

Press Release

17 April 2012

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=12062&LangID=E>

In view of the above observations and concerns I make the following as interim recommendations to the UAE:

#### **1. National Framework**

Ensure full domestic application of the Palermo Protocol, which obliges the UAE to prevent and combat trafficking in persons and speed up the process of adopting the proposed review of the law that will expand the definition of trafficking offences to include all forms of trafficking and bring it in full compliance with the Protocol;

Undertake research in collaboration with independent research institutions and civil society organisations to collect credible data on the phenomenon of human trafficking in the UAE, including on trafficking for labour exploitation as well as other forms, trends and manifestations of trafficking, such as that for forced and servile marriages;

The Federal National Council to examine the proposed changes in Federal Law 51 against international standards on the right to effective remedy for victims of human trafficking and speed up the process of introducing the amendments in the law, ensuring consultation with all relevant stakeholders and experts, so that the final legislative amendments in Federal Law 51 provide the UAE with the strongest possible legal framework to investigate and prosecute trafficking in persons cases;

Consult with all relevant stakeholders and examine the new draft law on domestic workers against international standards, especially the 2011 ILO Convention no. 189 Concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers, to which the UAE is signatory, and speed up the process of enacting this law;



Strengthen the mandate of the NCCHT so that it becomes the central mechanism responsible for monitoring compliance with the federal anti-trafficking law and ensuring consistency in implementation of federal objectives;

Develop, after concerting with all stakeholders, a national plan of action that clearly identifies objectives, delineates responsibilities, and sets out clear indicators to measure progress and impact;

## **2. Training and Capacity**

Strengthen systems and procedures for identifying victims of trafficking including through the training of law enforcement agencies especially officers of the Naturalization and Residency Department, the Police, and labour inspectors. Such training should seek to enhance their capacity to identify trafficked persons quickly and accurately and to make referrals to appropriate services;

Provide training for criminal justice officials including prosecutors and judges through continuing legal education to raise awareness about emerging trends of trafficking in persons, to ensure effective prosecution and punishment of criminals, and protect the rights of victims.

## **3. Migration**

Strengthen and increase options for safe and legal migration, acknowledging that the current approach to migration management, especially the sponsorship system may favour the activities of smugglers and traffickers.

## **4. Support Services for Victims of Trafficking**

Protect and assist all victims of trafficking, including male victims, with full respect for their human rights, and include a human rights based approach in the investigation of cases of trafficking that requires the needs of all victims to be placed at the core of any response;

Make provision for appropriate support, including the establishment of shelters for male victims of labour exploitation as well as male victims of trafficking, in light of the prevalence of labour exploitation of men in the UAE.

Provide funding on a regular basis to service providers and civil society in order to enable the strengthening of the level of psychological support, training, rehabilitation and recovery efforts for victims as well as translation assistance and counselling services to trafficked persons including those who do not immediately wish their matter to come before the authorities or to be repatriated;

Maintain close cooperation with UNHCR and IOM for the safe return of trafficked victims in their country having due regard to the need, if any, of international protection of the victims;

Adopt measures to ensure that victims of trafficking with international protection needs are properly identified and referred to the asylum system, when appropriate;

Establish a comprehensive national compensation scheme for victims of trafficking at the Federal level and effectively apply the already existing provision in the law on confiscation of assets of traffickers and proceeds from trafficking-related crimes, ensuring that such funds are used additionally to compensate victims as well as for victim support and assistance.

## **5. Prevention**

Step up efforts to raise awareness about all forms of trafficking in persons, including for labour exploitation, among the general population in the UAE, in order to promote understanding of what constitutes trafficking;

Constantly monitor and evaluate prevention work programmes and policies to ensure that it is effective and non-stigmatizing and not contributing to unhelpful stereotyping of victims and their communities.

## **6. Prosecution**

Increase efforts to prosecute traffickers whilst guaranteeing fair trial rights consistent with human rights based approach to criminal justice response;

Ensure that victims/witnesses are protected pre-trial, during and post-trial to avoid reprisal attacks.

## **7. International Framework**

Ratify, without delay, the UN Convention on the human rights of Migrant Workers and their families and the 2011 ILO Convention Concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers;  
Continue its leadership role in the Arab region and beyond in combating human trafficking, protecting the rights of foreign workers and their vulnerabilities to all forms of trafficking in persons;

Strengthen partnership with source countries in all regions, including Africa and Latin America, and extend cooperation for exchange of information and mutual legal assistance;  
Provide some level of support in source countries to ensure prevention and awareness raising and establishment of policies, mechanisms and comparable implementation levels, as well as financial aid to create victim support funds in the less developed countries.

A full report of this mission will be submitted to the United Nations Human Rights Council in June 2013.

## **Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, Najat Maalla M'jid**

Addendum: Mission to the United Arab Emirates

Human Rights Council, 16<sup>th</sup> session

A/HRC/16/57/Add.2

18 November 2010

## **Conclusions**

99. The Special Rapporteur welcomes the wide range of initiatives undertaken by the Government to guarantee the rights of the child and respond to emerging violations of the rights of the child. The incidence of sale of children and sexual exploitation of children remains low. There have been strong efforts to fund the rehabilitation, reintegration and

reparation of children used as camel jockeys. A number of programmes and centres have been created, run by various actors at the national and local level to address cases of child abuse, neglect, sexual exploitation of children, child victims of trafficking and challenges faced by disabled children. Furthermore, the Special Rapporteur observed a keen interest on the part of the Government to share practices from other States and international organizations on how to further promote and protect the rights of the child.

100. Nevertheless, the Special Rapporteur is of the view that stronger efforts may be undertaken in the area of prevention, for example, by paying greater attention to the situation of certain children who may be particularly vulnerable to the abovementioned practices. She remains concerned at the disparate treatment of the rights of the child amongst the Emirates. Finally, several initiatives are still pending.

## **B. Recommendations**

### **103. Regarding legislation, the Special Rapporteur recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Accelerate the process of ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;
- (b) Define and criminalize the sale of children, in accordance with the definition provided in article 2 of the Optional Protocol;
- (c) Ensure that all children under 18 years of age who are sexually exploited are not treated as criminals but rather as victims; all possible measures should be taken to avoid their stigmatization and social marginalization. This principle should be clearly established in all tribunals across all the Emirates;
- (d) Raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility in accordance with the principles and provisions of the Convention;
- (e) Include provisions in Federal Law No. 51 on Combating Human Trafficking Crimes regarding trafficking in children and protection of victims (care, rehabilitation, reintegration, repatriation, etc.) in accordance with the provisions of the Palermo Protocol;
- (f) Withdraw the reservations to articles 7, 17 and 21 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and study its reservation to article 14, with a view to narrowing it, and in the longer term, to withdraw it in accordance with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Conference on Human Rights (1993);
- (g) Withdraw the reservation to article 9 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;
- (h) Ratify the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness;
- (i) Remove discriminatory Constitutional provision that health care is only guaranteed to citizens. Health care should be guaranteed to all children on the territory of the United Arab Emirates;

### **104. Regarding the National Child Protection Strategy, the Special Rapporteur recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Accelerate the process of elaborating the national child protection strategy, under the aegis of the Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood, ensuring that it provides child

protection systems accessible at the local level across the country, for all children without discrimination;

- (b) Ensure that the Higher Council for Motherhood and Childhood becomes functional as soon as possible and that it be vested with clear objectives and decision-making capacities;
- (c) Establish efficient coordination mechanisms at the national and local level.

**105. Regarding information-gathering on the phenomena, the Special Rapporteur recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Complete the situation assessment of the rights of the child, in cooperation with UNICEF and the General Women's Union;
- (b) Accelerate the process of establishing a standardized and centralized information-gathering system which should provide for disaggregating data by sex, age, type of violation and measures taken, and by harmonizing methods of gathering and processing data.

**106. Regarding child victims, the Special Rapporteur recommends that the State party:**

- (a) Strengthen the child complaints monitoring mechanism, ensuring that it is easily accessible to all children on the territory of the United Arab Emirates without discrimination and guarantees the safety, protection and confidentiality of children;
- (b) Strengthen training given to relevant authorities on combating child online sexual exploitation, in order to effectively detect violations, and providing assistance to child victims of sexual exploitation while ensuring a child rights-based approach by means of an integrated and holistic system of care, reintegration and follow-up of children;
- (c) Implement the child victim protection guidelines, explicitly providing that children be consulted in the return and reintegration process;
- (d) Provide durable solutions for those children who cannot return to their original home communities;
- (e) Implement norms and standards in all childcare or detention institutions, based on a child-rights approach.

**108. Regarding awareness-raising, the Special Rapporteur recommends that:**

- (a) Awareness-raising programmes should be continued in the longer term, targeting children, parents and the general public in order to promote behaviour and attitudes that guarantee the respect and promotion of the rights of the child, considering the child as a rights-holder;
- (b) The media should be trained in the ethical treatment of cases of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and their role in awareness-raising on the issue.

**109. The Special Rapporteur recommends that child participation is increased by:**

- (a) Informing, consulting and involving children in all matters involving them, including with respect to programmes and policies on the rights of the child;
- (b) Ensuring the participation of disadvantaged children (disabled, non-registered and vulnerable children) without discrimination;
- (c) Empowering children and youth to engage in more positive and meaningful use of information and communication technologies;

(d) Enhancing child and youth initiatives related to prevention, to fight sexual exploitation and to promote child rights. Children should be viewed as actors and vectors of proposals, not merely as subjects of rights.

**110. The State party should continue pursuing partnerships with the private sector, particularly tourism agencies, Internet service providers, telecommunication companies and banks in all efforts to combat the sexual exploitation of children, including child sex tourism and the exploitation of children online.**

**111. Regarding independent monitoring of the situation of human rights, the Special Rapporteur recommends that the State party:**

(a) Accelerate the establishment of an independent children's rights mechanism, taking into account general comment No 2 (2002) of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on the role of independent national human rights institutions in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child. This body should play a key role in the independent monitoring of actions taken for the prevention of sale, trafficking and sexual exploitation, and protection of children from such exploitation and the restoration of the rights of children victims, in advocating for effective legal frameworks and enforcement and in ensuring, where necessary, that child victims have effective remedies and redress, including the possibility of filing complaints before this institution;

(b) Ensure evaluation and follow up of implementation of the rights of the child, including the preparation and dissemination of annual reports on the rights of the child.

**112. Regarding international and regional cooperation, the Special Rapporteur recommends that:**

(a) In view of the fact that the average age of victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation seems to be decreasing, the Government, in collaboration with countries of origin and transit, should strengthen comprehensive bilateral/subregional agreements to share information, to implement joint measures in order to prevent and combat child trafficking from the point of detection/identification to interim care and protection, and return and reintegration, and to prosecute offenders;

(b) Facilitate cooperation between the police forces of the United Arab Emirates and police forces in other States, for instance by alleviating procedures of establishing contact with each other;

(c) Increase and encourage the sharing of good practices, in cooperation with United Nations agencies and mechanisms regarding the child rights approach and the promotion of the rights of the child.