



The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
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**Submission by CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, NGO
in General Consultative Status with ECOSOC**

**Arab NGO Network for Development- NGO in Consultative Status with
ECOSOC-Roster**

And

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1. Introduction

- 1.1** CIVICUS is a global alliance of civil society organisations (CSOs) and activists dedicated to strengthening citizen action and civil society around the world. Founded in 1993, CIVICUS has members in more than 170 countries throughout the world.
- 1.2** The Arab NGO Network on Development (ANND) is a regional network that works in 12 Arab countries, with a membership of nine national networks, which have an extended membership of 250 CSOs from different backgrounds, as well as 23 CSO members. ANND aims at strengthening the role of civil society and enhancing the values of democracy, respect for human rights and sustainable development in the region. ANND advocates for more sound and effective socioeconomic reforms in the region, which integrate the concepts of sustainable development, gender justice and rights-based approaches.
- 1.3** The Phenix Center for Economic & Informatics Studies is a CSO committed to carrying out independent research into Jordan's most pressing political and socioeconomic challenges, and to the promotion of broad cooperation between stakeholders in tackling those challenges, notably through the empowerment of civil society actors and the promotion of their role as key partners in Jordan's political, economic and social development. The Center's core mission is to promote inclusive and sustainable development in Jordan and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region at large, through the advancement of democratic principles and the protection of fundamental human rights.
- 1.4** In this submission CIVICUS, ANND and the Phenix Center examine the Government of Jordan's compliance with its international human rights obligations to create and maintain a safe and enabling environment for civil society. Specifically, we analyse Jordan's fulfilment of the rights to the freedoms of association, peaceful assembly and expression as well as unwarranted restrictions on human rights defenders (HRDs) since its previous UPR examination in October 2013. To this end, we assess Jordan's implementation of recommendations received during the 2nd UPR cycle relating to these issues and provide specific, action-orientated follow-up recommendations to the Government of Jordan.
- 1.5** During the 2nd UPR cycle, the Government of Jordan received 28 recommendations relating to the space for civil society. Of these, 20 were accepted and eight were noted. However, an evaluation of a range of legal sources and human rights documentation addressed in subsequent sections of this submission demonstrate that the Government of Jordan has not fully implemented the majority of recommendations relating to civic space.

- 1.6** In particular, CIVICUS, ANND and the Phenix Center are deeply concerned by the lack of commitment from the government to amend the legislation and policies that regulate CSOs, including the Law of Association, which imposes severe restrictions on the establishment and operation of CSOs, and the Labor Code, which governs the operations of trade unions.¹ In 2016, the Jordanian authorities proposed amendments to the Law of Association that will further hamper the ability of organisations to operate, including by endowing the authorities with broad powers to dissolve organisations.²
- 1.7** CIVICUS, ANND and the Phenix Center are further concerned by the lack of implementation of UPR recommendations relating to the freedom of expression. Of particular concern is the amendment to legislation to further restrict and criminalise free speech and expand restrictions to online expression.³ In addition, a recent draft amendment to the Electronic Crimes Law (Law No. 27 of 2015) that criminalises “hate speech” contains several problematic provisions that may be used to restrict the freedom of speech online.⁴
- 1.8** As a result of these restrictions, the space for civil society in Jordan is currently rated as ‘obstructed’ by the CIVICUS Monitor, indicating that “civic space is heavily contested by power holders, who impose a combination of legal and practical constraints on the full enjoyment of fundamental rights.”⁵
- Section 2 of this submission examines Jordan’s implementation of UPR recommendations and compliance with international human rights standards concerning the freedom of association.
 - Section 3 examines Jordan’s implementation of UPR recommendations and compliance with international human rights standards related to the protection of civil society activists, HRDs and journalists.
 - Section 4 examines Jordan’s implementation of UPR recommendations and compliance with international human rights standards concerning the freedom of expression, independence of the media and access to information.
 - Section 5 examines Jordan’s implementation of UPR recommendations and compliance with international human rights standards related to the freedom of peaceful assembly.

¹ ‘Enabling Environment for Civil Society in the Arab Region’, ANND, <http://www.annd.org/data/file/files/enabling%20environment-eng.pdf>, pg. 106.

² ‘Draft NGO Law contains restrictions on freedom of association’, CIVICUS Monitor, 24 June 2016, <https://monitor.civicus.org/newsfeed/2016/06/24/june-24th-update-jordan>; ‘Wave of worker’s rights protests turn violent in Jordan’, CIVICUS Monitor, 11 August 2016, <https://monitor.civicus.org/newsfeed/2016/08/11/jordan>.

³ ‘Changes to Jordan’s hate speech law could further stifle press freedom’, Committee to Protect Journalists, 20 February 2018, <https://cpj.org/blog/2018/02/changes-to-jordans-hate-speech-law-could-further-s.php>.

⁴ ‘Changes to Jordan’s hate speech law could further stifle press freedom’, Committee to Protect Journalists, 20 February 2018, <https://cpj.org/blog/2018/02/changes-to-jordans-hate-speech-law-could-further-s.php>.

⁵ CIVICUS Monitor: Jordan, <https://monitor.civicus.org/country/jordan>. The CIVICUS Monitor is a research collaboration between CIVICUS and our members and partners that provides regularly updated information and analysis on the space for civil society and citizen activism in every country of the world.

- Section 6 makes recommendations to address the concerns raised.
- An annex covering the implementation of 2nd cycle UPR recommendations related to civic space.

2. Freedom of association

- 2.1** During Jordan’s examination under the 2nd UPR cycle, the government received four recommendations on the right to the freedom of association and on creating an enabling environment for CSOs. Among other recommendations, the government committed to ensuring that “the legislation and the State respect articles 19 and 21 of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which guarantee freedom of expression and freedom of association and assembly.” Of the recommendations received, the government accepted two and noted two. However, as evidenced below, the government has not implemented any of the recommendations.
- 2.2** Article 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Jordan is a state party, guarantees the freedom of association. Article 16 of the Jordanian Constitution also guarantees the right to the freedom of association. However, despite these protections and as the following indicates, the legislation governing the formation and operation of CSOs, including trade unions, violates the right to the freedom of association.
- 2.3** While several laws regulate the formation and operation of CSOs, the Law on Societies, as amended in 2009, constitutes the primary legal framework governing civil society in Jordan.⁶ This legislation grants wide powers to the government to interfere in the operations of CSOs. Under the law, CSOs must notify the government two weeks in advance when hosting general meetings and the relevant authorities may appoint an officer to attend these meetings.⁷ In addition, CSOs must seek approval to receive funding from foreign sources. Contrary to international standards, the registration of CSOs is subject to approval by the authorities, which can deny a registration application without justification.⁸ Moreover, as documented by ANND, the government registration office requires associations to provide lists of staff and volunteers, and employees’ wages, in their annual reports, undermining the right to privacy as well as association.⁹
- 2.4** In 2017, the Council of Ministers, part of the executive branch of government consisting of the Prime Minister and other ministers as needed, issued a resolution

⁶ Law on Societies No. 51 of 2008 as amended by Law No. 22 of 2009, <http://www.icni.org/research/library/files/Jordan/51-2008-En.pdf>.

⁷ Ibid., Article 14.

⁸ Ibid., Article 11.

⁹ ‘Implementing Istanbul Principles in 6 Arab Countries’, ANND, <http://www.annd.org/data/file/files/IstanbulPrinciples-ArabRegion-BOOK-EN-Web.pdf>

stating that CSOs are subject to the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Law. As the application of this resolution would likely be too complicated for many CSOs to comply with it, there is a risk that they would incur sanctions.

- 2.5** The authorities' discretion to approve the registration of CSOs has led to several organisations having their applications rejected. For example, in 2013, just after the Government of Jordan pledged during its previous UPR examination to facilitate the exercise of the freedom of association, the authorities rejected the registration applications of approximately 120 associations.¹⁰
- 2.6** The Law on Associations contains vague, broad and restrictive provisions that are used by the authorities to restrict the work of CSOs, particularly those deemed to be critical of government policies. For instance, in September 2017, according to news reports, the Center for Defending Freedom of Journalists (CDFJ), a press freedom organisation, received a memo from the government stating that the organisation was banned from receiving foreign funding. While the organisation issued a statement arguing that it had never received such a memo, it also expressed concern as to whether the story was a government tactic to intimidate and damage its reputation. This occurred during a time when the CDFJ was making critical remarks about Jordan's lack of respect for the freedom of expression.¹¹
- 2.7** Such vague provisions could lead to the government preventing CSOs to continue their work without any explanation. In 2017, the Ministry of the Interior has stopped the work of the Phenix Center on one of the research in favor of the Higher Council of Population -a government institution- after signing the agreement and starting work. The decision was taken without giving reasons.
- 2.8** Although the right to form trade unions is constitutionally protected, in law and in practice this right is subject to debilitating and unwarranted limitations. As stated in the Labor Code, public sector workers are not allowed to establish trade unions. This comes in stark contradiction to a 2013 Constitutional Court decision that acknowledged the right to establish trade unions for all public-sector employees.¹² In addition, the Labor Code establishes that in order to form a union, authorisation must be obtained from the Tripartite Committee.¹³

¹⁰ 'Enabling Environment National Assessment. Country report: Jordan', CIVICUS, https://www.civicus.org/images/EEENA_Jordan_En.pdf.

¹¹ 'Restrictions on foreign funding used to limit civic space in Jordan', CIVICUS Monitor, <https://monitor.civicus.org/newsfeed/2017/11/01/restrictions-foreign-funding-limit-civic-space-jordan/>; 'Jordan: Media rights group threatened over funding', Human Rights Watch, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2017/09/13/jordan-media-rights-group-threatened-over-funding>

¹² Constitutional Court, Interpretative Decision (No. 6), August 2013.

¹³ According to article 52 of the Labor Code, the Council of Ministers shall, upon the recommendation of the Minister, set up a committee consisting of representatives of the Ministry, workers and employers in equal numbers and appoint a committee chairman from the committee's members. The committee shall be in charge of fixing minimum

2.9 In practice, no trade union has been approved to register in 42 years¹⁴ and the only functional union in Jordan, the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions (GFJTU), is neither independent nor truly representative of workers.¹⁵ The GFJTU continues to exert pressure on independent and unregistered trade unions, and calls on the government to stop the activities of such unions. For instance, the GFJTU sent an official letter in October 2015 to ask the Ministry of Labor to prevent activities of Phenix Center and FES, because of their support for new trade unions.¹⁶

3. Harassment, intimidation and attacks against human rights defenders, civil society activists, and journalists

3.1 During its 2nd UN examination, the government of Jordan accepted one recommendation on the protection of HRDs, namely to “Conduct impartial investigations into all cases of attacks, harassment and intimidation of journalists and bring perpetrators to justice.”

3.2 Article 12 of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders mandates states to take the necessary measures to ensure the protection of HRDs. The ICCPR further guarantees the freedoms of association, peaceful assembly and expression. However, despite these protections, government practices on the ground unduly restrict the ability of activists and HRDs to speak freely.

3.3 An analysis on the enabling environment in Jordan by ANND sheds light on cases of restrictions when the Government of Jordan’s positions and public policies regarding regional and international issues are criticised.¹⁷

4. Freedom of expression, independence of the media and access to information

4.1 Under the 2nd UPR cycle, the government received 20 recommendations relating to the freedom of expression and access to information. For example, the government pledged to “promote and uphold freedom of the media and the right to freedom of expression and to ensure that legislation and State practice are brought in line with

remuneration in Jordanian currency either generally or for a particular area or trade. Members of the committee shall hold a two-year renewable mandate.

¹⁴ ‘Freedom of Association in Jordan: Fact Sheet’, Phenix Center,

<http://www.solidar.org/system/downloads/attachments/000/000/456/original/PDF2.pdf?1469200423>; ‘Enabling Environment National Assessment. Country report: Jordan’, op. cit.

¹⁵ ‘Jordan’s Paradoxical Approach to Trade Unions’, Ahmad M Awad, August 2017, <http://www.rosaluxemburg.ps/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Final-EDITED-Workers-Rights-Struggle-August-2017.pdf>.

¹⁶ ‘Freedom of Association in Jordan: Fact Sheet’, op. cit.

¹⁷ ‘Implementing Istanbul Principles in 6 Arab Countries’, op. cit.

article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,” and to “ensure in law and judicial practice, the proportionality of sentences for defamation or expression offences.” Of the recommendations received, the Government of Jordan accepted 15 and noted five. However, as discussed below, the government did not take effective measures to implement any of these recommendations.

- 4.2** Article 19 of the ICCPR guarantees the right to the freedoms of expression and opinion. Article 15 of the Constitution of Jordan also guarantees the right to the freedom of expression. However, several laws restrict access to these rights in practice.
- 4.3** The legal framework that regulates the right to the freedom of expression is heavily restrictive. For instance, legislation criminalises defamation, speech deemed critical of the king, the denigration of government officials and the incitement of sectarian strife.¹⁸ In addition, and acting against several commitments made during the 2013 UPR examination, the Government of Jordan has passed or amended several pieces of legislation such as the Press and Publication Law, the Anti-Terrorism Law and the Cybercrime Law, which impose unnecessary and disproportionate restrictions on the freedom of expression, including online expression. For instance, the Anti-Terrorism Law broadens the definition of terrorism and penalises such acts as “disturbing relations with a foreign state.”¹⁹ A 2012 amendment to the press law also allows for the censorship of news websites.
- 4.4** The authorities routinely invoke these laws to prosecute journalists and critics.²⁰ For instance, according to Human Rights Watch, in 2015 alone at least nine journalists were prosecuted in Jordan under counter-terrorism legislation.²¹ During the 2017 Human Rights Committee session, Committee members noted with concern that journalists continue to face prosecution and sanctions under the Penal Code and the Act on Prevention of Terrorism when expressing views critical of government policy or that are deemed to cause “insult to the King” .²²
- 4.5** Access to information legislation was enacted in 2007, but effective implementation of the legislation is still lacking. The law does not comply with international standards and best practice. For example, among other deficits in the law, access to information

¹⁸ ‘Enabling Environment National Assessment. Country report: Jordan’, op. cit.

¹⁹ ‘Terrorism Amendments Threaten Rights’, Human Rights Watch, 17 May 2014, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2014/05/17/jordan-terrorism-amendments-threaten-rights>.

²⁰ ‘Annual Report 2016/17’, Amnesty International, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/research/2017/02/amnesty-international-annual-report-201617>; ‘Jordan’s ‘anti-terror’ law cracks down on journalists’, Al-Jazeera, 27 August 2015, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/07/jordan-anti-terror-law-cracks-journalists-150728131346535.html>.

²¹ ‘Jordan: Events of 2015’, Human Rights Watch World Report 2016, <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2016/country-chapters/jordan>.

²² ‘Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report on Jordan’, Human Rights Committee, http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CCPR/C/JOR/CO/5&Lang=En.

requests must show a legitimate interest and there are broad grounds on which requests can be rejected.²³

5. Freedom of peaceful assembly

- 5.1 During Jordan's examination under the 2nd UPR cycle, the Government of Jordan received three recommendations on the right to the freedom of peaceful assembly. The government committed to "take measures to allow peaceful public meetings to be held freely and avoid using politicized charges and vague terminology which prevent citizens from exercising their freedom of assembly and association," and to "ensure that the legislation and the State respect articles 19 and 21 of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which guarantee freedom of expression and freedom of association and assembly."
- 5.2 Two of these recommendations were accepted and one noted. However, as evidenced below, the government has failed to implement them fully.
- 5.3 Article 21 of the ICCPR guarantees the freedom of peaceful assembly. Article 16 of the Jordanian Constitution also guarantees the right to the freedom of assembly, while stating that the right can only be enjoyed by Jordanian citizens. However, legally and in practice, citizens face unnecessary restrictions to their right to assemble peacefully.
- 5.4 The 2012 amendment to the Public Assemblies Law abolished the requirement to obtain prior approval to exercise the right to peaceful assembly. This is a welcome and positive development. However, the limitation of this right to Jordanian citizens, according to the law, excludes foreign residents from organising and participating in public gatherings.
- 5.5 Since Jordan's last UPR examination, the Ministry of the Interior has prevented the implementation of dozens of activities contrary to the Public Assemblies Law. The Phenix Center documented 32 activities that were cancelled or postponed in 2017 at the request of authorities.
- 5.6 Throughout the reporting period Jordanians have continued to exercise their right to peaceful assembly to advance human rights principles, including labour rights. However, data collected by the Phenix Center demonstrates that the number of protests has declined during the 2015 to 2017 period, compared to the previous four years.²⁴ The government has responded to some protests by preventing people from

²³ 'Enabling Environment National Assessment. Country report: Jordan', op. cit.

²⁴ 'Labor Protests in Jordan 2016', Jordan Labor Watch, May 2017, <http://www.labor-watch.net/en/paper/355>;

'Concerns over proposed hate speech law as several arrested for criticising the king', CIVICUS Monitor, 16 February 2017, <https://monitor.civicus.org/newsfeed/2017/02/16/concerns-over-proposed-hate-speech-legislation-jordan>.

gathering,²⁵ dispersing protests with excessive and unnecessary force, or by criminalising protesters and activists.²⁶ For example, during a demonstration against high unemployment, security forces used teargas to disperse protesters forcefully, which led to multiple injuries, while 22 people were detained.²⁷ In addition, protests concerning the 2016 elections were forcibly dispersed.²⁸

6. Recommendations to the Government of Jordan

CIVICUS, ANND and the Phenix Center call on the Government of Jordan to create and maintain, in law and in practice, an enabling environment for civil society, in accordance with the rights enshrined in the ICCPR, the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders and Human Rights Council Resolutions 22/6, 27/5 and 27/31.

At a minimum, the following conditions should be guaranteed: the freedoms of association, peaceful assembly and expression, the right to operate free from unwarranted state interference, the right to communicate and cooperate, the right to seek and secure funding, and the state's duty to protect. In light of this, the following specific recommendations are made:

6.1 Regarding the freedom of association

- Take measures to foster a safe, respectful and enabling environment for civil society, including by removing legal and policy measures that unwarrantedly limit the right to association.
- Remove all undue restrictions on the ability of CSOs to receive international funding in accordance with best practices articulated by the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association.
- Amend the Law on Associations to guarantee that undue restrictions on the freedom of association are removed, bringing its provisions into compliance with articles 21 and 22 of the ICCPR.
- Undertake a process of consultation with CSOs to discuss new draft legislation for civil society that complies with international best practice.

²⁵ 'Labor Protests in Jordan 2016', op. cit.

²⁶ 'Wave of worker's rights protests turn violent in Jordan', CIVICUS Monitor, 11 August 2016, <https://monitor.civicus.org/newsfeed/2016/08/11/jordan>.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ 'Journalist killed as situation for independent media worsens in Jordan', CIVICUS Monitor, 11 October 2016, <https://monitor.civicus.org/newsfeed/2016/10/11/journalist-killed-as-situation-for-independent-media-worsens-in-jordan>.

- Reconsider the resolution that subjects CSOs to the provisions of the Anti-Money Laundering Law and Counter-Terrorism Financing Law.
- Guarantee the effective and independent functioning of new trade unions by removing the proscriptions on the formation of independent labour unions.
- Ratify ILO Convention No. 87 concerning the freedom of association and protection of the right to organise.

6.2 Regarding the protection of human rights defenders

- Provide civil society members, HRDs and journalists with a safe and secure environment in which they can carry out their work. Conduct impartial, thorough and effective investigations into all cases of attacks, harassment and intimidation against them, and bring the perpetrators of such offences to justice.
- Ensure that HRDs are able to carry out their legitimate activities without fear or undue hindrance, obstruction or legal and administrative harassment.
- Systematically apply legal provisions that promote and protect human rights, and establish mechanisms that protect HRDs by adopting a specific law on the protection of HRDs in accordance with Human Rights Council Resolution 27.31.

6.3 Regarding the freedom of expression, independence of the media and access to information

- Ensure the freedom of expression and media freedom by bringing all national legislation into line with international standards.
- Review the Press and Publication law, Penal Code, Cybercrime Law and Prevention of Terrorism Act to ensure that the legal framework is in accordance with best practice and international standards in the area of the freedom of expression.
- Take adequate steps to lift restrictions on the freedom of expression and adopt a framework for the protection of journalists from persecution, intimidation and harassment.
- Develop an action plan ensuring that internet laws comply with the government's commitment to guarantee the freedom of expression and information, including by ensuring free access to electronic media, liberalising electronic media ownership rules and allowing bloggers, journalists and other internet users to play a full and active role in promoting and protecting human rights.

- Establish mechanisms to facilitate public access to information in line with best practice.
- Reform the Access to Information Law to ensure that it fully promotes the exercise of the rights to the freedoms of expression and opinion.
- Refrain from adopting any laws that enable censorship or undue control over the content of the media.
- Refrain from censoring social and conventional media and ensure that the freedom of expression is safeguarded in all forms, including in the arts.

6.4 Regarding the freedom of peaceful assembly

- Amend the Public Gathering Law to guarantee fully the right to the freedom of assembly.
- Review and, if necessary, update existing human rights training for police and security forces, with the assistance of independent CSOs, to foster the more consistent application of international human rights standards, including the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms.
- Provide recourse for judicial review and effective remedies, including compensation, in cases of the unlawful denial of the right to the freedom of assembly by state authorities.

6.5 Regarding access to UN Special Procedures mandate holders

- Facilitate official visits by UN Special Procedure mandate holders and prioritise official visits by the: 1) Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; 2) Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; 3) Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association.

6.6 Regarding state engagement with civil society

- Implement transparent and inclusive mechanisms of public consultation with CSOs on all issues mentioned above, as well as on the implementation of all UPR recommendations accepted by the Government of Jordan, and enable the more effective involvement of civil society in the preparation of law and policy.

- Enable multi-stakeholder national dialogues for the UPR process, including civil society, before finalising and submitting the national report, and for the follow-up mechanism
- Systematically consult with civil society on the implementation of the UPR, including by holding periodical comprehensive consultations with a diverse range of civil society.
- Incorporate the results of this UPR into its action plans for the promotion and protection of all human rights, taking into account the proposals of civil society, and present a midterm evaluation report to the Human Rights Council on the implementation of the recommendations of this session.

Annex: Assessment of implementation of civic space recommendations under the 2nd cycle

Recommendation	Position	Assessment/comments on level of implementation
Theme: Freedom of opinion and expression		
118.4. Initiate a process of revision of the Penal Code and laws on publications which includes civil society and international experts and is based on international standards (Switzerland) Source of position: A/HRC/25/9	Supported	Status: Not implemented. See section 4, specifically para 4.3
118.66. Abolish or amend all Penal Code articles that place impermissible restrictions on the freedom of expression (Norway) Source of position: A/HRC/25/9	Supported	Status: Not implemented. See section 4, specifically para 4.3
118.67. Amend the law to ensure greater guarantees for freedom of opinion and expression in line with article 15(1) of the amended Jordanian Constitution and articles 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland); Source of position: A/HRC/25/9	Supported	Status: Not implemented. See section 4
118.68. Take appropriate legislative steps to ensure the full protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, in particular with regard to electronic publications and online journalism (Germany) Source of position: A/HRC/25/9	Supported	Status: Not implemented. See section 4, specifically para 4.3
118.69. Ensure that the legislation and the State respect articles 19 and 21 of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which guarantee freedom of expression and freedom of association and assembly (Spain); Source of position: A/HRC/25/9	Supported	Status: Not implemented. See section 4
118.70. Promote and uphold freedom of the media and the right to freedom of expression and to ensure that legislation and State practice are brought in line with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; (Austria) Source of position: A/HRC/25/9	Supported	Status: Not implemented. See section 4
118.71. Review the Press and Publications Law to fully guarantee freedom of expression (Spain) Source of position: A/HRC/25/9	Supported	Status: Not implemented. See section 4, specifically para 4.3
118.72. Fully ensure the right to exercise freedom of expression, including Internet freedom, and, in this respect, amend the	Supported	Status: Not implemented. See section 4

regulations for online media (Estonia) Source of position: A/HRC/25/9		
118.73. Guarantee freedom of opinion and expression in accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (France) Source of position: A/HRC/25/9	Supported	Status: Not implemented. See section 4
118.74. Revise the law on the press and publications to reduce restrictions on the information on the Internet (France) Source of position: A/HRC/25/9	Supported	Status: Not implemented. See section 4, specifically para 4.3
118.75. Ensure in law and judicial practice, the proportionality of sentences for defamation or expression offences (France) Source of position: A/HRC/25/9	Supported	Status: Not implemented. See section 4, specifically para 4.4
118.76. Re-evaluate the recent amendments to the Press and Publications Law, the Law of Information System Crimes and the Penal Code which threaten the right to freedom of expression, in particular online (Austria) Source of position: A/HRC/25/9	Supported	Status: Not implemented. See section 4, specifically para 4.3
118.78. Amend the Press and Publications Law to allow for open channels of public communication in print and online media and for greater access to public information in order for citizens to participate more meaningfully in the public sphere (United States of America) Source of position: A/HRC/25/9	Supported	Status: Not implemented. See section 4, specifically para 4.3
118.79. Start a dialogue with relevant stakeholders and civil society with a view to revise the Press and Publications Law and its last amendments, adopted in September 2012 (Italy); Source of position: A/HRC/25/9	Supported	Status: Not implemented. See section 4, specifically para 4.3
118.80. Continue efforts to execute the national media strategy in cooperation with all relevant partners (Kuwait); Source of position: A/HRC/25/9	Supported	Status: Not implemented. See section 4
119.8. Rescind the recent amendments to the Penal Code, Press and Publications Law and the Law of Information System Crimes (Norway); Source of position: A/HRC/25/9	Noted	Status: Not implemented. See section 4, specifically para 4.3
119.9. Amend the Press and Publications Law to promote an open and free press, including by broadening the definition of a journalist and by removing fines and the requirement for permission prior to publication, and ensuring freedom of Internet media (Canada) Source of position: A/HRC/25/9	Noted	Status: Not implemented. See section 4, specifically para 4.3
119.10. Take measures to strengthen the freedom and independence of the media, particularly electronic media, and consider	Noted	Status: Not implemented. See section 4

removing the registration requirement for independent Internet sites (Mexico) Source of position: A/HRC/25/9		
120.32. Repeal the provisions in the revision of the Penal Code which criminalize defamation of political or religious entities and align its legislation on freedom of expression with international standards in this field (Belgium); Source of position: A/HRC/25/9	Noted	Status: Not implemented. See section 4
120.33. Amend the Penal Code to ensure its articles, in particular article 149, cannot be used as a mechanism to refer genuine political activists (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) Source of position: A/HRC/25/9	Noted	Status: Not implemented. See section 4
Theme: Right to peaceful assembly		
118.69. Ensure that the legislation and the State respect articles 19 and 21 of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which guarantee freedom of expression and freedom of association and assembly (Spain) Source of position: A/HRC/25/9	Supported	Status: Not implemented. See section 5
118.81. Take measures to allow peaceful public meetings to be held freely and avoid using politicized charges and vague terminology which prevent citizens from exercising their freedom of assembly and association (Mexico); Source of position: A/HRC/25/9	Supported	Status: Not implemented. See section 5
119.11. Amend the Law on Societies to remove undue restrictions and facilitate the ability of civil society organizations to seek, secure and use resources, including foreign funding, in order to ensure the full enjoyment of the right to peaceful assembly and association (Ireland); Source of position: A/HRC/25/9	Noted	Status: Not implemented. See section 5 and 2
Theme: Human rights defenders		
118.77. Conduct impartial investigations into all cases of attacks, harassment and intimidation of journalists and bring perpetrators to justice (Austria) Source of position: A/HRC/25/9	Supported	Status: Not implemented. See section 3
Theme: Freedom of association		
118.69. Ensure that the legislation and the State respect articles 19 and 21 of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which guarantee freedom of expression and freedom of association and assembly (Spain); Source of position: A/HRC/25/9	Supported	Status: Not implemented. See section 2
118.81. Take measures to allow peaceful public meetings to be held freely and avoid using	Supported	Status: Not implemented. See section 2

<p>politicized charges and vague terminology which prevent citizens from exercising their freedom of assembly and association (Mexico); Source of position: A/HRC/25/9</p>		
<p>119.12. Take measures to foster an enabling environment for civil society, including by amending the Societies Act to remove the restrictions on the establishment of civil society organizations, eliminate the role of government in civil society organizations, including in appointing State employees to newly established civil society organizations, remove the requirement for Cabinet approval of foreign funding for civil society organizations as well as any other undue restrictions and controls by the Government on them (Canada) Source of position: A/HRC/25/9</p>	<p>Noted</p>	<p>Status: Not implemented. See section 2</p>
<p>119.11. Amend the Law on Societies to remove undue restrictions and facilitate the ability of civil society organizations to seek, secure and use resources, including foreign funding, in order to ensure the full enjoyment of the right to peaceful assembly and association (Ireland) Source of position: A/HRC/25/9</p>	<p>Noted</p>	<p>Status: Not implemented. See section 2</p>