Ref: 11/25/587

Geneva, 10 June 2010

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and, further to the Mission’s note ref: 11/25/448 of 26 May 2010, has the honour to transmit the following additional information for the preparation of the study on challenges and best practices in the implementation of the international framework for the protection of the rights of the child in the context of migration:

1. With regard to paragraph 1 (a) concerning children separated from their parents, no data are available on migrant children separated from their parents. It is noteworthy, however, that children who are smuggled across the border from the Republic of Yemen by gangs of smugglers for the purpose of engaging in begging in the Kingdom are repatriated and handed over to the Yemeni authorities.

2. With regard to paragraph 1 (c) concerning the legislative framework and practice in the context of detention and repatriation in order to ensure family unity, the majority of the children investigated, being beggars, are referred to the Anti-Begging Agencies with a view to identifying their guardians.

3. With regard to paragraph 1 (d) concerning the criminalization of irregular migration, this situation is dealt with in accordance with the Kingdom’s Border Regulations under which irregular migration is prohibited.

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4. With regard to paragraphs 1 (e) and (f) concerning access to the right to identity, including birth registration, and protection of children left behind in countries of origin, these two situations are dealt with in accordance with the Saudi Arabian Nationality Act, article 7 of which stipulates that «Anyone born in or outside the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to a Saudi father or a Saudi mother and a father who is stateless or of unknown nationality, and anyone born in the Kingdom to unknown parents, shall be deemed to be Saudi. A foundling discovered in the Kingdom shall be deemed to have been born therein failing proof to the contrary». With regard to the registration of children born in or outside the Kingdom, the Kingdom’s Personal Status Regulations specify the manner in which births in or outside the Kingdom must be reported and registered, as well as the persons responsible for reporting such births, and the procedure for the registration of foundlings.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.