**ITEM 6**

**MARCH 19**

**PANEL on NATIONAL POLICIES and HUMAN RIGHTS**

**Scottish Human Rights Commission - Professor Alan Miller, Chair**

The Scottish Human Rights Commission welcomes today’s discussion on national policies and human rights. The Commission is pleased to provide information on the work it is carrying out on the development and implementation of Scotland’s National Action Plan for Human Rights, which acts as a distinctive and effective tool for integrating human rights into national policies.

Scotland’s National Action Plan, otherwise known as SNAP, was launched on International Human Rights Day, 10 December 2013. It consciously follows and further develops best international practice. It is evidence-based, inclusively developed and is being independently monitored. Neither a traditional top-down “tick list” nor a bottom-up “wish-list”, SNAP is a collaborative and transformational approach which seeks to bring about sustainable culture change.

Above all it empowers rights-holders to engage with and hold duty-bearers to account, for not only the development of rights-based national policies and laws, but also for their implementation.

SNAP has become the home for collective action on a wide range of national policy issues by dozens of partners working across government, civil society and the public sector. Early examples vary from a rights-based action plan for securing access to justice for the victims of historic child abuse, to progressing a rights-based framework for stop and search powers of the police. Other policy developments and actions underway include a national plan to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, as well as further developing Scotland’s commitments to Climate Justice. Current priorities also include exploring human rights-based approaches to addressing poverty.

SNAP will be independently monitored in 2017 and the Commission is committed to sharing the lessons of this journey with you in the years to come.

Thank you very much.

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