

Position of the National Centre for Human Rights on the Draft Law Amending the Integrity and Anti-Corruption Law of 2025

Pursuant to the mandate of the National Centre for Human Rights under its Law No. 51 of 2006 and the amendments thereto, and by reference to Article (5/1) thereof, which vests in the Centre the competence to propose legislation related to the objectives of the Centre and to human rights matters.

Upon examination of the draft Law amending the Integrity and Anti-Corruption Law of 2025, the National Centre for Human Rights considers that the legislative orientation, in its present form, constitutes a further step towards strengthening the national integrity system and enabling the Integrity Commission to discharge its functions in a manner consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption and with the principles of transparency and the rule of law. The draft contains a number of substantive amendments that warrant consideration from a human rights perspective; the most prominent of the amended Articles are reviewed below, followed by the comments of the Centre:

First: The amended Articles

1. Article (2): Definitions

The definition of the Commission has been amended so as to read "the Integrity Commission" instead of "the Integrity and Anti-Corruption Commission", and new definitions have been introduced, the most important of which are:

- a definition of "the Centre" (the Centre for Innovation and Training);
- the introduction of an updated definition of corruption referring to the acts that constitute corruption under the Law or under international conventions.

2. Article (3): Establishment of the Commission

- deletion of the phrase "the Integrity and Anti-Corruption Commission" from the name of the Commission and its replacement by "the Integrity Commission";

- the addition of a new paragraph establishing a Centre for Innovation and Training within the Commission, with the aim of professional development and capacity-building.

3. Article (4): Objectives of the Commission

- amendment of the objectives so as to encompass compliance with the principles of national integrity, the prevention of corruption, the dissemination of a culture of integrity, and the strengthening of preventive measures alongside the traditional investigative functions.

4. Article (6): The Board of the Commission

- amendment of the composition of the Board so that it comprises a chairman with the rank of minister and four members of experience and integrity, subject to the requirement that they hold no other nationality;
- the Board is to be appointed by Royal Decree upon the nomination of the Prime Minister.

5. Article (7): Salaries and financial entitlements

- regulation of the financial entitlements of the members of the Board at a level commensurate with the highest salary scale of judges of the higher category, and the strengthening of employment guarantees.

6. Articles (16, 31, 33, 34) concerning the costs of investigation

- provision for the coverage of the expenses of witnesses and experts, and the activation of mechanisms for the recovery of moneys arising out of corruption cases.

Second: The position of the National Centre for Human Rights

These amendments have been introduced so as to ensure the following:

1. Strengthening compliance with international conventions: the amendments relating to the updating of the definition of corruption and to the broadening of preventive functions are consistent with the requirements of Article (5) of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which obliges States to put in place effective policies for the prevention of corruption, and not merely for combating it after its occurrence.
2. Strengthening the independence of the Commission: through the amendment of the organisational structure of the Board of the Commission, the specification of the required expertise, and the regulation of the financial and administrative affairs of employees, witnesses and informants.

3. Legal protection of informants and witnesses: the Centre affirms that the provisions concerning the coverage of the expenses of witnesses and experts constitute an important step; it stresses, however, that the protection required must extend to full confidentiality of identity.
4. Establishment of the Centre for Innovation and Training: the Centre considers that the creation of a "Centre for Innovation and Training" is a positive step that strengthens capacity-building, the dissemination of a culture of integrity, and support for the prevention of corruption through training and qualification.

Third: Recommendations of the National Centre for Human Rights

1. To strengthen the provisions relating to the protection of informants, and to add clear guarantees precluding reprisals, transfer or arbitrary dismissal.
2. To introduce a provision obliging all official bodies, independent commissions and government-owned companies to report to the Integrity Commission any suspicion of financial or administrative corruption affecting public funds, and to increase the penalty for concealment thereof.
3. To circumscribe the powers relating to inquiry and the gathering of information by provisions that preclude unnecessary expansion and protect the right to privacy.

Draft legislation referred to the House of Representatives in its current session

1. Draft Law amending the Electronic Transactions Law of 2025
2. Draft Law amending the Notary Public Law of 2025
3. Draft Law amending the Law on Awqaf, Islamic Affairs and Holy Places of 2025
4. Draft Law amending the Sharia Execution Law of 2025
5. Draft Gas Law of 2025
6. Draft Law ratifying the Agreement on the Extradition of Persons between Jordan and Spain of 2025
7. Draft Law ratifying the Implementation Agreement for the Evaluation, Development and Exploitation of Copper and Associated Minerals (Abu Khushayba Area) of 2025
8. Draft Law amending the Integrity and Anti-Corruption Law of 2025
9. Draft Law ratifying the Agreement on the Extradition of Persons between Jordan and Uzbekistan of 2025

10. Draft Insurance Contracts Law of 2025

11. Draft Law ratifying the Loan Agreement between Jordan and Italy of 2024