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Session 4: THE ROLE OF CONSTITUTIONAL JUSTICE IN SOCIAL INTEGRATION

Presentation by the Chair

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Ladies and gentlemen good morning,

A number of pioneers in social science, some of the institutions concerned with social affairs and some United Nations organizations gave analogous definitions of "social integration". It's all about:

"Social inclusion is a means for achieving social integration and is crucial for fostering stable, safe, harmonious, peaceful and just societies and for improving social cohesion so as to create an environment for development and progress".

Social integration policies aim to reduce inequality, enhance the chances of obtaining basic social services, provide universal education and health care, maximize equal participation of all social strata, particularly the young, the elderly, those with special

needs, immigrants, indigenous people, indigent people and gender equality. So as to address the challenges to social development posed by globalization and market reform in order that globalization may benefit all people in every country.

Equality is achievable through the constitutional Judiciary jurisdiction "It is the foundation of justice, freedom and social peace". Constitutional Judiciary in most countries agrees that "As a constitutional guarantee equality is not computational. Due to exigencies of public welfare the legislator has discretionary power to draw up objective stipulations that secure equality before the law."

Thus constitutional Judiciary jurisdiction defines the purport and framework of rights, liberties, duties and obligations. It is a basic and fundamental role in any society. Constitutions guaranteed protection of rights and liberties through providing the independence and inviolability of the judiciary, and guarantee of the right to litigate.

Since most constitutional actions cite the constitutional prohibition of violation of the principle of equality. Constitutional judiciary ensures that Constitutional texts which sponsor rights and liberties are not mere texts devoid of any actual established means of protection of efficacy.

Courts or constitutional councils can also play a major role in averting some aspects of social conflict by resorting to prior oversight of legislation where the constitution allows for it. In the kingdom of Bahrain the constitution empowers the constitutional court to exercise previous as well as subsequent constitutional oversight of laws.

Consequently it is the legislature which defines the competence of courts and constitutional councils. It can hamstring the competence or it can extend it, so as to enable the courts and constitutional councils to play a greater social role in order to anticipate social conflict. Courts and constitutional councils may also be charged with a non-judicial role in matters pertaining to preservation of tranquility and public peace.