



Network of African National Human Rights Institutions

Recommendations on the Plan of Action on Business and Human Rights

1. The Network of African National Human Rights Institutions held its first Regional Workshop on Business and Human Rights in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 29 September to 1 October 2011, in line with the ICC's Edinburgh Declaration of October 2010.
2. The Workshop was hosted by the Cameroon National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms, in cooperation with the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions, its Working Group on Business and Human Rights, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.
3. *Welcoming* UN Human Rights Council Resolution 17/4, the recognition it accords to the role of National Human Rights Institutions on business and human rights, and the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and the UN three-pillar framework of the state duty to protect human rights, the corporate responsibility to respect human rights, and the right to access to an effective remedy for human rights abuses
4. Following expert presentations and discussion amongst participating institutions, and observers from civil society, business and government, representatives of participating NHRIs agreed upon the following NANHRI Action Plan:

A. Priority themes

Within the broader field of business and human rights, thematic areas to be considered as being of high priority for supporting actions by NHRIs, individually and in their collective actions via the NANHRI, within the next three year period would be:

- Labour rights and working conditions
- Land-related human rights
- Environment-related human rights.

B. Priority actions for national human rights institutions

NANHRI members identified three priority areas for actions to be undertaken by individual NHRIs within the African Region, as critical to making progress towards fulfillment of their mandates to address business-related human rights issues:

- Capacity-building of individual NHRIs concerning business and human rights, starting with the establishment of a business and human rights focal point within each institution, in line with the Edinburgh Declaration
- Human rights education, outreach and sensitization with relevant stakeholders regarding the UN framework and Guiding Principles on Business and Human rights, and the Paris Principles mandate of NHRIs to address business and human rights issues
- Integrating human rights and business issues into strategic planning and programmes of each NHRI, with a view to ensuring adequate legal frameworks and funding for full and effective implementation of respect for human rights in all business activities.

NANHRI members undertook to initiate one concrete action in each of the three areas within the next twelve month period and to report back on these to NANHRI.

C. Actions to be taken by the African Network collectively to support its members towards implementation of the UN “protect, respect, remedy” framework in their respective contexts

NANHRI members further resolved that the following actions should be taken at regional level:

1. Give support to members of the Network to strengthen their legal mandates, where necessary, to be able to act effectively on business and human rights, including assisting with review of the status of Network members to ensure compliance with the Paris Principles.
2. Cooperate with the ICC Working Group on Business and Human Rights to support capacity building of individual NHRIs, including by producing an African Regional Supplement to the ICC Training Course on business and human rights
3. In liaison with sub regional groups, conduct a survey and mapping on business and human rights, to lead to publication of a NANHRI report on business and human rights in Africa, to be launched at a high profile public event by end of 2012
4. Take steps to source technical and financial assistance from UN Agencies, African Union and other relevant actors to support NHRIs in developing their capacity and work relating to business and human rights

5. Establish a business and human rights section on the NANHRI website to allow for experience-sharing and peer learning, and produce guidance notes for NHRIs drawing on experiences of working on business and human rights from NHRIs within the region
6. Cooperate with the ICC Working Group on Business and Human Rights towards the development of indicators for performance of the state duty to protect against corporate human rights abuses with reference to national, regional and international human rights instruments
7. Assess opportunities for NANHRI to engage strategically with relevant actors at regional level, such as the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, UN Global Compact, African Development Bank, World Bank, African Union and NEPAD
8. Undertake outreach to the UN Working Group on Business and Human rights, including sharing with them this Action Plan
9. NANHRI and the national human rights institutions commit to use all regional human rights mechanisms such as the African Court and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child to effectively carry out their mandates as well as to strengthen capacity at the national level.
10. Organize events to raise awareness and understanding of the role of NHRIs within the African Region on business and human rights, their expertise, needs and priorities, such as:
 - a. Side event to UN Annual Multistakeholder Forum required under UN Human Rights Council Resolution 17/4
 - b. Side event to sessions of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.
11. NANHRI will require African Regional Members on the ICC Working Group on Business and Human Rights to liaise with NANHRI member institutions' business and human rights Focal Points, and to report to the NANHRI Steering Committee on Business and Human Rights issues annually

The NANHRI tasked the African Regional members of the ICC Working Group, in consultation with the focal points of NANHRI member institutions and the NANHRI Secretariat, to draft a basic logical framework analysis relating to the themes, individual and regional actions described above and to present this to the NANHRI Steering Committee and thereafter to report annually to NANHRI on progress towards its achievement.

Adopted in Yaounde, this 1st day of October 2011