

## ANNEX 2: PROJECT DESCRIPTION - APF

05 DECEMBER 2016

### 1 INTRODUCTION

DIHR REF 15444

The Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) manages a global project that benefits all National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) worldwide, both individually and via collective actions. DIHR implements the project through various sub-projects, including one that supports the Asia Pacific Forum of NHRIs (APF). EU funds the project that ends in December 2018. Section 2 is an introduction to the overall project, while section 3 and 4 describe the actual envisaged sub-project for APF. It is the latter sub-project where APF and DIHR needs external experts.

### 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

**Overall Objective:** *The global and the four regional networks improve interactions with human rights mechanisms at regional and global levels*

**Indicator:** Improved collective actions to protect and promote human rights by NHRIs through regional networks and GANHRI

National human rights institutions (NHRIs) are public bodies, independent of government, with a broad mandate to promote and protect human rights. Although the specific mandates of NHRIs may differ, they generally have functions that include monitoring, research, advising government and parliament, reporting to international treaty bodies, complaints handling, providing legal assistance, human rights education, training, and awareness raising.

NHRIs are accredited by the Global Alliance of NHRIs (GANHRI), which assesses their compliance with the United Nations' Principles Relating to the Status of National Institutions ('the UN Paris Principles') to ensure that NHRIs are independent, impartial, accountable, effective, and representative of the society in their jurisdiction. The accreditation system is linked to the UN human rights system and A-status NHRIs can provide their assessment of the government's compliance with international human rights treaties to the UN.

While there has been an enormous global increase in the establishment of NHRIs and while A-status NHRIs now have the opportunity to exert

significant influence on standard setting and oversight processes in the UN, many NHRIs still face multiple challenges in fulfilling their mandates. Almost one-third of NHRIs worldwide do not fully meet the UN Paris Principles, as required for A-status accreditation. Lack of full cooperation or adherence by governments or other public authorities with NHRIs' recommendations or decisions hinders NHRIs from effectively monitoring and remedying human rights violations. Many NHRIs face challenges in addressing new serious and transboundary threats to human rights as they emerge in the areas of business and human rights and economic, social and cultural rights.

NHRIs are facing an increasing number of tasks and functions as a result of new international instruments, standards, principles and processes defining additional specific roles for NHRIs, such as the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Increasingly, the UN and civil society movements are calling for coordinated NHRI responses and approaches to address human rights violations at structural, institutional and policy levels. These developments and demands for increasing international engagement require NHRIs to coordinate more closely and to raise the quality of their activities and organization, so that NHRIs have the capacity to fulfil their role and obligations to the international, regional and national human rights systems, and ultimately to secure prevention and remediation of human rights violations of individuals and groups. As a result, the global and regional networks of NHRIs and their secretariats require capacity to coordinate common efforts, build individual capacity of NHRIs in their regions and to support NHRIs in supplying authoritative inputs to the UN human rights system.

The activities of the action will ensure capacity strengthening of NHRIs in functional and thematic issues via the four regional networks/ secretariats and the GANHRI, by applying verified capacity development methodologies and increasing inter-regional cooperation and actions. The action will furthermore build capacity to ensure professional and sustainable secretariats at regional and global level fit for strategy implementation, coordination and communication. Finally, the action will strengthen the cooperation between and collective capacity of regional networks of NHRIs and the GANHRI and their interaction with human rights mechanisms at regional and global levels.

**Specific Objective:** *By the end of the project all the regional networks of NHRIs gain acknowledgment as a key international human rights stakeholder and act as recognized regional networks of NHRIs*

**Indicator 1:** Progressive increased representation at regional and international level meetings

**Target value:** regional networks increase annual representation in these meetings by 50% each year

**Indicator 2:** Reports and Submissions on policy developments increased

**Target value:** Regional networks make two submissions to regional and international HR bodies in first year and increase by 50% in second year

**Indicator 3:** Audit reports and organisational development assessments/reports indicate improved institutional capacity

**Target value:** all partners receive positive external assessments of their capacity

**Result:** *The sustainable institutional capacity, effectiveness and impact of all the regional networks are increased*

**Indicator 1:** 75% fulfilment of goals aiming at enhancing institutional capacity, effectiveness and impact created by regional networks

It is expected that the four regional networks as a result of planned activities will have developed either credible secretariats or equivalent institutional capacity to fulfil their role and started implementing their regional strategies according to the needs of their member organizations and the strategies guiding the directions of the regional interventions. The regional and global secretariats will receive systematic institutional capacity development support. Strengthened secretariats will support improved capacity building and coordination amongst NHRIs, which will lead to higher quality and impact in NHRI collective actions and interventions at regional and international levels.

The regional networks secretariats will have increased capacity, through training for efficient project and funds management, clear and transparent communication, fundraising strategies and institutional development support. This will facilitate enhanced support for their

NHRI members, more effective and Paris Principles-compliant NHRIs, improved interaction between NHRIs and regional and international supervisory mechanisms, and ultimately more effective enjoyment of human rights. The inception phase has to ensure that a way forward is in line with the regional networks strategic priorities and aligned with the actions objectives and results.

**Outputs:**

- Inception phase recommending and defining exact capacity building activities of the regional secretariats and support to selected other activities
- Capacity building and technical assistance to regional networks/secretariats target professionalization of management and organising of activities
- TA on accreditation support to regional networks and secretariats enabling improved assistance to NHRI members
- Support to engage in international meetings to influence HR topics of relevance to NHRIs

**A.1.1 Inception phase**

During the process of developing the project document the regional NHRI networks and GANHRI have been consulted to ensure continued support and engagement. Inputs have been collected on choice of topics to focus on and to assess and prioritize needs in relation to capacity building in order to achieve clear project objectives, results and activities.

The overall aim of the inception phase is to conclude the consultations and draw the necessary conclusions, which all partners support. The phase will take point of departure in collected partner inputs and involve i) selection of thematic and functional priorities, ii) balance between regions and GANHRI, and iii) prioritizing partner inputs on capacity building and ensure alignment with project objectives relating to capacity building. The result of this will subsequently go to the regional networks and GANHRI for formal approval.

Capacity building and other selected activities is envisaged to be included and fully developed as a result of the inception phase with the purpose of enhancing the capacity of the regional secretariats and implementation of selected strategic activities. These might include support to additional staff related to other supported activities, organisational development assistance and targeted technical assistance to specific needs e.g. developing sub-strategies and

implementing those. Other activities will be drawn from the existing regional strategies which are not yet funded.

#### **A.1.2 Capacity building**

Separate organisational development programmes will be developed for the four regional networks/secretariats. These will build on needs assessments of each regional network or secretariat. Technical assistance might be provided to develop internal guidelines, policies or sub-strategies to regulate internal systems and procedures. Assistance might also be provided by support recruitment of new staff taking on new functions in these areas.

#### **A.1.3 Accreditation support**

Provide TA to develop activities of the four regional networks/secretariats supporting and provide high level accreditation advice to NHRI members in the regions.

#### **A.1.4 International meetings**

Develop activity plans for each of the four regional networks/secretariats to direct their attendance in regional/ international meetings etc so that they are guided by strategic considerations of which human rights topic should be addressed and the relevant regional and international bodies best suitable.

### **3 ABOUT APF**

APF is the regional network of NHRIs in the Asian-Pacific region and currently has 26 members. The network is organised with a permanent secretariat based in Sydney, Australia and with a board of directors (the forum council) that consists of the networks current 15 full members' chairs. A full member is an NHRI in full compliance with UN's Paris Principles for NHRIs.

APF provides advice, training and resources to help its members defend rights and promote change and encourages regional collaboration and increased interaction with relevant mechanisms at regional and global level.

Kindly see this website for more information: [www.asiapacificforum.net](http://www.asiapacificforum.net)

#### **4 APF PRIORITIES**

DIHR and APF looks for external expertise that can help support and guide DIHR and APF during the implementation of the envisaged project, and who can contribute with new and innovative approaches to organisational development. DIHR and APF have formulated a frame for a project that reflects APF's priorities. However, concrete implementation plan and preferred methodology is neither developed nor chosen. Furthermore, some priorities requires specific content expertise. Here is a summary of the envisaged project:

APF recently developed an M&E framework that monitors the impact of the networks advice, support and network activities, all of which the secretariat facilitates. APF member NHRIs have now expressed a need to have similar capacity developed within each individual NHRI, to support their follow-up on national level and to share existing knowledge and experiences within the network. APF members furthermore requests tools and training within the area of M&E. As APF is a membership-driven network, the APF favours proposals that focuses on network driven activities and that leads to the projects objectives and goals.