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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Information presented by the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions on behalf of “A” status national human rights institutions in Africa

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat of the Human Rights Council hereby transmits the communication submitted by the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions on behalf of “A” status national human rights institutions in Africa,* reproduced in accordance with rule 7(b) of the rules of procedures described in the annex to Council resolution 5/1, according to which participation of national human rights institutions is to be based on arrangements and practices agreed upon by the Commission on Human Rights, including resolution 2005/74 of 20 April 2005.

* Reproduced in the annex as received, in the language of submission only.

Annex

[English only]

Written contribution by the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI)

**20th Session of the Human Rights Council
(18 June - 06 July 2012)**

The Yaoundé 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 Yaoundé, 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 collaboration 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. Following expert presentations and discussion amongst participating institutions, observers from civil society, businesses and government, representatives of participating NHRIs came up with the following Action Plan for NANHRI:

A. Priority themes

Within the broad field of business and human rights, the following thematic areas have been considered as being of high priority to support individually and collectively, through NANHRI, the actions of NHRIs for the next three years:

- 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 fulfilling their mandates to address business-related human rights issues:

- Capacity-building of individual NHRIs concerning business and human rights, starting with the creation of a business and human rights focal point within each institution, in line with the Edinburgh Declaration
- Human rights education, outreach and sensitization in collaboration with relevant stakeholders in the UN framework and the Guiding Principles on Business and Human rights, as well as the mandate of NHRIs in conformity with the Paris Principles to address business and human rights issues
- Integrating human rights and business issues into strategic plans and programmes of each NHRI, in order to guarantee adequate legal frameworks and funding for effective implementation of respect for human rights in the private sector.

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

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

NANHRI members further resolved that the following actions should be taken at the 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 the review of the status of Network members to ensure compliance with the Paris Principles.
2. Collaborate with the ICC Working Group on Business and Human Rights to support capacity building of individual NHRIs, especially through the production of an ICC training manual for the African Region in the domain of business and human rights.
3. In liaison with sub regional groups, conduct a study and a classification by region in the area of business and human rights, which will enable the publication of a NANHRI report on business and human rights in Africa, to be published in an official ceremony in 2012.
4. Ask that members of the African Region of the ICC Working Group on Business and Human Rights should collaborate with the Focal Points in NANHRI member institutions and report annually to the follow up committee of NANHRI on business and human rights.
5. Take steps to seek technical and financial assistance from UN Agencies, African Union and other relevant actors to support NHRIs in building their capacity and work relating to business and human rights
6. Create a section dedicated to business and human rights in the NANHRI website to allow for experience and knowledge sharing and produce guidance notes for NHRIs drawing from experiences and work of NHRIs in the region, in the area of business and human rights.
7. Cooperate with the ICC Working Group on Business and Human Rights towards the development of performance indicators on the state duty to protect against corporate human rights abuses following the principal UN conventions
8. Assess opportunities for NANHRI to engage in a strategic manner 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
9. Undertake outreach in collaboration with the ICC Working Group on Business and Human rights, including sharing with them the NANHRI Declaration as well as this Action Plan
10. Organize sensitization campaigns on 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 Multi-stakeholder Forum prescribed in the UN Human Rights Council Resolution 17/4
 - (b) Side event to the session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights.

The NANHRI asked that the members of the African Region of the ICC Working Group consult with Focal Points of NANHRI member institutions and the NANHRI Secretariat, to draft a logical framework for analysis relating to the individual and regional themes and

actions mentioned above. This will be submitted to the Steering Committee of the Network and an annual report presented on the progress made.

Adopted in Yaoundé, 1st October, 2011
