

# **Kampala Plan of Action for Human Rights Defenders (KAPA)**

Johannesburg +10 Conference for HRDs

Kampala, 23 April 2009

*The Kampala Declaration of Human Rights Defenders adopted on 23 April 2009 at the Johannesburg +10 All Africa Human Rights Defenders Conference in Kampala, organised by the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Network (EHAHRDN), in collaboration with the Steering Committee made up of the other African regional networks, resolves to form an Pan African Human Rights Defenders Network (PAHRD-Net) whose mission is to implement the Kampala Plan of Action (KAPA), in partnership with key stakeholders working in the protection of human rights defenders.*

- 1. To establish the Pan African Human Rights Defenders Network (PAHRD-Net) as the coordinating unit of the existing and functioning African human rights defenders networks.** The AHRD-Net should have a coordinating unit (the Secretariat hereafter) initially based at the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project (EHAHRDP) in Kampala, and a Steering Committee (described in §2) for overall implementation of the Kampala Plan of Action (KAPA). The Steering Committee shall accordingly evaluate the length of the mandate of the Secretariat.
  
- 2. The PAHRD-Net seeks to enhance the protection of HRDs and their rights across the continent by re-enforcing collaboration of sub-regional networks and key interest groups.** The Steering Committee will therefore consist of the Cairo Institute for Human Rights, East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Network, West Africa Human Rights Defenders Network, Southern African Human Rights Defenders Network, and Central African Human Rights Defenders Network, and four female representatives of key interest groups: women HRDs, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI), African journalists, and defenders working in armed conflict. The Steering Committee will meet at least once a year to monitor and evaluate the level of implementation of the KAPA by the Secretariat.
  
- 3. The main activity of the Secretariat is to provide technical assistance to existing sub-regional networks and create new ones, if necessary, based on the lessons learned of existing ones. The Secretariat will**
  - A. Design a plan to strengthen sub-regional HRD networks
  - B. Create a guide on the functions (mandate and activities) of regional human rights networks (based on best practices)
  - C. Coordinate with the focal points designated by each regional network to enhance safe communication between regional NGOs
  - D. Develop early warning methods and a response system with clear indicators

**4. The Secretariat will undertake an updated assessment of HRDs' needs in all Africa and prepare a strategy accordingly. In order to achieve this**

- A. The five regional networks in collaboration with their members or with national coalitions of HRDs will carry out systematic documentation compiling a bulletin on the violations of the rights of HRDs at a national level on a bi-annual basis
- B. National bulletins will feed into regional regular trend analysis which in turn will be used to ensure that programs of the PAHRD-Net remain up-to-date
- C. Once the initial assessment has been carried out, the Secretariat and the Steering Committee will design accordingly a regional, and international strategy for the protection of HRDs in Africa
- D. Ensure that gender mainstreaming is carried out throughout its programs and work
- E. Pay specific attention to the needs of women human rights defenders, LGBTI activists, HRDs in conflict ridden countries/areas and journalists
- F. Prepare, in close collaboration with the Special Rapporteur of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights on HRDs, a timetable which includes an assessment of the creation of an additional Protocol to the African Charter as a mechanism to protect HRDs in Africa

**5. Enhance collaboration between HRDs at regional and international level**

- A. Organise advocacy campaigns on key issues identified by the needs assessment at a regional and continental level
- B. Enhance collaboration between HRDs in urban and rural areas
- C. Develop and design proactive efforts and measures to target actors identified as potential partners in the promotion of the rights of HRDs
- D. Ensure effective and sustainable collaboration with international NGOs will be ensured
- E. Assist sub-regional networks in the drafting of code of conducts for their members

**6. Support sub-regional networks in conducting trainings of HRDs in the following areas:**

- A. International and regional intergovernmental protection mechanisms, including the drafting and dissemination of a manual on their use based on best practices that are identified (systematic information sharing; innovative approaches of getting round the constraints of the mechanisms)
- B. Security and protection
- C. Advocacy measures including media and communication strategies
- D. Project management and fundraising methods
- E. Gender and sexual orientation

7. **Strengthen sub-regional networks' advocacy activities at both regional and international level**, including strategies to protect any HRDs at great risk, as well as vulnerable groups including women HRD, those working in conflict situation or oppressive regimes, journalists, as well as LGBTI HRDs
  
8. **Enhance human rights organisations' active use of the regional and international mechanisms. The Secretariat will:**
  - A. Support sub-regional network efforts to effectively use these mechanisms
  - B. Widely disseminate the UN Declaration on HRDs and the manual on the use of these mechanisms described above
  - C. The Secretariat will help sub-regional networks by:
    - i. guiding them in preparing and submitting reports and appeals for communications on the situation of HRDs with the support of international partners that have extensive knowledge in this field
    - ii. enhancing regional NGOs' involvement with the UN and ACHPR mandates both in a formal and informal manner
    - iii. ensuring participation of HRDs at the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, as well as the United Nations Human Rights Council to advocate for the rights of HRDs and to promote the participation of African NGOs
    - iv. supporting efforts by sub-regional networks to enhance the capacity of national coalitions in their advocacy activities aimed at pushing for country visits, helping to create the space for an active collaboration of civil society with the Rapporteurs on HRDs (African and United Nations)
    - v. initiating efforts at different levels (regional and continental) aimed at strengthening the mandate
    - vi. verifying that there is an active follow-up on cases taken up by the Rapporteurs
    - vii. assisting regional NGOs in making use of and disseminating the EU Guidelines throughout their region and in proactively and effectively engaging with channels made available by the Guidelines
    - viii. advocating throughout the continent for the creation of similar guidelines to protect HRDs by other States and regional entities
  - D. PAHRD-Net, the Secretariat and its Steering Committee members, will seek to advocate for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to adopt a comprehensive strategy for the protection of HRDs through its field presence
  - E. PAHRD-Net will advocate for the inclusion in the mandates of each UN operation of human rights defenders protection measures

- 9. The Secretariat will work to ensure that States, intergovernmental organisations, and non-governmental organisations strengthen their assistance and protection to HRDs notably by:**
- A. providing protection grants (that include funds for evacuation and relocation, family support, psycho-medical assistance, legal assistance)
  - B. identifying specific needs of certain groups (WHRDs/LGBTI/ minority activists, journalists) and shaping support accordingly
  - C. enhancing communication with HRDs (both through formal and informal means and forums)
- 10. Activities undertaken by the Secretariat aimed at the EU missions in particular will seek to ensure that EU missions:**
- A. Implement and disseminate the EU Guidelines
  - B. Set-up HRD focal point which will serve as a point of first call for defenders and will focus on helping to disseminate and implement the Guidelines
  - C. Put in place local implementation strategies based on the needs of defenders
  - D. Offer a forum for interaction of HRDs with key stakeholders (national authorities, UN and ACHPR mandate holders)
- 11. PAHRD-Net will work to ensuring that cooperation partners give long-term core financial support to local and sub-regional NGOs in order for them to function effectively**

Done in Kampala, 23 April 2009

Adopted in Banjul, 12 May 2009