الأمم المتحدة

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مجلس حقوق الإنسان
الدورة العشرون
البند ٨ من جدول الأعمال
متابعة وتنفيذ إعلان وبرنامج عمل فيينا

معلومات مقدمة من محفل آسيا والمحيط الهادئ لمؤسسات حقوق الإنسان*

مذكرة مقدمة من الأمانة

تحيل أمانة مجلس حقوق الإنسان طيّه الرسالة المقدمة من محفل آسيا والمحيط الهادئ لمؤسسات حقوق الإنسان**، المستنسخة أدناه وفقاً للمادة ٧(ب) من النظام الداخلي الوارد في مرفق قرار المجلس ١/٥، التي تنص على أن تستند مشاركة المؤسسات الوطنية لحقوق الإنسان استناداً إلى الترتيبات والممارسات التي وافقت عليها لجنة حقوق الإنسان، بما في ذلك القرار ٧٤/٢٠٠٥ المؤرخ ٢٠ نيسان/أبريل ٢٠٠٥.

* مؤسسة وطنية لحقوق الإنسان اعتمدتها لجنة التنسيق الدولية للمؤسسات الوطنية لتعزيز وحماية حقوق الإنسان ضمن الفئة "ألف".

** استنسخت في المرفق كما وردت، وباللغة التي قُدِّمت بها فقط.

الرجاء إعادة الاستعمال

Annex

[English only]

Written contribution by the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF)

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

This statement provides an update on the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions' (APF) collaboration with and contributions to United Nations (UN) agencies and fora, 2011-2012. It is submitted to the 20th regular session of the Human Rights Council to complement the 'Report of the Secretary-General on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights' pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 17/9 of 16 June 2011.

1. APF-OHCHR-UNDP Capacity Assessments

During 2011 through to June 2012, the APF, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) conducted capacity assessments of the national human rights institutions (NHRIs) of Afghanistan, Australia, Mongolia, the Palestinian territories, and Sri Lanka. These assessments built on a March 2011 regional training workshop, hosted by the APF and the UNDP Asia-Pacific Regional Centre in Bangkok, Thailand, which brought together representatives from six APF member institutions, OHCHR and UNDP, and a representative of the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions. The workshop provided participants with an introduction to the Capacity Development Approach and Capacity Assessment Framework. It also facilitated the exchange of lessons learnt from previous capacity assessments, enabling the capacity assessment methodology to be adapted and refined.

Capacity assessments, which are conducted in partnership with a NHRI, assist the institution to identify achievable and sustainable steps to strengthen its work. At June 2012, the APF, OHCHR and UNDP had completed a total of nine capacity assessments, with assessments having also been conducted with the NHRIs of Jordan, Malaysia, Maldives and Thailand.

2. Human Rights Council review process

At the conclusion of its 16th regular session in March 2011, the Human Rights Council adopted by consensus the outcome document on its five-year review. The APF and a number of its member institutions were closely engaged in the Human Rights Council review process, including through supporting the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights' (ICC) advocacy campaign. The review outcome document confirms five new contribution opportunities for Paris Principles-compliant NHRIs in the work of the Human Rights Council.

3. Commission on the Status of Women

In 2011, the APF, with the support of the ICC, continued its campaign for 'A' status NHRI participation rights at annual sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). APF advocacy has helped to raise awareness of the role of NHRIs and the concrete contributions that they could make at CSW sessions to better advance the rights of women and girls. At present, NHRIs may only participate at CSW sessions if they are invited to attend as part of their Government's delegation. Five APF member institutions attended the 55th session of CSW in New York in March 2011: the NHRIs of Australia, Jordan, Korea, New Zealand and the Philippines.

4. Regional consultation on reproductive rights

In June 2011, the APF, in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), held a regional consultation on integrating reproductive rights into the work of NHRIs in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Hosted by the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia, the consultation brought together representatives from NHRIs and UNFPA country offices in the Asia-Pacific to promote collaboration on reproductive rights and to develop strategies for strengthening the capacity of NHRIs to work on reproductive rights. Special emphasis was placed on the reproductive rights of women and adolescent girls, and the importance of sex education and reproductive health programmes. The consultation built on an APF-UNFPA reproductive rights project that included a comprehensive survey of 15 APF member institutions.

5. National dialogue on OPCAT: Maldives

On 13 to 14 July 2011, the Human Rights Commission of the Maldives hosted a national dialogue on the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT). The event brought together representatives from the Maldives Commission, Government, the judiciary, civil society, and members of the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT).

The meeting was facilitated by the Association for the Prevention of Torture; a key partner to the APF's training activities on torture prevention. Its objective was to take stock of how the OPCAT system has functioned in the Maldives, to identify areas for improvement, and to develop a collaborative approach to introducing these improvements. The Human Rights Commission of the Maldives, as the Maldives' National Preventative Mechanism under OPCAT, has the authority to make unannounced visits to places of detention and to interview detainees in private.

6. Supporting NHRI establishment in the Pacific

During the period of August 2011 to June 2012, the APF, OHCHR and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) visited Palau, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu at the invitation of Government to conduct consultations on the establishment of NHRIs. These visits built upon the APF, OHCHR and PIFS' continuing work with the Governments of Nauru, Papua New Guinea, and Samoa.

While in-country, the three institutions met with a broad range of people to seek their views on their main human rights challenges, the kinds of roles that a NHRI could serve in addressing these challenges and in supporting existing institutions, and the type of NHRI that would best suit the country's cultural, political and legal systems. After each visit, the

APF, OHCHR and PIFS delivered a report to the Government which: provided an overview of the different types and roles of NHRIs; set out the existing human rights protection system in the country and identified human rights protection gaps; captured the views expressed by people during meetings; and offered some observations and proposed next steps that the Government could take to advance the NHRI establishment process.

The APF, OHCHR and PIFS are currently working in partnership with the Governments of Palau, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu to determine concrete next steps.

7. APF 16th Annual Meeting and Biennial Conference in Bangkok, Thailand

In September 2011, the APF held its 16th Annual Meeting and Biennial Conference in Bangkok, Thailand. Hosted by the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand, the 2011 conference, which brought together some 150 representatives from NHRIs, civil society organizations, Governments, and UN offices throughout the Asia-Pacific region, focused on progress and challenges in realising the right to development. Participants shared good practice examples of NHRIs' work to monitor implementation of the UN Declaration on the Right to Development. As part of the two-day conference, participants also examined the situation facing lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the Asia-Pacific region, as well as steps being taken by NHRIs to advance their rights.

The APF's annual business meeting saw the expansion of the APF's membership to 18 NHRIs, with the National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh admitted as an APF Associate Member.

The APF's Forum Council also adopted an APF Gender Policy to ensure that a focus on the rights of women is integrated across the APF's objectives and programmes.

8. APF Regional Conference on Business and Human Rights in Seoul, Korea

From 11 to 13 October 2011, the APF hosted a Regional Conference on Business and Human Rights in Seoul, Korea. Co-hosted by APF and the National Human Rights Commission of Korea, the conference addressed emerging regional trends and issues in human rights and business, and the training needs of NHRIs to support their capacity to engage and advise the corporate sector on human rights issues. Around 180 representatives from NHRIs, international organisations, business associations, Government and non-governmental organizations attended the three-day meeting, highlighting the growing role and impact that business has on the human rights of individuals and communities.

The conference examined existing international standards, including the 'protect, respect and remedy' framework developed by Professor John Ruggie, former Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Business and Human Rights. Participants discussed the steps that NHRIs can take to implement the framework's Guiding Principles and shared good practice examples from across the region.