

**PROJECT PROPOSAL: TRAINING FOR NHRIS  
CO-ORGANISED BY THE FES AND THE ICC**

***Rationale***

National human rights institutions (NHRIs) are independent institutions of the State with a constitutional or legislative mandate to protect and promote human rights in line with the United Nations Paris Principles.

NHRIs have a significant and unique role to play in bridging the gap between international and national human rights mechanisms, to strengthen human rights on the ground. This role is distinct from, yet complementary to, the roles of states and civil society.

NHRIs can provide independent and authoritative information to United Nations (UN) processes. They are important conveners for national consultation processes and can encourage engagement by state and non-state actors with the UN system. As key national stakeholders, NHRIs are also critical in the follow-up to UN recommendations and in monitoring progress in country.

The international community has recognized the roles of NHRIs and has provided such institutions with increasing opportunities to contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights at the international level. This includes the UN General Assembly, the UN Human Rights Council and its processes, and the UN treaty bodies.

***Role of ICC and FES***

As the global association of NHRIs, the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC) encourages and supports the active participation of NHRIs in UN human rights mechanisms and facilitates the sharing of information, advice and best practice approaches between NHRIs and other stakeholders.

The ICC currently has over 100 member institutions worldwide, encompassing around 5000 human rights experts in all regions of the world. 71 NHRIs are presently accredited by the ICC with A status in full compliance with the UN Paris Principles.

The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) is a German foundation which promotes the effective engagement of national stakeholders from developing countries with the UN human rights mechanisms. To this end, the FES focuses on capacity building at both regional and national levels. In Geneva, the FES hosts training courses on the strategic use of UN human rights mechanisms.

### ***Scope and objective***

Building on the positive experience of a pilot seminar in 2014, the 2015 training program will aim at strengthening NHRIs' capacity to effectively engage with United Nations human rights mechanisms at all stages including reporting, participation in meetings and following up in country. The training will support participants in:

- Expanding their knowledge of the functioning of UN human rights mechanisms;
- Identifying concrete opportunities for NHRIs' effective engagement;
- Participating in sessions of UN human rights mechanisms;
- Identifying practical ways of effective engagement with the UN mechanisms, such as report writing and following up;
- Engaging with colleagues from the OHCHR and NGOs as well as with states; and
- Exchanging experiences and best practices with peer NHRIs participating in the training.

The 2015 training will be conducted in English. It is envisaged to develop into a training series, to be offered in other ICC languages in the future.

### ***Expected outcomes***

The proposed training will have the following outcomes:

- Knowledge by NHRIs of UN human rights mechanisms expanded;
- Understanding of NHRIs of their engagement opportunities and potential impact developed;
- Numbers of NHRIs engaging effectively with UN human rights mechanisms increased;
- Level of follow up to, and monitoring of, UN recommendations in country strengthened;
- Peer networks and exchanges among NHRI staffs developed and sustained; and
- National level cooperation between FES regional offices and NHRIs developed.

### ***Application process and requirements***

Successful candidates must be a staff member of a national human rights institution accredited in full compliance with the Paris Principles by the ICC (A status). Priority will be given to candidates from a NHRI located in a country with FES presence.

In addition, the successful candidate must

- Have completed the preparatory work for the training course. (about 10 hrs total in free time management)
- Be a staff member of a NHRI and occupy a function within the NHRI related to international human rights work;
- Have good working knowledge in English; and
- Have the ability to interact and maintain effective working relations with individuals of different national and cultural backgrounds.

Each applicant must submit

- A completed application form;
- A completed protocol of engagement ;
- A recent *curriculum vitae* (max. 2 pages); and

- A letter of recommendation from the sending NHRI.

In the selection process, balance among participants is sought in terms of gender, geographical regions and human rights issues addressed by their sending NHRI.

Travel and accommodation costs for participants from developing countries will be covered by Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung. Other participants will have to cover those costs themselves. (In addition to the airfare, local costs of about CHF 160-200/day should be calculated for food and accommodation). There will be no additional training fees.