INFORMATION NOTE

7th CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS

Peace and Justice: The Role of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)

November 3-4-5, 2009
Rabat - Morocco


II. The 7th Conference of African National Human Rights Institutions

In close cooperation with the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Network of African NHRIs, the Moroccan Advisory Council on Human Rights (CCDH) organizes from November 3-5, 2009 the 7th Conference of African National Human Rights Institutions. This event will be also supported by the International Organization of Francophonie (OIF). The Conference will be held in Rabat, Morocco, on the theme of "Peace and Justice: The Role of National Human Rights Institutions".

Time and Venue

Venue: Rabat, Morocco.

Hotel: Golden Tulip Farah

Time: November 3-5, 2009.
III. Objectives

The main objective of the Conference is to strengthen the capacities of African NHRI and to raise awareness about their role in strengthening justice and peacekeeping.

The goals are as follows:
- promote good practices and encourage the exchange of expertise and experience;
- adopt projects that meet the needs of African countries and the challenges they face;
- provide concrete examples and guidelines on the development of projects aiming to strengthen the role of NHRI in justice and peace;
- promote partnership and cooperation between NHRI and the organizations and agencies involved in carrying out relevant activities;
- identify concrete actions which should be taken into account;
- develop action plans with all stakeholders involved in peacekeeping.

IV. Activities

The 7th Conference of the African NHRI will be preceded by a meeting of the Bureau of the International Coordinating Committee on November 1-2, 2009 and followed by a workshop on human rights defenders on November 6-7, 2009.

V. Participants

The Conference will be attended by around 34 African NHRI, regional organizations, UN agencies, namely the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Office of Special Representatives of the Secretary-General, Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), Directorate of Political Affairs (DPA), Chairperson of the International Coordinating Committee (ICC), and presidents of regional networks. Approximately 100 to 150 people are expected to attend the 7th Conference.

The organizers of the Conference will sponsor only one participant from each African national human rights institution.

VI. Working Languages

The working languages of the conference will be Arabic, English and French. Simultaneous interpreting will be provided.

VII. Travel Tickets and Accommodation

The CCDH will handle travel arrangements and hotel bookings for the sponsored participants. It should be noted that air reservation will be in economic class through the most direct line from the country of origin to the Conference venue. Any other request can not be handled by the CCDH.

Any change in itinerary, date of travel, airliner, upgrading from economic class to business one, will be under the charge of the participants in the Conference or their institutions. Participants supported by the organizers are requested to be present throughout the duration of the Conference. Otherwise, the organizers reserve the right to withdraw their financial support.
During the Conference, lunches and coffee breaks will be provided to all participants. All other expenses such as telephone calls, mini bar, video rentals, room services and dining will be under the charge of the participants, whether or not supported by the organizers.

A reservation at the Hotel Golden Tulip Farah, Rabat, is provided to each participant under the charge of the organizers. Participants who decide to book another hotel (see the list of hotels below) should inform the organizers, who will not, in this case, be liable for any costs incurred. The participants who are not sponsored by the organizers are also asked to send back the registration form by specifying the hotel where they wish to accommodate.

VIII. Visas

Obtaining visas to attend the 7th Conference will be the responsibility of participants, whether it is about an entry visa to Morocco or any other transit visa that may be required. The organizers can not take charge of fees for obtaining visas.

IX. Travel Insurance

It is for participants to purchase their own travel insurance. The organizers can not cover expenses related to illness or accident during the participation in the Conference.

X. Climate

Rabat, political and administrative capital of Morocco, is known for its calm. The imperial city, located on the left bank of the Bou Regreg River, is characterized by a temperate climate.

The annual sunshine is more than eight hours per day with an average annual temperature of 17 °C.

In summer, the breeze from the Atlantic Ocean cools the city. The thermometer is generally around 24 °C. The days are warm but not stifling.

In winter, the climate is really smooth. The average January temperature is 12 °C. It is never cold in the day.

Note the presence of transient rainfall in winter and spring.

XI. Registration

The registration form must be completed and returned by email on September 30, 2009 at the latest to:

Mr Abderrazak Rouwane
Head of the Department of Cooperation and Foreign Affairs
Advisory Council on Human Rights
Email: rouwane@codh.org.ma / chama@codh.org.ma
Fax: 00212 53773 2927
Tel. + 212 53773 2826/00212 53773 2865
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With a copy to:

Mr. Gilbert Sebihogo
Executive Director
Network of African National Human Rights Institutions
Nairobi – Kenya
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