



Engaging Civil Society in Pan-African Issues



Draft Concept Note

West & Central African Training of Trainers Workshop on 'African Human Rights Mechanisms'

26 - 28 SEPTEMBER, 2018

ABUJA, NIGERIA

Introduction: The Training of Trainers (TOT) is an activity organized by the African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS) with its local partner (The Human Rights Advancement and Development Centre) HURIDAC under the "Consolidating Civil Society's Role in the Transition from African Human Rights Standards to Practice" Project funded by The European Union (EU) and implemented by the International Commission of Jurists (Branches of the European Institutions and Kenya), the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) and the African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS).

Independent civil society actors and human rights defenders are key players of social change at the national and local levels who monitor the application of international human rights standards, follow-up of the implementation of judgments, decisions and recommendations of African regional human rights mechanisms. They also contribute to the consolidation of States' capacity to ensure implementation of regional and international human rights standards.

Objectives of the Training: The general objective of the TOT workshop is to build the capacity of a large group of Trainers representing human rights NGOs, Journalists and Lawyers to equip them with knowledge and skills for a proper and more effective way to engage with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), the Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights for strategic advocacy and litigation. It will serve as an induction especially for those HRDs with little or no prior experience engaging the African human rights system.

Participants: The training will target representatives of human rights NGOs, Practitioners/Lawyers, Journalists from West and Central Africa: Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Chad, DRC, Gabon, Ghana, Gambia, Guinea Conakry, Liberia, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Benin, Niger, Centrafican Republic, Ghana, Togo.

Interested participants are encouraged to apply online on or before 24th August, 2018 and must meet the following criteria:

- Submit motivation statement
- Submit (prior to arrival in Abuja) a report on the human rights situation in your respective country (maximum 5 pages)
- Be actively involved in the last two years in human rights work,
- Submit abridged curriculum vitae (maximum one page)
- Submit copy of passport

Resource Persons: Resource Persons will be drawn from the Organizers and Partners pool of Resource Persons.

Date and venue: 26- 28 September, Abuja - Nigeria.

Languages: The Training of Trainers (TOT) will be directed in both English and French with simultaneous interpretation services.

Methodologies: The training methodology would comprise of general lectures and discussions, debates, case studies and break-out sessions.

Expected outcomes:

The Training will offer participants the opportunity to:

- Form a pool of trainers that work on the African human rights system
- Be familiar with the African human rights instruments, including theoretical and practical knowledge of the instruments
- Enhance their knowledge for advocacy, lobbying, engagement and litigation before the African Commission, the African Court and Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child,
- Create a network with civil society organizations on issues of mutual Interest;

- Learn and share the best practices for engagement (for applying for Observer status, filing communications, making statements at Commission's Sessions etc.)

Monitoring and Evaluation: An immediate evaluation will be carried out following the end of the TOT. A follow-up evaluation will be done six months thereafter to further evaluate how participant have progressed in engaging with the Mechanisms, if any.

Certificate: Participants would be certificated at the end of the training.

Contacts: For more information please contact: Ms. Joanna Forster-Assistant Project Officer - Email: programs@acdhrs.org or Mr. John Gbenagnon - Communications Officer - communications@acdhrs.org or Mrs. Adama Cooper-Jah - Administrator - Email: admin@acdhrs.org

Application Link: <https://goo.gl/forms/k7qvwGT4e41i21BF2>