

Draft Terms of Reference

Fellowship Program for Staff of Secretariats of Regional Human Rights Mechanisms

Background:

The United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) has consistently reiterated the importance of cooperation between UN human rights mechanisms and regional human rights arrangements, and since 2008, several resolutions have been adopted by the HRC requesting the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR) to bring together regional and UN human rights mechanisms to exchange views on good practices and lessons learned with a view to enhancing cooperation between them¹. In that respect, OHCHR has held 5 international workshops, focusing on a number of human rights thematic areas.

These workshops recognized the need to strengthen cooperation through assignment of focal points, regular information sharing, cross-referencing of jurisprudence and recommendations of human rights mechanisms, learning from best practices, joint activities and strengthening general interaction through fellowship programmes and staff exchanges.

In March 2017, the Human Rights Council adopted a resolution on regional arrangements², requesting OHCHR to create a dedicated programme for regional human rights mechanisms (RHRMs) to gain experience in the UN human rights system in order to enhance capacity building and cooperation among them.

Objectives/Structure of the Fellowship Programme

The programme is an intensive learning opportunity to deepen fellows understanding of the United Nations human rights system, instruments and mechanisms. The overall goal of the fellowship is to give staff members of RHRMs the opportunity to gain first-hand experience, knowledge and skills in relation to interacting with international human rights mechanisms.

Specific objectives:

- identify ways to strengthen cooperation with UN human rights mechanisms such as treaty bodies, the Human Rights Council and its Universal Periodic Review and special procedures;
- foster interaction between RHRMs and OHCHR staff;
- support the work of OHCHR focal points for cooperation including sharing information with other RHRMs and enhancing the network of focal points for cooperation with RHRMs;
- promote inter-regional exchanges and knowledge sharing among fellows.

¹ HRC resolutions 6/20 of 2007, 12/15 of 2009, 18/14 of 2011, 24/19 of 2013, 30/3 of 2015

² HRC resolution 34/17 of 2017

Through this programme, the fellows will gain working-level experience with the United Nations human rights system and will receive periodic briefings and training.

The fellows will be assigned to the National Institutions, Regional Mechanisms and Civil Society Section (NRCS), and participate in the daily work of the NRCS with possibilities to learn from other divisions of OHCHR. The various thematic and geographic sections of OHCHR could also provide briefings on substantive human rights issues, depending on their needs. Fellows would also attend and observe sessions of the Human Rights Council, treaty bodies and special procedures.

In return, the fellows could share information, knowledge and best practices from their regional mechanisms with OHCHR staff; prepare substantive research papers, provide briefings, discussions and seminars could be organised to facilitate these interactions.

Proposed activities could include:

- intensive training provided by OHCHR staff on the UN human rights system including treaty bodies, the Human Rights Council and UPR and other specific human rights thematic areas;
- attending and observing sessions of the Human Rights Council and other inter-governmental bodies and meetings;
- attending treaty body sessions and the special procedures mandate holders annual meeting; writing a variety of reports, communications, briefings, statements;
- organizing a side event on RHRMs at the HRC (this meeting could also serve as a briefing to member states);
- Substitutive discussions with OHCHR geographic and thematic desk officers (themes could be selected by fellows);
- Briefings with key Geneva NGOs, and representatives of Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GNAHRI) ; attending key NHRI and CSO meetings in Geneva including the GANHRI annual meeting.

Fellows would:

- review, compile and consolidate information on best practices and lessons learned from technical co-operation projects or field operations in the field of regional mechanisms;
- assist in planning and coordinating activities related to partnerships and capacity building activities with RHRMs;
- conduct substantive research and analysis of developments concerning RHRMs;
- prepare substantive papers, provide briefings to OHCHR staff on their work;
- prepare a project to implement on return.

Duration:

The individual fellowship will run for a duration of two months (March and April 2018 and June and July 2018) with a maximum capacity of 4 fellows in a calendar year.

Participant's entitlement:

Each fellow is entitled to a stipend to cover accommodation and other living expenses for the duration of the Programme. Requests for support regarding travel expenses will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

A successful candidate for the Fellowship Programme should have:

- at least 3 years of work experience with a regional human rights mechanism or on issues related to RHRMs;
- hold a bachelor's degree in law, political science, social science, public administration, journalism, international relations or other related field;
- have sufficient command of English to be able to participate fully in the programme; knowledge of another UN language will be an added advantage;
- be available to attend the full duration of the programme;
- be expected to participate in various activities and to strictly follow the programme.

Selection process

The National Institutions, Regional Mechanisms and Civil Society Section will conduct interviews with candidates that have been nominated by their institutions. Selection of the fellows will reflect gender and regional balance.

All applications should be received by the 15 November 2017. Successful applicants would be informed by the 1 December 2017.

How to Apply:

Nominated candidates are requested to submit the following Documents in one single e-mail to bpesut@ohchr.org copy Lsekaggya@ohchr.org

- a Curriculum Vitae;
- a personal statement (maximum 500 words) in which the candidate will explain his/her motivation for applying, and how he/she will use the knowledge gained from the fellowship;
- an official letter from the nominating organization;
- a copy of the applicant's passport.

Application deadline : 15 November2017