



**REGIONAL YOUTH CONSULTATIONS ON PROJECT 2016 YEAR OF HUMAN RIGHTS WITH A PARTICULAR FOCUS ON THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN
8-9 SEPTEMBER 2016
WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA**

FACILITATOR'S GUIDE FOR THE WORKING GROUPS

CONTEXT

Thank you for your willingness to lead the assigned working group discussions for the Regional Youth Consultations on the African Union Year of Human Rights with a Particular Focus on the Rights of Women (Project 2016). Your expertise and leadership as a facilitator will be critical to the effectiveness of the discussions. With your guidance, we hope that participants will be able to express their inputs and perspectives for the African Governance Architecture (AGA) as it continues to increase engagement with the youth.

The overall goal of the Regional Youth Consultations is to provide a collaborative, open and inclusive space for young people to provide input into the African Union 10 Year Human Rights Strategy, which is envisaged as a major outcome of Project 2016, as well as aggregate input in the AGA Human Rights and Transitional Justice Cluster programmes and activities. In addition, actionable ideas from participants shall be used to improve individual programming of various AU Organs, Regional Economic Communities, National Mechanisms and Youth Led CSOs towards the protection and promotion of young people's rights.

FORMAT OF THE WORKING GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Facilitated discussions is the format of the working group discussions. They are intended to provide a platform for participants to candidly discuss emerging trends and challenges with the four selected sub-themes, namely:

1. Young Women's Rights
2. Governance, Peace, and Security
3. Inclusion, Diversity Management and Popular Participation
4. Employment, Mobility and Migration

EXPECTATIONS FROM THE FACILITATORS

As a Facilitator, your responsibility is to:

- a) Lead and guide the discussion around your assigned sub-theme, with expert views and opinions;
- b) Use a participatory approach to encourage participants to share their ideas, experiences and comparable lessons within a given sub-theme;
- c) Direct the conversation towards practical policy recommendations focused on the key

- issues identified under the sub themes;
- d) Ensure time management;
 - e) Where necessary, break the groups into smaller sub groups to tackle different sections under a given sub- theme and then come back together for policy and practical recommendations;
 - f) Get consensus on group recommendations and ensure that the rapporteur is following the discussion and noting the same; and
 - g) Ensure that recommendations are addressed to specific actors/AU Organs for effective follow-up action.

FOCUS OF THE WORKING GROUPS

Group 1: Young Women's Rights

The group will analyze emerging issues around women's rights in Southern Africa, with a view to assess the effectiveness of the existing mechanisms and initiatives aimed at promoting and protecting young women's rights. The group will focus on the following issues among others:

- (i) **Elimination of Discrimination Against Women**
 - a. Discrimination of women, particularly of young women based on gender in private and public sectors, including right to equal remuneration for jobs of equal value for women and men
 - b. Sexual and Gender Based Violence
- (ii) **Elimination of Harmful Practices**
 - a. Eradication of harmful cultural practices including child and forced marriage, Female Genital Mutilation and scarification
- (iii) **Right to Own and Inherit Property**
 - a. Addressing issues of arbitrary deprivation of young women's right to property, including inherited property and land ownership

Lead Questions:

- (i) How effective are the existing normative and policy frameworks at regional and national levels towards the protection and promotion of young women's rights?
- (ii) What has worked and what has not (lessons learnt) in the protection and promotion of young women's rights in Southern Africa?
- (iii) What should the AU Human Rights Strategy say about young women's rights?
- (iv) What actions can and should AGA Human Rights Cluster (including AU Organs with the mandate to protect and promote human rights) undertake to enhance the protection and promotion of young women's rights?
- (v) How can non-state actors, including Youth CSOs contribute to the promotion of young women's rights in Southern Africa?

Group 2: Governance, Peace and Security

The Group will analyze issues of governance deficits, that are referred to as structural root causes of human rights violations and abuses in Southern Africa, with their associated impact on peace and security in the region. The group will also tackle issues surrounding human rights protection and promotion, among other issues as highlighted below:

- (i) **Governance Deficits**
 - a. Lack of implementation/adherence to human rights standards and norms, leading to human rights violations and abuses with impunity
 - b. Weak democratic institutions
 - c. Transparency and accountability in governance
 - d. Economic Inequality occasioned by uneven development and unequal distribution of resources

- (ii) **Mechanisms to build political resilience to conflicts**
 - a. Leveraging political solutions to resolve or mitigate conflicts, particularly through building strong democratic institutions, including national Infrastructures for Peace
 - b. Strengthening communities' capacity to overcome the impact of violent conflicts through use of transitional justice mechanisms as a sustainable approach towards post-conflict recovery, peace and security
 - c. Youth as actors, victims and peacemakers in fragile situations

Lead Questions:

- (i) How effective are the existing normative and policy frameworks at regional and national levels towards the promotion of good governance, peace and security?
- (ii) What are the examples from Southern Africa of the impact of governance challenges on human rights?
- (iii) What are the fragilities in Southern Africa and what are the specific resultant human rights issues related to youth in these situations?
- (iv) What should the AU Human Rights Strategy say about governance, peace and security?
- (v) What actions can and should AGA and its Platform take to enhance good governance, Peace and Security in order to address fragilities and human rights related violations and abuses in Southern Africa?
- (vi) How can AU organs, RECs, National Mechanisms, and Youth-led and/or focused CSOs build political resilience, mitigate governance deficits, and address fragilities in Southern Africa?

Group 3: Inclusion, Diversity Management and Popular Participation

The working group will analyze issues related to challenges of inclusion, diversity management and popular participation, and their impact on democracy in Southern Africa. Participants will be encouraged to share their country-specific examples on how these challenges have been mitigated to foster social cohesion and coexistence as well as promote democratisation.

(i) Inclusion

- a. Discuss the rights of persons with disabilities, including involvement of such persons in political, economic and social development of their societies with an intention to tap into their human potential
- b. Emphasize the rights of marginalized youth, including those from minority groups

(ii) Diversity Management

- a. Explore how multi-party politics in Africa have helped to enhance democratic elections and the enjoyment of the right to vote for all, including youth
- b. Debate whether elections have been an enabling factor for social cohesion and a tool for resolving contests for power and other resources, or if they have exacerbated tensions.

(iii) Popular Participation

- a. Right of young people to Participation in political and decision-making process including participation in elective politics and its interrelatedness to the right to access to information and freedom of speech
- b. Freedom of association premised on models of youth participation in political and decision making processes and their effectiveness (Youth parliaments, Youth Wings of political parties, Youth Forums/National Youth Councils, Youth Networks, youth oriented or led organisations and use of social media as an engagement tool)
- c. Access to media (particularly social media) and the emerging discourse on responsible use of social media for improved governance and citizen's participation in governance processes.

Lead Questions:

- (i) How effective are the existing normative and policy frameworks at regional and national levels towards the promotion of the principles of popular inclusion, diversity management and popular participation?
- (ii) What challenges affect the realisation of the principles of inclusion, diversity management, and popular participation in Southern Africa and how have these impacted on the protection and promotion of human rights of young people?
- (iii) What should the AU Human Rights Strategy say about inclusion, diversity management, and popular participation with regard to young people?
- (ix) What actions can and should AGA and its Platform take to enhance States adherence to the principles of inclusion, diversity management and popular participation in order to ensure respect of young people's rights?
- (x) How can AU organs, RECs, National Mechanisms, and Youth-led and/or focused CSOs contribute to the promotion of the human rights principles of inclusion, diversity management and popular participation?

Group 4: Employment, Mobility and Migration

The working group will analyze issues related to youth employment and mobility, igniting discussions on the links between qualitative education, skills development and employment. Further to this, the working group will highlight Southern Africa's experiences surrounding economic transformation that have facilitated access to decent jobs and opportunities for young people. The group shall explore the nexus between youth employment and mobility, highlighting how youth capacities can be enhanced to advance their access to decent jobs.

(i) Employment

- a. Discuss the right to education of good quality and its impact on youth technical skilling and employability
- b. Address the issues surrounding investment in youth initiatives and innovations as well as building their capacity to enable them manage their own companies through entrepreneurial skills.
- c. Explore the concept of volunteerism and how it can be leveraged to promote human rights, particularly for young people.

(ii) Mobility

- a. Discuss freedom of movement and how it can be leveraged to enhance young people's access to job and skilling opportunities beyond their borders in Southern Africa.

(iii) Migration Pull and Push Factors

- a. Highlight country/regional specific causes of migration, including identification of factors and possible redress mechanisms
- b. How have Southern African countries been affected by the recent wave of migration and what needs to be done at national and regional levels?
- c. Protection of the rights of migrants, including their right to nationality, right to apply for asylum and right to protection from torture, inhuman and degrading treatment.

Lead Questions:

- (i) What lessons can be learnt from Southern Africa towards youth employment and mobility?
- (ii) What should the AU Human Rights Strategy say about employment and mobility for young people?
- (xi) What actions can and should AGA and its Platform take to enhance youth employment and mobility in Southern Africa?
- (xii) How can AU organs, RECs, National Mechanisms, and Youth-led and/or focused CSOs contribute to the promotion of young people's rights to work and freedom of movement?

REPORT BACK SESSION:

- a) Each Working Group will designate a representative to present concrete policy recommendations to the plenary session.
- b) The presentation should be typed in PowerPoint and submitted to the Secretariat before the presentation to the plenary to: makdatessema@gmail.com for projection to the plenary.

Thank you once again for your willingness to lead the discussions, and we look forward to your significant contributions!