



C/o PIRON Global Development
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Membership Development in Africa

Submitted by President Thomas Schirmacher and Acting General Secretary Matthias Böhning ISHR Bonn/ Frankfurt, Ulrich Nitschke, Senior Advisor at ISHR Secretariat, PIRON Bonn, Nov 2020

1 ASSESSING THE AFRICAN CONTINENT CONCERNING HUMAN RIGHTS – INSTITUTIONS AND STRUCTURES

The number of ISHR member sections has developed in recent decades, especially in Europe, Eastern Europe and Latin America and to a certain extent in Asia. However, the African continent, with its rapidly growing population and immense challenges in human rights and governance issues, has not yet been at the centre of membership development. The challenges of the current HR situation in almost all African countries make dealing with the continent a must. With the decision to allocate the International Secretariat at PIRON Global Development in Bonn, the President of ISHR, Prof Thomas Schirmacher, initiated a process of increased membership growth in the coming months with a focus on Africa.

The ISHR Secretariat is commissioned to assess systematically the African continent considering what has been done and achieved in the last decade, especially in countries like Egypt and Nigeria. Beyond that the strategy is focussing on the following approach, to be confirmed by the ISHR council in due time.



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2 APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY OF THE ASSESSMENT

Step 1

Major stakeholder mappings will be initiated by ISHR secretariat in

- a. Assessing existing structures of cooperation, identifying key stakeholders in HR approaches and institutions in Africa, including:
- b. AU, Regional and National HR institutions; German Institute on HR; GIZ Sector Program HR; AA, BMZ other public support structures for HR
- c. NGOs working in the field of HR and HR protection as well as alerting the public in HR violations (HR Watch, AI, OHCHR registered NGOs etc.)
- d. Looking into data analysis provided by OHCHR, Geneva as well as deliberate research of HR institutions and commissions around Geneva based entities of the HR Council etc

Step 2

Contacting key stakeholders via tel Interviews and evaluation of regional and national structures following adoption of this approach by the International Council of ISHR by the end of 2020. In case more stakeholders have been identified on a national level, we are suggesting to hold and facilitate focus-group interviews. This practice will save both time and effort of the interviewees.

- Primary contact persons tbc.
- Address, telephone, fax, e-mail tbc.

Evaluation of interviews and network assessments and a short validation meeting with the clients: ISHR president, if necessary, council and advisor of IGFM etc.

Step 3

The International Secretariat will present the above assessment results to the President of ISHR and if necessary, to International Council and get feedback concerning outreach and priorities. A representative outline must be prioritized, and potential new national sections will be approved by both the President and International Council. For this, vital commitment and solid structures for new National Sections must be approved and a commitment to the ISHR mission be promised.



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Step 4

The International Secretariat of ISHR will receive the mandate and allocate considerable resources to address the prioritized new actors at national and regional level and to assess the willingness and potential to build strong new national sections.

3 TIMEFRAME / ENVISAGED OUTCOMES

- This concept note is to be approved by the **end of December 2020**
- The start of the top-level research will start as soon as the President of ISHR approves this concept note
- The results of the research and mapping exercise should be presented to the President and if necessary International Council by **Jan/ Feb 2021**
- In case of a strong support and approval of resources by ISHR, PIRON is heading to reach out to approx. 4-5 new national sections **by March 2021**

FOR ANY ARISING QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT:

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