



Statement by the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions on behalf of "A" Status National Human Rights Institutions in Africa.

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The Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI) on behalf of "A" Status National Human Rights Institutions in Africa¹ welcomes the opportunity to speak in reference to the report of the Special Rapporteur on Torture (A/HRC/16/52).

The NANHRI, an organization that provides support to NHRIs in Africa and strengthens their capacities and visibility to enable them to provide effective protection, monitoring, promotion and awareness on human rights, is firmly committed to increasingly fight against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment in Africa, to promote the role of African NHRIs in the prevention of torture, to strengthen their commitments on issues of torture and to strengthen the capacities of their staff for this purpose.

The mandates of NHRIs traditionally tend to have rather broad mandates encompassing a range of human rights issues, with torture and inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment prevention forming only a part of their mandate.

¹ The following are NHRIs with A status : National Human Rights Council of Egypt, Human Rights Commission and Fundamental Freedom of Cameroon, Commission on Human Rights and Administration of Justice of Ghana, Kenya National Commission on Human Rights, Malawi Human Rights Commission, National Human Rights Commission of Mauritius, Conseil Consultatif des Droits de l'Homme du Maroc, Office of Ombudsman of Namibia, Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme et des Libertés Fondamentales du Niger, Commission Nationale des Droits de la Personne du Rwanda, Comité Sénégalais des Droits de l'Homme, South African Human Rights Commission, Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance of Tanzania, Commission Nationale des Droits de l'Homme du Togo, Uganda Human Rights Commission, Zambia Human Rights Commission

Ideally placed, NHRIs must strengthen their role in the prevention of torture. They can contribute to the development and implementation of an effective legal framework and control mechanisms.

In Africa, NHRI play an important role at national level in promoting the ratification of the OPCAT and contribute to reflection and consultation on various options for NPM. This is the case, for example, in South Africa, Ghana and Togo. Similarly, national human rights commissions in Mali and Mauritius have been designated as NPM. Both institutions are also part of the Network.

The Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT), which considers NHRI as key national actors in torture prevention and has therefore interacted and engaged on a number of initiatives and projects, entered into a partnership convention with NANHRI on November 5, 2010 for the period 2011-2013.

This partnership aims to strengthen the role of African NHRI in preventing torture in Africa.

Its specific objectives are:

- Strengthen the capacity of African NHRIs to enable them to be more active in preventing torture, including implementation of OPCAT and Robben Island Guidelines;
- Apply the publication: "Prevention of Torture: Operational Guide for NHRIs";
- Provide skills and knowledge to support national institutions to plan and undertake concrete activities for the prevention of torture in their countries, particularly through monitoring places of detention;
- Provide a platform for exchanging experiences and best practices between African NHRIs for concrete action to prevent torture;
- Adopt a public statement on NHRIs and the prevention of torture.

The signing of the mentioned convention clearly demonstrates NANHRI's recognition of the fact that independent and effective NHRIs are important instruments in the prohibition and prevention of torture.

Thank you.