




The Development and Implementation of a National Human Rights Action Plan

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The World Conference on Human Rights recommends that each State consider the desirability of drawing up a national action plan identifying steps whereby that State would improve the promotion and protection of human rights.

Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, Part II, paragraph 71



What is NHRAP?

- Document outlining Government Commitment to achieve a comprehensive set of human rights goals
- A structured approach towards strengthened human rights realization

NHRAP- Why?

What are the objectives:

- To bring about tangible improvements in realization of human rights
- To bring about systematic improvements in human rights observance through specified positive steps
- To raise awareness of human rights standards and to strengthen relevant institutions
- To bridge the gap between commitment and practice

Need for NHRAP

What was the historical motivation:

- No Country has perfect human rights record and that each country must start implementing its commitment keeping in view its own political, cultural, historical and legal circumstances
- Every Country is different- Different capacity, different needs, different priorities
- Achieving genuine human rights improvement needs a planned approach
- Better cooperation in promoting and protecting human rights observance could be achieved if it is less confrontation and less-politicized
- Successfully promoting human rights observance



NHRAP Necessity

NHRAPs serve to:

- Provide a human rights realization roadmap
- Identify the vulnerable and marginalized
- Initiate a coordinated response
- Link human rights to development planning
- Facilitate stakeholder cooperation
- Discharge international commitments
- Prevent human rights violations

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Characteristics of good NHRAP

- Both an Outcome and a Process
- Political Commitment at the highest level and the sustainability of the commitment
- Commitment to international human rights standards (UPR, Treaty bodies)
- Careful and Systematic Planning
- Broad Based Participation and Inclusive process including CSOs/Government Cooperation
- Robust plan for monitoring and evaluation including clear responsibility
- Create links with other national thematic, development and sector-specific plans
- Sufficient budget/resources



Stages of NHRAP development

- Conceptualizing
- Establishment of Secretariat
- Consultation with NGOs and other relevant groups
- Baseline
- Identification of priorities,
- Attention to vulnerable groups/special focus areas
- Drafting the NHRAP including timetable for the drafting/Dissemination and Consultation
- Linkage with other National Planning Processes
- Legal Status of the Plan
- Implementation including time frame for implementation
- Monitoring and evaluation

Challenges

- Time Consuming and Labor intensive
- Overtly ambitious and unrealistic objectives
- Risk of ownership and commitment as well as continuity
- Lack of credibility (both participation and activities)
- Lack of financial allocations and human resources support
- NHRAP drafted considered as an end and losing priority in implementation
- Issues regarding Monitoring and Implementation
- Lack of understanding amongst the implementation partners including Government ministries both at state and national level



Content of NHRAP

- Contains both ESC and CPR
- Vulnerable population
- Ratification of human rights treaties and its timely reporting
- Reform of relevant national legislations
- Fight against discrimination and inequalities
- Empowerment of the rights holders and the victims
- Human rights education
- National Human Rights Institutions
- Independence and transparency of judiciary and accountability
- Security forces and its accountability



Role of CSOs

NHRAP is essentially a government driven and owned process but CSOs have an important role

- Participation and Consultation at all stages
- Baseline
- Part of the National Steering Committee
- Monitoring the implementation
- Independent evaluation
- Can help implementing some parts of NHRAP (e.g. human rights education, services to the victims and their families)

NHRAP-Stock Taking

What has been achieved so far ?

- Raised awareness of human rights including within the government machineries
- Establishment of the national human rights institutions
- Ratification of the international human rights instruments
- Integration of human rights into the development processes
- Enactment of legislations inline with international human rights standards
- Better participation of member states in



THANK YOU

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