

APF Action Plan on the Human Rights of Women and Girls: Promoting Gender Equality.

The APF reaffirms its:

Commitments made at APF 16 in 2011 to mainstream gender equality into APF objectives and work; and

Commitments towards the implementation of the Advisory Council of Jurists recommendations in relation to gender.

APF member institutions agree to:

1. continue advocacy for independent participation rights for A-status NHRIs at the UN Commission on the Status of Women and the General Assembly;
2. monitor the State Party's implementation of CEDAW and its Optional Protocol and engage in the periodic examinations, reporting processes and development of general recommendations under the treaty, as well as engage in the communication and inquiries process under the Optional Protocol, where appropriate;
3. engage with the UPR and monitor the State's implementation of the recommendations on women and girl's rights that have been accepted in the UPR;
4. mainstream women's and children's issues in engagement with all Treaty Bodies and Special Procedure Mandate Holders to promote the human rights of women and girls and follow up the State's implementation of recommendations relating to women and girl's human rights;
5. engage with regional intergovernmental bodies such as the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), the League of Arab States (LAS), Pacific Island Forum Secretariat (PIFS), the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) on issues relating to human rights of women and girls;
6. monitor the promotion and protection of the full range of women's human rights at the national level;

7. work closely with specialised commissions for women and children, where they exist, ensuring that their work on the promotion and protection of the rights of women and girls is complementary and mutually supportive;
8. work in cooperation with non-governmental organisations and other civil society organisations to promote and protect women's and girl's human rights;
9. give particular attention to the needs and problems of women who are human rights defenders or who suffer discrimination because of the human rights issues they raise;
10. encourage States to adopt and implement a national human rights action plan, which should mainstream and prioritise the rights of women and girls;
11. promote the implementation of international treaty commitments into domestic legislation, policy and practice;
12. monitor the promotion and protection of the full range of women's economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights at the national level using benchmarks such as the Millennium Development Goals and the UNDP's Gender Empowerment Index to assess the progress made by States;
13. strengthen APF member institutions' capacities (particularly to support them in undertaking points 4 to 6) by developing and implementing a blended learning training programme on the human rights of women and girls and the role of NHRIs;
14. provide good practice case studies on the promotion and protection of women and girl's human rights to the APF for a possible compilation;
15. strive for gender equality across all levels of governance, leadership and staff positions in NHRIs and ensuring that NHRI workplaces are free of sexual harassment, violence and bullying; and
16. report on these actions and developments at APF annual meetings starting from 2013.

Adopted at the 11th International Conference of the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions on the Promotion of Human Rights on the theme of Human Rights of Women and Girls: Promoting Gender Equality: The Role of National Human Rights Institutions held in, Amman, Jordan, 5th to 7th November 2012.