

**Workshop on Advocacy Mechanisms and Techniques
Used by Human Rights Defenders coupled with a
Round Table to Encourage a Constructive Debate,
an Effective and Inclusive Dialogue with
Government Authorities on Law No. 90-53 and 90-
95 of the 19th of December 1990 bearing on the
freedom of association and assembly**

Advocacy Training Facilitation Guide
Module 2

By

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Module 2:

Local and National Advocacy Intervention Mechanisms and Human Rights Defenders' Security Considerations

Objective:

Realize an environmentally friendly and more effective and secured human rights advocacy activism for participants and their organizations.

A. Participants prior advocacy intervention knowledge assessments

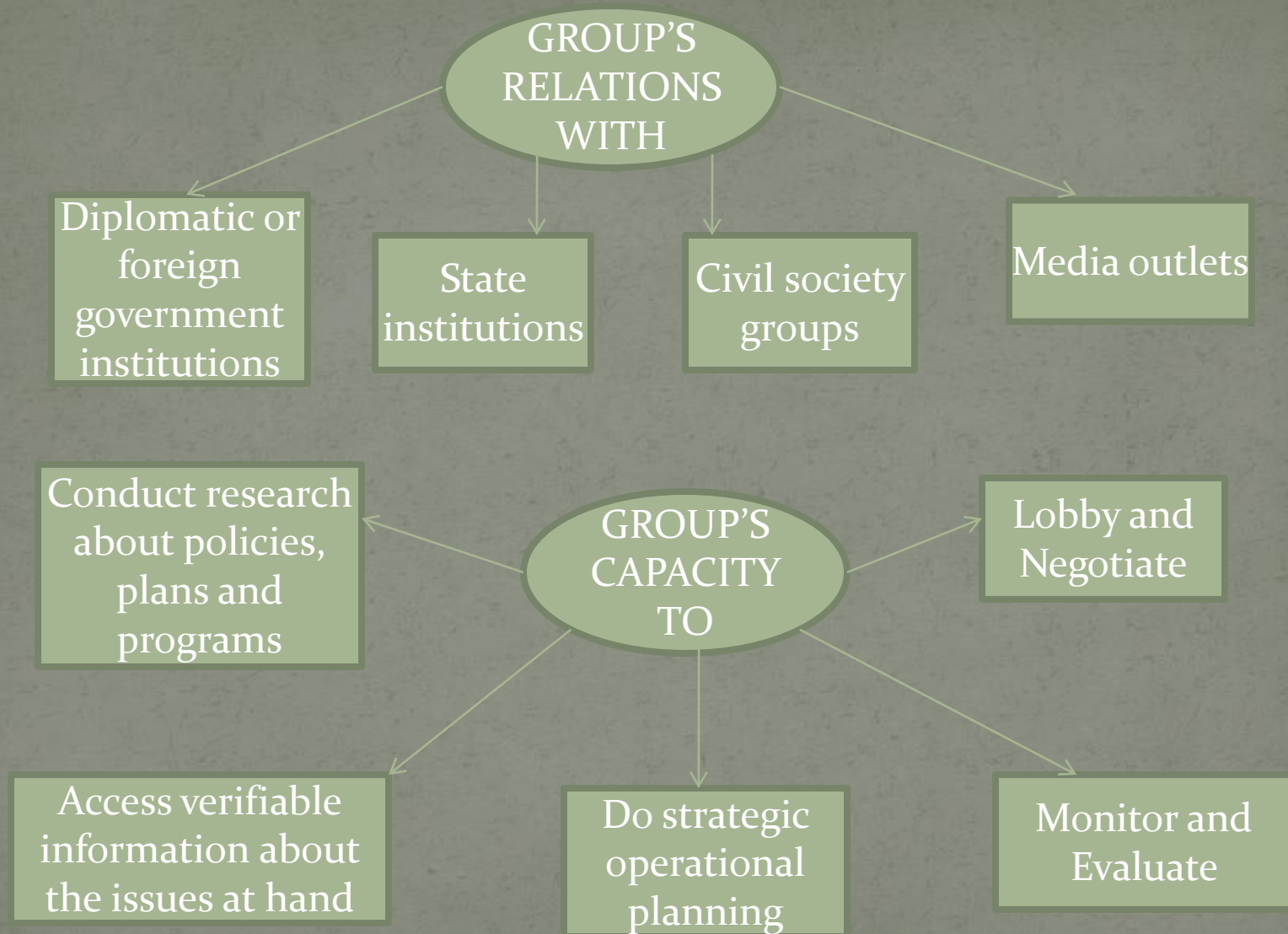
Interactive Discussion with participants with respect their modes of advocacy actions:

1. Explanative examples from participants
2. Identifying and noting key advocacy point in the actions
3. Summarizing participants' own conception of advocacy intervention

B. Exemplary Inclusive Advocacy Approaches From Local to National Level

- First intervention should seek remedy at divisional level authorities having the immediate jurisdictional competence to address the issues at-stake.
- Failure of first approach the regional level authorities should be seized with reasons why divisional intervention failed including proves.
- Failure at both divisional and regional level, national level authorities should be seized with proves from the lower levels.
- At national level, diplomatic missions can as well be seized with proves of reluctance in government responsibility to address the issues at stake.
- Networking our worries with other civil society human rights organizations may also be very useful depending on the trust worthiness and objectiveness of their activities.

Mapping Resource Routes For Advocacy Intervention



Some Important legal consideration texts:

1. Calling on government attention to its responsibilities with respect to its own laws: recalling the preamble and article 45 of Cameroon's constitution that make approved or ratified treaties and international agreements override national laws.
2. Inducing government responsibilities by citing article 22 of the 10th December 1948 Universal Declaration on Human Rights and other international commitments.
3. Penal implications on the responsibilities of public servants for failing to perform their duties through the combination of sections 74(2) and 89(1) of the Cameroon's penal code.

CMR Penal Code section 74 (2) states: Criminal responsibility shall lie on him who intentionally commits each of the ingredient acts or omissions of an offence with the intention of causing the results which completes it.

CMR Penal Code section 89 states: (1) Subject to any special penalties provided for felonies or misdemeanors committed by national, foreign or international public servants, national, foreign or international public officers or national, foreign or international officials, the fact of being a public servant established or otherwise shall aggravate the responsibility of any such person guilty of any other felony or misdemeanor against which it is his duty to guard or take action.

(2) In the case of aggravating circumstances the maximum penalty provided for shall be doubled.

C. *Human Rights Advocacy and Advocates' Security Considerations*

Participants say what they understand by human rights advocates security

Note:

- Human rights defenders' measures taken to enhance their personal and organizational security which includes freedom from risks or harm resulting from violence or other intentional acts while they engage and realize effective advocacy actions.
- It is always important to assess our vulnerabilities and capacities before taking any action (measuring involved risks). Situations are always different so we need to think SWOT (measuring our Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) and be SMART (with actions which are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Timely) at all times.

Important questions to ask before engaging in human rights advocacy actions:

1. What physical, moral and psychosocial capacities do we possess to engage and sustain an objectively identified human rights advocacy course?
2. How are the issues at stake reflected within local and national government laws and policies?
3. What verifiable proofs and evidences are there and can be presented in the courts of law?
4. How are the issues at stake related positively or negatively to the government's current socio-political and economic development agenda or schema and are there local and national authorities protecting such development priorities?
5. Are there other local and national and diplomatic bodies interested in protecting human rights issues that may concern our course of action?
6. Do we have knowledge of both national and international instruments that could be used in supporting our case?
7. What could be the interest of the Press and how can there be involved in our communication?

D. Advocacy Strategies and Advocates Safety

Acceptance Strategy:

Involves dialoguing with all community actors including local authorities such that our objectives could be accepted and supported by the concerned communities.

Protection Strategy:

Involves the enhancement of security procedures and protective elements as deemed fit to cover security crises issues in the course of our work.

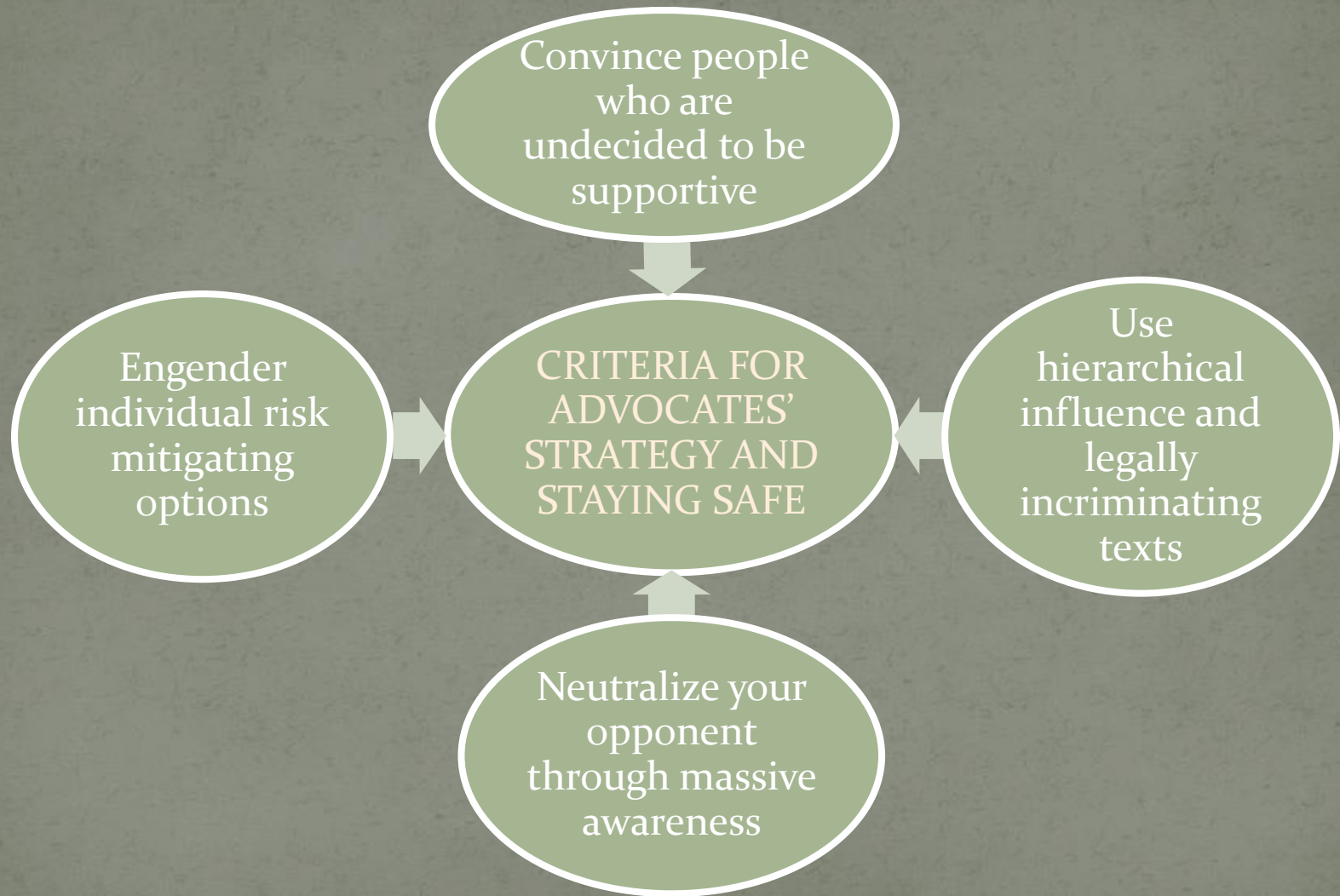
Deterrence Strategy:

Involves approaches which rely on counter threats for self-protection or top-bottom pressure moves towards the realization of our advocacy objective. HDs should master the penal code very well.

Communication Strategy:

Involves using powerful media outlets to generate awareness on the issues at stake and how your involvement may make you a security risk target towards particularly identified perpetrators.

Diagrammatic Representation: Advocacy Strategy for Security



E. Group Work

Participants tell their stories on their local or national level advocacy actions that have put them at risks especially with respect to rights and freedoms identified within the context of law no. 90/53 and 90/55 of 19th December 1990

Group 1:

Indicate how the exemplary local to national level advocacy approaches could have been used for more effective results

Group 2:

Indicate what strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) could have been used to get more effective advocacy results

Group 3:

Identify and indicate how the Acceptance, Protection, Deterrence and communication strategies should have been used to better ensure the safety of the human rights defender