

**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. 90-93 and 90-
95 of the 19th of December 1990 bearing on the
freedom of association and assembly**

Advocacy Training Facilitation Guide
Module 3

By

Dr. Kelly NGYAH
CEO of MAHSRA

Module 3:

International level advocacy consideration options (when national mechanisms fail to deliver the expected and objective results)

Objective:

Strengthen participants' awareness and mechanisms towards accessing international advocacy options for unattainable remedies within the national sphere with respect to the values enshrined on article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

A. Participants Understanding of International Advocacy Mechanisms

- ❖ Participants give examples of international advocacy channels
- ❖ Participants share their experiences on international level advocacy initiatives and outcomes
- ❖ Participants knowledge on international level advocacy assessed

B. Some Options for International Level Advocacy

- ✓ International level media and internet communications;
- ✓ Solicitation on the intervention of foreign influential government's diplomatic and legislative bodies;
- ✓ Solicitation for the intervention of international human rights and other powerful non-governmental organizations;
- ✓ Using the voice of Diaspora networks pressure;
- ✓ Through oral and written statements and reports made to dedicated UN bodies;
- ✓ And through official complains made to the Special Procedure of the Human Rights Council;

Open discussions through participants contributions are noted on how to use the following options towards impact making advocacy processes:

1. The use of social media
2. Foreign diplomatic bodies
3. International NGOs and Diaspora networks
4. UN and AU Mechanisms

C. Using UN Mechanisms to call the government to order with respect to issues related to law no. 90-93 and 90-95 of December 19th 1990 bearing on the freedom of associations

The **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights** under its **First Optional Protocol**:

Article 21.

The right of peaceful assembly shall be recognized. No restrictions may be placed on the exercise of this right other than those imposed in conformity with the law and which are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public safety, public order (ordre public), the protection of public health or morals or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

International Human Rights Recourse and Protection

Special Procedure

The Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council, independent human rights experts, can be informed of:

- Allegations of violation of the human rights of one or more individuals;
- Allegations of violation of the human rights of a group or a community;
- A bill, a law, a decree, a policy and/or a practice which is not in compliance with international human rights law and standards.

At: <https://spsubmission.ohchr.org>

D. Redressing acts of Intimidation and Reprisal for Cooperation with the UN Human Rights Special Procedures

*Operating under the principle of “**Do no Harm**”:*

- It concerns those who seek or have cooperated with UN human rights mechanisms through testimonies, submitted communications, provided legal or other assistance or are relatives to the former.

Methods of intervention includes confidential and public actions such as:

- Meetings with government officials and sending communications to States and other stakeholders;
- Raising the case with UN reps in the field as well as the head quarters including the Secretary General, the High Commissioner and the President of the Human Rights council;
- Raising the case in public statements, press releases, reports to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly ;

Note: *Actions are addressed on case by case basis and with consent of the victim*

E. Group Work

- Recapitulation of all lessons learnt by participants.
- Testimonial of participants projected advocacy activism aspirations.
- Cross-examination of participants' knowledge attained in reflection to the expected workshop outcomes.
- Preparation on advocacy approach for round table.
(get copies of authorization letters for public manifestation)