



THE DANISH  
INSTITUTE FOR  
HUMAN RIGHTS

## Concept Note for a Virtual Side Event at the margins of the Eighth Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, March 1, 2022

### Sub Theme: Building Back Better-Quality Education Systems anchored on normative standards while leveraging on Human Rights Education as an accelerator for progress in the realization of the 2030 agenda”.

The side event will focus on Goal 4, Quality Education, with a particular emphasis on exploring the importance of SDG target 4.7 and Human Rights Education as an accelerator for progress in realization of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. Human rights education has a transformative potential and contributes tremendously to building inclusive and resilient societies. It empowers citizens, especially the marginalized and vulnerable groups who are at risk of being left behind, to take an active role and participate in governance, planning and decision-making processes, and as such it accelerates progress on the overall achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

The side event will discuss the importance of incorporating a strong focus on human rights education in Covid-19 recovery strategies in the region, showcase an innovative tool for data collection on progress in achieving SDG 4.7 based on indicators reflecting international human rights standards<sup>1</sup> – and contribute to tracking progress on SDG 4.7 in the region. The event also comprises presentations from two National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) who have taken strategic action to achieve tangible advances in relation to incorporating human rights education in national policy frameworks. Finally, the event seeks to establish dialogue with the African Union on the scope for further advancing SDG 4.7 achievements in the region through the Continental Strategy for Education in line with guidance from the World Programme for Human Rights Education.

This side event is directly linked to the central theme of the Forum, *“Building forward better: a green, inclusive and resilient Africa poised to achieve the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063”*. It also addresses one of the cross-cutting sessions of the Forum, Goal 4, Quality Education. The side event aims to serve as a platform to have a concrete discussion around how sustainable recovery vis-à-vis quality education can be achieved, building on human rights normative frameworks and recommendations from UN human rights mechanisms, to inform action towards accelerated delivery on the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

### Objectives and Outcomes

The side event will serve as a platform to share good practices and experiences which will contribute to a revitalized commitment on SDG 4.7 on human rights education as a key element of achieving quality education for all across the African region, and as an accelerator for building inclusive and resilient societies. It is also envisaged that, outcomes from the deliberations will generate evidence to inform further engagement by OHCHR, NANHRI and DIHRs with the African Union to follow-up on the implementation of recommendations on human rights education from the Regional Forum, as well as advocating for a stronger commitment by the AU and its Member States to prioritize investments in implementation of commitments under the World Programme for Human Rights Education and recommendations from UN human rights mechanisms related to human rights education.

**Format of the side event:** The side event will take the form of an interactive learning and experience-sharing session where participants will be able to gain knowledge and be introduced to key tools around the theme. It will focus on technical expertise and exchange as opposed to abstract presentations.

Speakers will include representatives from member states; national, regional and international human rights institutions, and civil society organizations.

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<sup>1</sup> SDG 4.7 / Human Rights Education Monitoring Tool, available at <https://sdg47-hre.humanrights.dk/en>

## **Annex: Flow of the event**

- **Welcoming remarks** by Mr. Joseph Whittal, Chief Commissioner, Commission of Human Rights and Administrative Justice, Ghana (NANHRI Vice Chairperson & Chairperson of NANHRI Working Group on Sustainable Development)-5 minutes (TBC)
- **Opening remarks** – The Role of Human Rights Education in Sustainable Recovery and the implementation of the Harare Declaration and Action Plan-10 minutes (NANHRI)
- **Panel 1 Human rights education as an accelerator for sustainable recovery – are we doing enough?**
  - Overview of normative frameworks for advancing human rights education in the context of the progressive realisation of the right to education and commitments under the World Programme for Human Rights Education for implementation of HRE. (OHCHR) 10 minutes
  - African Union Strategy on Education and country-level cooperation with governments in relation to human rights education (Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology of the African Union Commission) -10 minutes (TBC)
  - Plenary-10 minutes
- **Panel 2 Indicator-based monitoring and strategic promotion of human rights education by NHRIs**
  - DIHR's SDG 4.7 / Human Rights Education Monitoring Tool -10 minutes
  - Including human rights education in the National Action Plan on Human Rights, and in the VNR (The National Human Rights Commission, Nigeria)-10 minutes
  - Mainstreaming of human rights education in the formal education curriculum (The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission - 10 minutes
  - Plenary/Q &A-10 minutes
- **Closing remarks** by DIHR /OHCHR-5 minutes