

REGIONAL ISSUES - CO-OPERATION BETWEEN NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND NON GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS

BACKGROUND

The Forum took the initiative at its Third Annual Meeting to support and promote more constructive partnerships with NGOs (national, regional and international) and national institutions in the area of human rights activities within the Asia Pacific. The Forum decided to develop a project that involved holding a Workshop on the theme of *National Institutions and Non-Governmental Organisations: Working in Partnership*.

The Workshop was organised by the Secretariat, in collaboration with the host institution, the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, and the Asia Pacific Human Rights NGO Facilitating Team (NGO FT) representing the NGOs of the region. It was cosponsored by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and financially supported by OHCHR, the New Zealand Government, through its Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), and the Australian Government, through its Agency for International Development (AusAID) as part of its continuing program of support for the Forum Secretariat.

The Workshop was held on 26 – 28 July 1999 in Kandy, Sri Lanka. A total of 75 persons participated.

The workshop produced a comprehensive statement of conclusions. These are attached. Further details on this activity can also be found in the attached report of the workshop.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Forum members at the 4th Annual Meeting of the Forum:

- Note the contents of the report of the workshop
- Note the agreed cooperative activities contained in the Program of Action
- As per point 9.2 in the Program of Action, request the Forum Secretariat to collaborate with national institutions and NGOs of the region in the mobilisation of funds through programs of technical cooperation aimed at giving effect to activities proposed in the Program of Action
- As per point 9.3 of the Program of Action, request that national institutions and NGOs provide brief annual reports to the Forum on measures taken to give effect to the Program of Action.

Attachments:

1. The Kandy Program of Action: Cooperation between National Institutions and NGOs
2. Report of the Regional Workshop.