



**wfuna**

World Federation of United Nations Associations

# CIVIL SOCIETY IN ACTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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EMPOWERING UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATIONS  
TO ADVANCE HUMAN RIGHTS WORLDWIDE  
FIRST SESSION

28 JANUARY – 1 FEBRUARY 2013  
PALAIS DES NATIONS, GENEVA

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**WFUNA**  
1 United Nations Plaza  
Room 1177  
New York NY 10017  
USA

**FMANU**  
Palais des Nations  
Room E4-2A  
1211 Geneva 10  
Switzerland

With the *Civil Society in Action for Human Rights* program, WFUNA aims to strengthen the capacity of United Nations Associations to uphold human rights worldwide.

### **GOAL AND OBJECTIVES**

The goal of the program is to strengthen the effectiveness of United Nations Associations to design and implement effective human rights advocacy strategies both nationally and internationally.

Through the program, participants will learn how to:

- Provide more effective contributions to existing UN human rights mechanisms about the human rights situation in their countries and lobby with permanent Missions to the UN for the advancement of their issues;
- Implement advocacy activities and increase their cooperation with other national civil society organizations.

### **THE PROGRAM**

The program is scheduled to take place over a three-year period between 2013 and 2016 and consists of two components: capacity-building sessions and advocacy activities.

#### **Component I: Capacity-building sessions**

Two capacity-building sessions a year will be carried out over a three-year period with representatives from key leadership members and staff of UNAs. The purpose of the training program is to empower participants to effectively use international human rights mechanisms and implement advocacy activities to advance national human rights issues.

More specifically, capacity-building sessions are intended to increase the UNAs' capacity to:

- Monitor the implementation of national human rights commitments
- Prepare parallel reports to submit to human rights treaty bodies
- Engage in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)
- Play a leadership role in national civil society consultations
- Raise awareness on human rights concerns at the national level
- Understand, promote, and provide input to governments on developing international human rights standards
- Use social media and video in promoting human rights
- Use secure digital communication tools
- Raise funds to implement human rights advocacy activities and expand their human rights programs

Experts from OHCHR, NGOs and the human rights diplomatic community with extensive experience in human rights advocacy and the UN human rights system will train the UNAs. All developed materials will be made available to participants on a resourceful and up to date section of the WFUNA website.

### *Methodology*

The training methodology is based on a participatory approach to learning and underlines the interrelatedness of the two program components. This approach implies that much of the content comes from the participants and the training and program activities serve as a framework. WFUNA will use a combination of training methodologies, including, but not limited to:

- Presentations by human rights experts, focusing on efficient content delivery and interactive dialogue with participants. Handouts, workbooks, mind maps and other materials are provided to participants.
- Simulation exercises and case studies, enhancing the participants' creative participation and leadership on a specific topic. This methodology encourages intensive and in-depth analysis, collection and presentation of results.
- E-learning and education technologies, using digital media and Internet technologies such as webinars, online platforms and blogs. This allows WFUNA to reach out to geographically dispersed participants while they are not in Geneva.

### *Timeline*

Sessions last five full days and are organized during the sessions of the Human Rights Council, or the Universal Periodic Review in Geneva, Switzerland.

Schedule:

**Session 1:** 28 January – 1 February 2013; **Session 2:** 16 – 21 September 2013

**Session 3:** March 2104; **Session 4:** September 2014;

**Session 5:** March 2015; **Session 6:** September 2015

### **Component II: Advocacy activities**

After each capacity-building session, participating UNAs will implement specific activities that include:

- Draft parallel reports to submit to human rights treaty bodies;
- Draft contributions to the reports for the UPR;
- Organize/participate in national consultations for the UPR
- Submit information to, and organize meetings with, the Special Procedures;
- Raising awareness on specific human rights issues at the national level
- Draft oral and written statements on a specific human rights issue to be delivered at the Human Rights Council;
- Draft letters to relevant government ministries to discuss human rights issues.
- Organize side events during sessions of the Human Rights Council

### **Guidance, monitoring and evaluation**

WFUNA organizes all capacity-building sessions for UNAs in Geneva. It further guarantees support to UNAs in human rights advocacy activities implemented as a follow-up to the sessions:

- Assist in targeting decision-makers and provide information and alerts on decision-making procedures;
- Assist in networking with diplomats, OHCHR staff and other key NGOs;
- Offer strategic planning advice to UNAs on how to best advocate for human rights issues at the international level;
- Develop WFUNA's capacity to inform UNAs about human rights developments, provide resources, updated information on how to cooperate with the UN human rights mechanisms, a members only database to exchange materials, and dedicated web-based tools;
- Assist with the follow up of outcomes developed as a result of advocacy efforts;
- Facilitate the internal evaluation and follow up process of the program.

### **COSTS**

#### **Participation fee**

250 USD / person / session (OECD countries) – max. 2 delegates per UNA

150 USD / person / session (non-OECD countries) – max. 2 delegates per UNA

#### **Accommodation**

WFUNA can pre-book accommodation for participants at the John Knox Center:

- <http://www.johnknox.ch/English/index.html>

Single Room with shower: 107 CHF / night (includes Geneva transport card)

Double Room with shower: 130 CHF / night (includes Geneva transport card)

Spaces are limited. Deadline for pre-reservations is **15 November 2012**

#### **Other options:**

Geneva has a high number of hotels of all ranges. Since the city is host to many events throughout the year, it is highly recommended that hotel reservations are made well in advance:

- <http://www.geneve-tourisme.ch/>
- <http://www.booking.com>