



# **NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ACTION PLAN TO INCORPORATE SDGs, HUMAN RIGHTS AND PROTECTION OF GROUP RIGHTS (WOMEN, PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES)**

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) is the National Human Rights Institution established by the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice Act, 1993 (Act 456) in accordance with the 1992 Constitution of Ghana.

## **2.0 PREPARATION OF NATIONAL REPORT BY GHANA**

CHRAJ confirms that during the fourth cycle reporting, the Government organised national stakeholder consultations in preparation of the National Report and CHRAJ actively participated.

## **3.0 OUTLINE OF STATEMENT**

**Thematic:** National Human Rights Action Plan to incorporate SDGs, Human Rights and Protection of Group Rights (Women, Persons with Disabilities)

## **4.0 ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED**

### **4.1 National Human Rights Action Plan**

The development of NHRAP is in accordance with Part II Paragraph 71 of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action which enjoins States and Non- State Actors to collectively draw a practical, systematic, and comprehensive plan to improve the realisation of human rights of all persons. Consequently, the Government, in 2012 informed the UPR working group that it was working with CHRAJ and other stakeholders to develop a NHRAP.

In 2017, CHRAJ conducted a National Baseline Assessment on Human Rights<sup>1</sup> as a precursor to the development of the NHRAP. During the UPR third cycle in 2017, Indonesia, Sudan, Pakistan, South Africa and Ukraine recommended that Ghana strengthens CHRAJ to further develop a NHRAP to incorporate the SDGs.

#### **4.1.1 Update on recommendations**

Since the last review, the recommendations relating to the development of the NHRAP have not been implemented.

### **4.2 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

The SDGs are anchored on international human rights principles and standards and therefore, a NHRAP must encompass the targets and reflect its overarching goal of leaving no one behind. Thus, Indonesia, South Africa and Pakistan called for the incorporation and implementation of the SDGs into the NHRAP and other national human rights policies.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://chraj.gov.gh/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/2017-Final-REPORT-OF-GHANA-HUMAN-RIGHTS-BASELINE-SURVEY.pdf>

### 4.2.1 Update on recommendations

The above recommendations have been partially implemented.

However, Ghana has aligned its national budgets to the SDGs. Also, it has actively reported twice on the implementation of the SDGs in 2019<sup>2</sup> and 2022<sup>3</sup>. In accordance with goal 4.7, CHRAJ and stakeholders in the education sector, developed a human rights education content and a National Action Plan to mainstream human rights into the school curriculum.

### 4.3 Women

**4.3.1 Gender Equality:** Namibia, Estonia, South Africa, Denmark, and Australia recommended the enactment of Affirmative Action Bill, Property Rights of Spouses Bill, and the Intestate Succession Bill to among others promote and increase the visibility of women in public life. The 40% projection of women participation in public life was not achieved according to the 2022 Voluntary National Review report.

**4.3.2 Gender-Based Violence and Discrimination:** Austria, Djibouti, France, Italy, and Argentina recommended that Ghana deepens efforts to prevent and sanction harmful and dehumanizing traditional practices such as accusation of elderly women as witches.

#### 4.3.3 Update on Recommendations

A Baseline Study Report on Access to Justice and Gender-Based Violence Against Elderly Women Alleged as Witches in Ghana has been conducted<sup>4</sup> to gain an insight into the phenomenon.

### 4.4 Persons with Disabilities (PWDs)

Israel recommended that Ghana develops programmes to improve the situation of PWDs including Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty. Turkey and Palestine recommended for the review of the Persons with Disability Act, 2006 (Act 715) to be consistent with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

#### 4.4.1 Update on Recommendations

The Persons with Disabilities (Amendment) Act is still in draft at the Office of the Attorney General's Department and Ministry of Justice.

The Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty programme and disability's share of the District Assembly Common fund are still functional.

## 5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 Government must prioritize the development of the NHRAP using a Human Rights-Based Approach for building a resilient and sustainable development within the next reporting cycle.
- 5.2 Government must continue to strengthen the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice to coordinate, develop, implement, and monitor the NHRAP.
- 5.3 Government particularly Parliament must take steps to pass the aforementioned Bills before the house to ensure improved human rights protection for marginalized groups within the next cycle.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://ghana.un.org/en/download/3416/19155>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/TCND/ARFSD2022/Presentations/VNRVLR/Ghana%E2%80%99s%202022%20Voluntary%20National%20Review%20Process%20The%20Lessons%20-%20Richard%20Osei%20Bofah.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> [https://ndpc.gov.gh/media/VNR\\_2022\\_Report\\_c5cXm4Q.pdf](https://ndpc.gov.gh/media/VNR_2022_Report_c5cXm4Q.pdf)