

# **AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition**

## **Plan of Action: 2015-2017**

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## Executive Summary

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*“The response of our membership to the Coalition’s ideals has been **beyond our expectations.**”*

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The AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition is a network of scientific associations, professional societies, academies, and other formal networks of scientists, engineers, and health professionals (for the purposes of the Foundational Documents ‘science’ and ‘engineering’ are used interchangeably throughout the document and intended to be inclusive of science, engineering and the health professions). The Coalition is devoted to facilitating communication and partnerships on human rights within and across scientific, engineering, and health communities, and between these and human rights communities. The Coalition has created this Plan of Action to advance its mission and goals throughout 2015-2017.

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### Goals

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The primary goals for the Coalition over the next three years are to:

1. **Advance the right to science:** Support the development of international human rights norms by using scientific approaches, particularly where those human rights standards have a special relevance to the scientific, engineering, or health community, such as the right to benefit from scientific progress;
2. **Increase member engagement:** Create new and improved pathways for member engagement in the Coalition;
3. **Ensure Coalition visibility and sustainability:** Ensure the Coalition’s sustainability by increasing visibility of the Coalition’s activities and impact, and creating ways for philanthropists to get directly involved; and
4. **Expand Coalition membership:** Diversify and expand Coalition membership, including engaging students and a broader range of disciplines.

To carry out these goals and the overall mission of the Coalition, the Coalition relies on its five working groups: welfare of scientists; ethics and human rights; service to the STEM community; service to the human rights community; and education and information resources. In addition, the Coalition has created an Outreach and Communications Committee.

The working groups and committee are guided in their activities by the Coalition Council and Steering Committee, with ongoing support from the Coalition Secretariat – the AAAS Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program.

## Projects – New Initiatives

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In support of the goals for 2015-2017 and the overall mission, the Coalition will solidify and institutionalize efforts undertaken in accordance with previous Plans of Action, while also expanding to take advantage of and create new opportunities.

### *Goal #1: Advance the right to science*

The Coalition will:

- Bring the voice of the international STEM community to the human rights dialogue on the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications (Service to the STEM Community)
- Contribute to international discussions on scientific freedom as a human right (Welfare of Scientists)
- Develop a webinar on the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress for a STEM higher education audience (Education and Information Resources)

### *Goal #2: Increase member engagement*

The Coalition will:

- Create a mentorship program to support the representatives of new member and affiliated organizations (Outreach and Communications Committee)
- Develop an electronic bulletin board to help STEM professionals find ways to integrate human rights considerations into their careers (Service to the STEM Community)
- Raise awareness among members of their respective social responsibilities in upholding the rights of persons with mental disability (Ethics and Human Rights).

### *Goal #3: Ensure Coalition visibility and sustainability*

The Coalition will:

- Pilot a small grants program aimed at demonstrating measurable impact in bringing science and technology to the world in a way that promotes human rights (Council)
- Explore emerging intersections between and implications of big data, ethics, and the field of human rights (Ethics and Human Rights).

### *Goal #4: Expand Coalition membership*

The Coalition will:

- Organize and provide workshops at universities on science and technology concerns relevant to students interested in working in human rights (Service to the Human Rights Community)
- Implement an outreach strategy aimed at diversifying Coalition membership, with focus on engineering, life and physical sciences, and computer sciences (Outreach and Communications Committee).

## Projects - Summary

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The priorities for 2015-2017 are in service of the Coalition’s mission. The working group and committee projects summarized in the chart below include ongoing projects that are principally mission-based and new initiatives designed specifically in pursuit of the goals for the next three years.

2015-2017 Goals	Welfare of Scientists	Ethics and Human Rights	Service to the STEM Community	Service to the Human Rights Community	Education and Information Resources	Outreach and Communications Committee
Advance the Right to Science	Scientific freedom and Article 15		Internationalize Article 15 focus group process	Indicators for Article 15	Webinar for STEM educators	
Increase Member Engagement	Increase member capacity to take actions for the welfare of scientists	Evaluate ethical codes of professional societies  Mental Health and Human Rights	Webinar series  Integrating Human Rights into STEM Careers  Communication workshop and follow-up		Teaching modules	Orient new members and connect them with mentors
Ensure Coalition Visibility and Sustainability		Big Data and Human Rights		Outreach to human rights organizations  Case studies  Workshops		
Expand Coalition Membership			Starter Kit		Bibliography  List of syllabi	Student essay and poster competitions  Increase the Coalition’s disciplinary diversity and involve STEM students

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*“A much needed work is being carried out by the Coalition. It is enormously satisfying to me personally to share this time with like-minded people engaged in the defense of human rights of all of us.”*

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## 1. Introduction to the Coalition and its Mission

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The AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition is a network of scientific associations, professional societies, academies, and other formal networks of scientists, engineers, and health professionals (for the purposes of the Plan of Action ‘science’ and ‘engineering’ are used interchangeably throughout the document and intended to be inclusive of science, engineering and the health professions). The Coalition is devoted to facilitating communication and partnerships on human rights within and across scientific, engineering, and health communities, and between these and human rights communities. The Coalition strives to improve human rights practitioners’ access to scientific and technological information and knowledge and to engage scientists, engineers, and health professionals in human rights issues. The Coalition focuses particularly on those issues that involve science and technology, and the conduct of science. The Coalition’s work is grounded in the principles and laws set forth in the International Bill of Human Rights and all other relevant international human rights treaties and norms.

The use of scientific methods and the innovative application of technology have contributed substantively to the promotion and protection of human rights. The needs of the human rights community, however, are immense. Both in terms of expertise and influence, scientists, engineers, and health professionals have much to contribute to efforts to promote and protect human rights. Indeed, some individuals and professional associations have already made important contributions. However, much more can be achieved when the science, engineering, and health communities embrace human rights as an area suitable for and deserving of robust inquiry, and become an influential voice in the defense of human rights. Thus, the Coalition was launched in January 2009 to broaden the engagement of scientific and engineering communities in human rights and to achieve far-reaching and sustainable contributions to human rights work.

Representing often large professional constituencies, science and engineering associations are influential and well respected within their own communities and beyond. Furthermore, they often play a significant role in the self-regulation of specific professional disciplines, and have access to diverse networks in academia, industry, and government. Consequently, they constitute important partners in efforts to promote and protect human rights. To date, 25 scientific and engineering associations have joined the Coalition as members or affiliated associations, including some of the world’s largest associations of anthropologists, chemists, geographers, mathematicians, physicists, psychologists, social scientists, and statisticians. Although individuals are encouraged to work through their associations, they may join the Coalition as affiliated individuals, and 80 have done so thus far.

By facilitating communication and partnerships on human rights within and across the scientific, engineering, and health communities, and between these and human rights communities, the Coalition seeks to: mobilize scientific, engineering, and health associations and their members to protect and promote human rights; identify and implement new applications of science and technology to human rights work; apply human rights standards to the conduct of science and development of technology; and advance the human right to enjoy the benefits of scientific

progress and its applications throughout the scientific, engineering, health, and human rights communities.

To fulfill this mission, the Coalition aims to solidify and strengthen its identity as:

- A multi-disciplinary network of scientific, engineering, and health membership associations that have mainstreamed, or are working toward mainstreaming, human rights in their policy, training, research and other activities;
- A hub of information, including research and scholarship, on the intersections among science, engineering, health, and human rights, and on the integration of human rights into science, technology, engineering, and health education;
- A catalyst for building leadership, knowledge, skills, and capacity that influence developments at the intersections of science, engineering, health, and human rights, among individuals, human rights groups, and scientific, engineering, and health associations;
- A driving force that makes a difference in protecting human rights, broadening the view of what the scientific, engineering, and health communities can do to advance human rights to include addressing global challenges such as food security, global health, climate change, and disaster mitigation, as human rights issues; and
- An influential voice in international and national policy discussions at the intersections of science, engineering, health, and human rights, particularly in support of the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications ([Article 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights](#)).

To achieve this vision of the Coalition, it must:

- Expand human rights organizations' and the scientific, engineering, and health communities' appreciation of and commitment to collaboration in human rights;
- Enhance the scientific, engineering, and health communities' capacity to incorporate the concerns and methods of human rights and vice versa;
- Encourage scientific, engineering, and health membership associations to explore discipline-specific contributions to human rights work;
- Support the establishment and growth of human rights programming within scientific, engineering, and health membership associations; and
- Participate in public policy and civil society initiatives that advance the role of science and technology in human rights.

To carry out its mission, the Coalition relies on its five working groups:

- **Welfare of Scientists:** Expands participation and effectiveness of associations in defending the human rights of scientists, engineers, and health professionals; increases awareness and implementation of human rights frameworks that protect scientists, engineers, and health professionals; and helps associations better respond to individual cases of human rights violations.

- **Ethics and Human Rights:** Raises the visibility of human rights principles as part of the practice of science and its applications, linking human rights principles with the ethics codes that guide the scientific, engineering, and health communities.
- **Service to the STEM Community:** Develops human rights-related activities and services for the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) community to build the commitment and capacity of professional associations to engage meaningfully in human rights by leveraging the experience of their members.
- **Service to the Human Rights Community:** Strengthens communication between the scientific, engineering, and health communities and human rights organizations to identify human rights efforts that could benefit from scientific approaches, tools, and technologies. Assist in making these accessible to human rights practitioners.
- **Education and Information Resources:** Identifies, compiles, and develops resources and creates opportunities for exchange; to establish a stronger foundation for productive, collaborative human rights efforts; and to contribute to the professional development of science, engineering, and health teachers and human rights educators.

The Coalition has also created an Outreach and Communications Committee to expand the Coalition's impact, to enhance the contribution of the scientific, engineering, and health communities to human rights efforts.

The Coalition has created this Plan of Action to advance its mission and goals throughout 2015-2017. The Plan of Action builds on the Coalition's accomplishments since its launch in 2009 and extends many activities adopted in the previous Plans of Action. This plan also proposes some new directions for the Coalition's work, based on the evaluation conducted in 2014.

This plan is a dynamic document, with room for change and creativity as new opportunities or challenges arise, and as suggested by periodic evaluations of progress.

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## 2. 2015-2017 Goals

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This plan guides the Coalition as it solidifies the achievements of its first six years, diversifies and increases its influence, and demonstrates its impact. Some of the actions to be undertaken by the Coalition in 2015-2017 will have immediate human rights impacts. Many of the planned activities take a longer view and aim to build the foundations for long-term institutional integration of human rights goals. This plan positions the scientific, engineering, and health communities at the forefront of being able to address future human rights challenges.

To solidify and advance the Coalition's capacity to accomplish its ambitious mission, over the next three years the Coalition will pursue the following four goals:

- Support the development of international human rights norms by using scientific approaches, particularly where those human rights standards have a special relevance to the scientific, engineering, or health community, such as the right to benefit from scientific progress;
- Create new and improved pathways for member engagement in the Coalition;
- Ensure the Coalition's sustainability by increasing visibility of the Coalition's activities and impact, and creating ways for philanthropists to get directly involved; and
- Diversify and expand Coalition membership, including engaging students and a broader range of disciplines.

These priorities for 2015-2017 are in service of the Coalition's mission. The working group and committee projects described in the next section include ongoing projects that are principally mission-based and new initiatives designed specifically in pursuit of the goals for the next three years. To clarify lines of responsibility and accountability, the activities are organized according to the group that will carry the activities forward. A summary chart in the Executive Summary (page 3) illustrates the direct relation of the projects to the 2015-2017 goals.

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### **3. Objectives and Activities**

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#### **3. A. Joint Initiative: Right to Enjoy the Benefits of Scientific Progress and Its Applications (Article 15)**

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Through empirical research and engaging Coalition members across disciplines, the Coalition has made substantive contributions to the ongoing United Nations (UN) process of defining the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications. As a result, the Coalition has secured a place for the STEM community in the UN process and ensured that the perspectives of United States-based scientists, engineers, and health professionals inform that process. Within the next three years, we anticipate that the UN will continue to explore the meaning and application of the right, leading to the adoption of a definitive articulation of the meaning of the right (General Comment).

The Joint Initiative objectives are to:

- Place the Coalition in a position to shape the content of the General Comment;
- Engage natural allies in strengthening the voice of the STEM community in the UN process. Do this in particular, by reaching out to other STEM associations abroad, and to international scientific organizations such as ICSU; and
- Launch a pilot initiative aimed at demonstrating, in practice, the significance of the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and supporting small-scale efforts to address current needs.

In pursuit of these objectives, the Coalition will undertake the following activities:

#### **Project #1: Bringing the Voice of the STEM Community to the International Human Rights Dialogue on the Right to Enjoy the Benefits of Scientific Progress and Its Applications**

##### **Activities: 2015**

- Develop and begin implementation of an outreach strategy for awareness raising and engagement of international sister associations, including the provision of webinars about Article 15 and opportunities for input and action at the domestic, regional, and international levels.
- Request an invitation to address the AAAS Affiliates on Article 15 at the 2016 AAAS Annual Meeting. The goal is to increase interest among associations of scientists, engineers, and health professionals, and to facilitate connections with their international counterparts.
- Prepare a strategy for engagement of Coalition members in the development of discipline-specific Article 15-related resources that will serve as case studies to complement the empirical studies the Coalition is carrying out.

## 2016

- Assess the needs and begin development of tools and resources to support international sister associations in engaging in Article 15-related activities.
- Plan and hold a meeting of relevant non-governmental human rights organizations to raise awareness of the Coalition's activities and identify areas of common interest.
- Plan and hold an event on Article 15 to coincide with the General Assembly in New York, specifically aimed at engaging Special Rapporteurs and other independent UN experts for whom Article 15 is relevant to their activities.

## 2017

- Assess the effectiveness of the international outreach strategy and determine next steps.
- Develop a long-term strategy for engagement of regional and international human rights mechanisms on Article 15, drawing together Coalition members and international counterparts.

*Note that the activities set out above complement the Joint Initiative activities planned and carried out by each of the Coalition's five working groups. To coordinate activities, the Secretariat will organize quarterly conference calls with the Joint Initiative project leaders in each working group. Furthermore, the specific activities pursued will depend largely on the progress made by the UN Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights in developing the General Comment. As a result, activities during the latter part of this Plan of Action calendar will remain flexible.*

### **Project #2: Demonstration Program - Bringing Science and Technology to the World**

The Coalition is unique. It has the potential to give a collective voice to associations of science, engineering, and health professionals on human rights issues across disciplines, to be a force for moving the practice and outputs of science and technology forward, and to make a difference in how and whether human rights are respected locally and around the world. With the Coalition's foundations well established, it is now imperative to build a compelling narrative clearly linking the Coalition's mission and activities to demonstrated and measurable impact. Such a narrative will highlight the unique approach adopted by the Coalition in bringing human rights to the practice and conduct of science and the application of technology. Developing this narrative offers the opportunity to assess how adopting a human rights-based approach to science and technology leads to different outcomes than when such an approach is not taken.

Demonstrated and measurable impact can occur on both small and large scales. The long-term vision of the Coalition is to pursue a large-scale effort of bringing science and technology to communities, both domestic and overseas. The vision is to do so in a way that underscores the unique value of a human rights-based approach and, in itself, directly increases the enjoyment of human rights. Such an initiative may involve the Coalition members in a multiplicity of ways: in its design, promotion, implementation, and evaluation.

As a first step toward this vision, the Coalition plans to design and pilot a small grants program. If the grants program is determined to be successful, it will become part of the ongoing activities of the Coalition. Success of the program may lead to a larger scale effort. The pilot will allow the Coalition to identify areas of need, to test ways of promoting the program, test messaging, to determine the scalability of the program, and to develop example stories of positive impact. The right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications provides a useful framework through which to achieve these ends.

The pilot program will have the following overarching objectives:

- Raise awareness of the existence and importance of the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications;
- Facilitate creative approaches to the implementation of the right;
- Encourage adoption of a human rights-based approach to research and development; and
- Demonstrate the value and impact of applying science and technology to human rights.

### **Scope**

The program will be a competition for scientists, engineers, and health professionals. Between three and five awards will be made to multidisciplinary teams spanning the sciences and engineering. Teams must be able to demonstrate the following:

- A comprehensive plan for the development of an innovation or intervention (e.g., mobile application) or applied research that addresses a clearly identified barrier to the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications and leads to a measurable impact in the improvement of access to the benefits of scientific progress and its applications;
- Adoption of a human rights-based approach in the design, implementation, and evaluation of the project; and
- Involvement, as grantee, of at least one member association of the Coalition.

The program will define three to five topical challenges, including one specifically focused on addressing human rights issues in the United States. Funding permitting, competition marketing materials will be created in English, Spanish and French. Submissions will be required to be made in English.

The winning submissions will receive between \$15,000 and \$50,000 in prize money (depending on monies raised). Competition winners will have 12 months to develop and test a prototype of their innovation or proof of concept for their research.

### **Development**

Launching this exceptionally ambitious initiative will require (a) *significant funding* that supports the expanding activities of the Coalition, including funding from individual philanthropists; (b) *sustained funding* that allows for long-term planning; and (c) *diversified funding* sources to support flexibility in activities.

**Activities: 2015**

- Hold a stakeholder meeting to define topical challenges based on areas of identified human rights need at both a domestic and international level. The meeting will include select members of the Coalition, potential funders, and select human rights representatives;
- Develop communication materials on the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications, and a human rights-based approach;
- Secure funding for the pilot program, including prize funding and operational support for the Secretariat;
- Identify the selection Committee; including Coalition members, potential funders, human rights experts, and technical experts.

**2016**

- Issue a call for proposals based on the requirements set out above and the specific topical challenges identified by the stakeholder meeting. Proposals must include submission of a video explaining the barrier to human rights being addressed by the proposed innovation, and a description of the innovation to be developed;
- Use the January Coalition meeting as a venue to draw attention to the challenge;
- Coinciding with the call for applications will be training events (e.g., webinars) on the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and how to apply a human rights-based approach to research and development;
- Convene the selection Committee to choose 3-5 winning proposals;
- Within the first six months of the year, announce the winners and disperse the prize funds.

**2017**

- Within two months of the end of the year, the innovations, interventions, or research must be developed, tested, and piloted;
- Host a conference to present the results of the project ideas to the Coalition, human rights community, and potential investors; and
- Hold a stakeholder meeting to evaluate the pilot initiative.

### **3. B. Outreach and Communications Committee**

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The Coalition aims to expand and grow. This growth is a means toward the goal of enhancing and expanding the contribution of scientific, engineering, and health associations to human rights efforts at home and around the world. To represent the many disciplinary fields of science, engineering, and health on human rights issues, the Coalition must diversify and increase its membership. Successful outreach will involve association leaders and individual members who can engage with their peers. The Coalition must also connect with the next generation of scientists, engineers, and health professionals.

The objectives for member expansion are to:

- Develop collaborative, coordinated outreach approaches (i.e., guidelines and tools for outreach to potential new members) and effectively communicate these guidelines and tools with everyone involved with the Coalition;
- Diversify Coalition membership, focusing on engineering, life and physical sciences, and information and computer sciences;
- Institutionalize and continuously improve Coalition activities that engage students and encourage them to explore the connections between STEM fields and human rights.

To achieve these three objectives, the Outreach and Communications Committee, with assistance from Coalition working groups and governance structures, will undertake the following activities:

#### **Activities: 2015**

- Develop tools that enable all Coalition members easily and effectively to reach out to prospective new members and their communities:
  - Letter/email templates to the leadership of science, engineering, and health associations;
  - Letter/email templates to selected individual members of science, engineering, and health associations;
  - Letter/email templates to student clubs of science, engineering, and health associations;
  - Letter/email templates to selected administrators (Deans, Provosts, Presidents) at universities and colleges to encourage student involvement;
  - Develop policies and procedures for member outreach to news media and to social media.
- Develop a member expansion plan with specific, targeted goals (e.g., number of associations in each discipline to be recruited, goals for new membership by the end of each year, who will contact which association).
- Identify priority associations for outreach and invite members of these associations to attend January/July Coalition meetings.
- Invite experts in the prioritized disciplines as keynote speakers at the January and/or July meetings.

- Conduct webinars for the members of these associations on the work of the Coalition.
- Conduct outreach to advertise the student poster and essay competitions in the social media outlets for at least three AAAS affiliate associations that are not engaged with the Coalition.
- Develop a plan for orientation of new member associations to the Coalition.

## 2016

- Identify a contact person and an alternate from each member association (“mentees”) and a contact person from the Outreach committee to serve as a mentor.
- Establish a communication schedule between each mentor and mentee.
- Assign mentees to begin recruiting eligible individuals from other associations of which they are members, thereby broadening the network.
- Assign specific tasks with deadlines to mentees. These tasks strengthen ties with the new member association. The tasks incorporate activities in mentees' regional and national meetings. Mentees then report to the Coalition.
- Develop training sessions for Coalition members to promote the collaborative approach to outreach. Launch pilot training at July 2016 Coalition meeting.
- Work with individual Coalition members and experts from life and physical sciences, engineering, and information and computer science associations. Together, develop case studies, examples, and educational materials to disseminate ideas on the potential roles of these fields in human rights efforts and projects.
- Identify at least three national/international associations that primarily serve STEM students, particularly those historically underrepresented in STEM disciplines (e.g., Society for Advancement of Hispanics/Chicanos and Native Americans in Science), Interview their leaders about what elements of Coalition programs would have most relevance to their associations.

## 2017

- Continue conducting training and communicating about materials to promote the unified approach to outreach.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the approaches implemented in 2015-2016 and collect feedback.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of 2015-2016 efforts by assessing the number of associations that joined the Coalition and the extent of their activities related to human rights.
- Review information gathered by the Secretariat regarding the value of Coalition partnerships to new members and their future expectations. Update and/or adjust strategies and outreach materials with relevant information.
- Identify at least two international “movements” that appear currently to have strong engagement among student groups on college campuses (e.g., sustainability/climate change, anti-human trafficking). Develop a set of talking points explaining how the Coalition’s efforts can support the goals of these movements, and encourage cross-involvement of leaders from these movements with the Coalition.

### 3. C. Areas of Work

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#### Area I: Welfare of Scientists Working Group

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The scientific community is a strong supporter of the human rights of individual scientists, engineers, and health professionals. To improve the effectiveness of work in this area, participation needs to be expanded. By increasing the number of professional associations involved, by helping coordinate their efforts, and by providing informational resources and advocacy tools, the Coalition will help the scientific, engineering, and health communities to respond better to cases of alleged human rights violations. By improving their advocacy on behalf of persecuted members of their discipline or field, scientific, engineering, and health associations contribute to the broader defense of universal human rights.

The Working Group for the Welfare of Scientists aims to expand participation and effectiveness of scientific, engineering, and health associations in defending the human rights of colleagues at home and around the world. The group aims to increase awareness and implementation of human rights frameworks that protect scientists and engineers, and to help the scientific and engineering communities to respond better to cases of human rights violations.

#### Objectives:

- (1) Protection and defense of the human rights of scientists, engineers, and health professionals.
- (2) Enhanced effectiveness of professional associations in responding to cases of the human rights abuses against scientists, engineers, and health professionals.
- (3) Increased awareness and appreciation within the scientific community of the importance of acting on behalf of colleagues both at home and abroad.

#### Project #1: Increase Member Capacity to Take Actions Protecting the Human Rights of Scientists, Engineers, and Health Professionals

#### Activities: Ongoing

- Contribute updates on one to four calls to action on behalf of scientists, engineers, and/or health professionals, to be included in the monthly AAAS Science and Human Rights Report.
- Support efforts by the Service to the STEM Community Working Group, Outreach and Communications Committee, and Secretariat to promote the *Primer on Scientific Freedom and Human Rights*. Members of the working group will also promote the Primer within their own associations and as part of their outreach to colleagues who may be interested in joining the Coalition.

## 2015

- Meet with representatives of human rights organizations to obtain feedback on the *Primer on Scientific Freedom and Human Rights* and discuss collaboration on actions through the Alert Network.
- Update and disseminate the list of individuals and associations that can be contacted to take action on letters and petitions relating to the welfare of individual scientists, engineers, and health professionals.
- Organize a skills development workshop on human rights advocacy strategies, using the *Primer* as a primary resource, to be held at a biannual Coalition meeting, inviting human rights professionals as some of the facilitators.

## 2016

- Create a document that outlines strategies discussed at the 2015 workshop, share success stories, and provide a list of resources for associations developing advocacy strategies for individual cases. This new information either will expand upon the *Primer* or will be designed as a separate, complementary document.

## 2017

- Develop a workshop/webinar focused on the advocacy strategies handbook and encourage Coalition member associations to host it at their annual meetings or other venues that provide the opportunity to connect with their members.

Output: Monthly updates on calls to action; updated list of individuals and associations; a skills development workshop on human rights advocacy strategies for the welfare of scientists; an update to the *Primer*; a workshop/webinar for Coalition member associations.

## **Project #2: Contribute to International Discussions on Scientific Freedom as a Human Right (Joint Initiative Project)**

### **Activities: 2015**

- Commission an expert to finalize the working group's draft report on scientific freedom and the Internet.
- Coordinating closely with the Secretariat and the Service to the STEM Community Working Group, begin planning for an event on Article 15 and scientific freedom. The event would be held at the UN in Geneva, Switzerland during a session of the UN Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (CESCR). Activities in 2015 should include: securing a date for the event in 2016 and identifying all relevant deadlines with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights; identifying and inviting potential speakers, including experts from the scientific community and human rights organizations; developing a list of invitees; and securing funding.

- Develop a one-page fact sheet explaining the importance of scientific freedom as protected by Article 15 and its relevance to other human rights protections.

## **2016**

- Hold a side event on scientific freedom and Article 15 during a UN CESCR session, as described above.
- Follow up with side event attendees and key persons who could not attend to ensure they have the fact sheet and to discuss next steps.

## **2017**

- Host a webinar in which participants in the side event will share their reflections on the experience and lessons learned for STEM associations that wish to engage in this type of engagement with international human rights mechanisms.
- Invite Coalition members to host events for their members on direct engagement in advocacy for the welfare of scientists.

Output: An online report on scientific freedom; a fact sheet on scientific freedom under Article 15; a side event at the United Nations in Geneva; and a webinar on participation at the United Nations.

### **Benchmarks:**

- Monthly updates on cases of persecuted scientists.
- An updated list of contacts posted on website and disseminated to Coalition members.
- A minimum of 20 attendees attend each of the 2015 and 2016 skills development workshops/webinars.
- Human rights advocacy documentation published on Coalition website and distributed throughout Coalition.
- A report on scientific freedom published on the Coalition website and disseminated to Coalition members.
- A fact sheet on scientific freedom and Article 15 posted on Coalition website.
- At least 40 attendees attend the side event at the United Nations in Geneva, including members of CESCR and human rights NGOs.
- A minimum of 25 participants in each webinar on scientific freedom and Article 15; a minimum of 25 people watching the webinar after the live presentation.

## **Area II: Ethics and Human Rights Working Group**

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The ethical underpinnings of research will be enhanced by raising the visibility of human rights principles as part of the practice of science and its applications, in the broadest sense, including but not limited to scientific research, engineering, and technology. Explicit linking of international human rights principles to the ethics of the practice of science and its applications enhances recognition that science and technology have both direct and indirect implications for humans and the world in which we live. Doing so also will serve to promote a common respect for those involved in, or affected by the work of science and its applications, regardless of institutional context. If ethics codes guide the work of scientists, engineers, and health professions and help them identify with a profession, then more firmly linking these to human rights principles will bridge across professions and geographical boundaries. These efforts will help to emphasize that science and its applications are not an exception with regard to human rights principles.

### **Objectives**

- (1)** Promote understanding of the role of ethics and human rights principles for the advancement of science and its application among scientific, engineering, and health associations.
- (2)** Work with scientific, engineering, and health associations to incorporate human rights principles into their professional codes of ethics.
- (3)** Increase membership in the working group, reflecting the diversity of scientific, engineering and health professional associations.

**Project #1: Big Data and Human Rights** - Identify and highlight important emerging intersections between and implications of big data, ethics, and the field of human rights.

### **Activities: 2015**

- Set up a series of conference calls among members of the working group to identify particular areas in which the intersection between digital methodologies of data collection, ethics, and human rights raises key challenges across scientific, engineering, and health associations. During this process, experts in human rights, professional ethics, and other disciplines will be invited to share their experiences and knowledge. Topic suggestions include:
  - The use of big data as predictive tools for human rights violations;
  - Geoscience & the uses of de-classification of information from satellite; and
  - Policy approaches to uses of Big Data.

### **2016**

- Having identified the particular areas of interest, develop three to five case studies dedicated to the exploration of the emerging intersections between and implications of big data, ethics, and human rights. Members who will lead the project will be identified

and young scientists, engineers, and health professionals will be recruited to participate in research relating to the identified topics.

## 2017

- Organize a half-day symposium which will bring together expert and professional voices to consider how to incorporate a human rights and equality-based approach to research protocols relating to big data. We will develop a report on “best practices” or policy guidelines for big data that reflect human rights principles.

Output: Three to five case studies highlighting the challenges relating to the intersections between big data, ethics, and human rights that can be used for educational purposes; a report with recommendations for “best practices” or policy guidelines that uphold ethical and international human rights principles.

### **Project #2 : Evaluation of Ethical Codes of Scientific, Engineering, and Health**

**Associations** - Review ethical codes of scientific, engineering, and health associations, identify gaps in their address of human rights, and propose appropriate amendments.

#### **Activities: 2015**

- Review a selection of scientific, engineering, and health associations’ ethical codes and, drawing from these codes and from other educational and scholarly sources, create a template of specific ethical and human rights standards that should be incorporated in societies’ ethical codes.

## 2016-17

- Reach out to leaders of scientific, engineering, and health associations and offer to review their ethical guidelines to ensure that they are up-to-date with international human rights standards.
- Develop an invitation for associations to participate in this project, highlight the relevance of human rights to their work, and offer our review.
- Interested members will be identified, including designating responsibilities for particular working group members who will contribute to this evaluation. These members will also develop three to five case studies to highlight the intersection of the work of STEM communities and human rights standards that can be used in relevant educational settings. At least 2 members will review each code of ethics and provide their comments to ensure objectivity and comprehensiveness of the evaluation.
- Hold a training session (possibly online) to introduce the template to evaluators.

Output: Proposed amendments to the ethical codes to ensure they incorporate up-to-date international human rights standards; a compilation of the template of specific ethical and human rights standards that should be incorporated in ethical codes; three to five case studies.

**Project #3: Mental Health and Human Rights** - Identify and highlight important intersections of science, technology, mental health, and international human rights law in order to raise awareness among science, engineering, and health associations about their respective social responsibilities in upholding the rights of persons with mental disability.

**Activities: 2015**

- Organize a workshop on “mental health, ethics, and human rights” to identify important gaps and emerging intersections between the scientific, engineering, and healthcare societies, ethics, and human rights.

Topics considered for further development include:

- Neuroscience, personal responsibility, and the court system
- Mental health issues within the scientific, engineering, and healthcare societies
- Children and psychopharmacology
- Decision-making capacity, informed consent, and disability rights.

**2016-2017**

- On the basis of our symposium, begin to develop a report that will focus on the relationship between mental health, ethics, and human rights, focusing in particular on the relevance of this relationship for scientific, engineering, and health associations. The report will include review of scholarly work, exploration of the topics identified in the symposium, and identification of the most effective means for a productive engagement across science, engineering, and health communities and disability/ human rights civil society.

Output: Publication on the AAAS website and possibly also elsewhere, including scholarly journals and UN bodies.

**Benchmarks:**

- Attendance at the workshops and meetings organized by the working group.
- Number of recipients of the working group’s reports.
- Number of teachers/students using the case studies in their course.
- Increased number of members actively participating in the working group reflecting an increasingly diverse representation of science, engineering, and health associations.

## **Area III: Service to the STEM Community Working Group**

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Scientific, engineering, and health associations are dedicated to service, both to their members and to the public. Promoting the realization of human rights provides these associations an opportunity to meet their responsibilities to both. Indeed, many such associations have recognized this and have incorporated a human rights framework into their work. They also have valuable experience to share in setting up and sustaining human rights programs. By developing human rights-related activities and services specifically for the STEM community, and by leveraging the experience of its members, the Coalition can build the commitment and capacity of scientific, engineering, and health associations to engage meaningfully in human rights advocacy, develop effective responses to human rights challenges, and contribute their unique skills and knowledge to the larger community dedicated to the realization of human rights.

### **Objectives:**

- (1) Increase the frequency of human rights-related activities and considerations in the STEM community. Do this by developing, disseminating, and evaluating tools that professional associations and STEM professionals can use to integrate human rights into their ongoing work.
- (2) Engage the international STEM community in a conversation about the meaning and implications of Article 15 within the context of their work as STEM professionals across the globe.
- (3) Directly engage Coalition members in a way that builds participation by leveraging professional expertise and fostering professional development.

**Project #1: “Making the Connections between Human Rights and STEM Disciplines Webinar Series”** - Provide a no-cost, high member engagement opportunity for scientific, engineering, and health associations to educate their members about the connections between human rights, their specific disciplines, and their daily work.

### **Activities: 2015**

- Recruit up to four associations (Coalition members and/or associations considering membership) to host webinars for interested members.
- Plan, execute, and evaluate these webinars.
- Collaborate with hosts to implement follow-up activities, as appropriate.

### **2016**

- Apply findings from year-one evaluations to refine and adapt webinar format, marketing, and delivery.
- Recruit an additional four associations to host webinars for their interested members.

- Plan, execute, and evaluate. Collaborate with hosts to implement follow-up activities as appropriate.

## **2017**

- Continue to refine and adapt webinars as needed. Continue ongoing marketing to potential hosts.
- Hold webinars upon request.

Output: Webinar marketing materials (letter to potential hosts; invitation to potential participants; blurbs for social media, the web, newsletters, etc.); webinar planning timetable; webinar Power Point slide presentations; participant responses to interactive questions; evaluation summaries.

**Project #2: “Human Rights Starter Kit”** - Increase use of the Human Rights Starter Kit by Coalition members and others, thereby contributing to an increase in the frequency of human rights related activities undertaken by scientific, engineering, and health associations and their members.

### **Activities: 2015**

- Update the Starter Kit, providing readers more easily accessible and understandable information on how to begin involvement in human rights issues, particularly through making use of the Coalition’s resources.
- Contact Coalition members, informing them of the updated kit.
- Measure the analytics on the Starter Kit page and sub-pages, observing how many people are accessing the Starter Kit.

## **2016**

- Conduct an evaluation of the use of the Starter Kit.
- Based on results of evaluation, identify new tools and resources required for ongoing support of associations in the use of Coalition resources within their associations.

## **2017**

- Update the Starter Kit based on feedback from the evaluation.
- Contact Coalition members, informing them of the updated resource.
- Measure the use of the Starter Kit page and sub-pages, investigating whether the updated Starter Kit is more useful to members.
- Evaluate what new tools and resources are required for ongoing support of associations and develop dissemination strategies.
- Based on feedback from the training of individual affiliates (see Project #3), create resources, including online materials, aimed at supporting the effective engagement of individuals in the Coalition.

Output: An updated Starter Kit; Evaluation of the starter kit and its use; Report on the use of the Starter Kit, reflecting web hits and other sources of information, e.g., interviews or survey of Coalition members or others.

### **Project #3: “Communication Workshop”**

Increase Coalition members’ use of current information resources in communicating to their associations’ members and to other members of their scientific, engineering, or health disciplines about STEM and human rights and the work of the Coalition.

#### **Activities: 2015**

- Conduct training at the January 2015 Coalition meeting to teach Coalition members how effectively to inform their associations about the Coalition’s many resources and, more generally, about the intersection of science and technology with human rights.
- Based on the feedback received at the training, develop a program of ongoing support to participants, including a follow-up meeting six months later to assess their progress and continue to build the network of peer support.
- Assess what additional follow-up is needed, and what the working group is capable of providing. Help as necessary and possible.

#### **2016**

- Hold a second communication training workshop.
- Send out a follow-up evaluation. Analyze evaluation results, and use them to consider how to improve the workshop.
- Assess what follow-up is needed, and what we are capable of providing. Help as necessary and possible.

#### **2017**

- Hold a third communication training workshop.
- Send out a follow-up evaluation. Analyze evaluation results, and use them to consider how to improve the workshop.
- Assess what follow-up is needed, and what we are capable of providing.

Output: Communication training workshops. Report on workshop evaluations and recommendations for revisions.

### **Project #4: “Internationalization of the Article 15 Study of Scientists’ Views about the Meaning of the Right to Science.” (Joint Initiative Project)**

The aim of this project is to bring the perspectives of scientists, engineers, and health professionals around the globe to the drafting of the General Comment on the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications. Informed by the Coalition’s earlier focus

group research, this project will center on discipline-specific international focus groups, with a follow-up global survey.

**Activities: 2015**

- Secure funding for the project.
- Conduct twenty focus groups, four each at international meetings of scientific or engineering association. One meeting will be chosen in one of the following five areas: life sciences, physical sciences, social and behavioral science, engineering, and health.
- Produce transcriptions from focus group audio recordings
- Analyze focus group transcripts.
- Identify and secure collaboration agreements with a wide array of international scientific associations to participate in an international survey of scientists, engineers, and health professionals based on focus group findings.

**2016**

- Develop a survey instrument to test the validity and generalizability of findings from the analysis of both USA-based and international focus groups.
- Using random stratified samples of members of international associations of scientists, engineers and health professionals, the survey will gather data from a larger geographic and disciplinary population than will be possible through the focus groups.

**2017**

- Write a report for the UN Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights to inform the development of a General Comment on Article 15.
- Publish peer-reviewed article(s) to disseminate findings to a wider audience.
- Present at professional association meetings, human rights conferences, and Coalition meetings to share results with a wide array of scientists, engineers, and health professionals.

Output: Report for the Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights; peer-reviewed journal articles; presentations.

**Project #5: “Integrating Human Rights Considerations into STEM Careers”**

The goal of this project is to help STEM professionals find ways to integrate human rights considerations into their careers directly, rather than having human rights activities be relegated to “side projects” or outside volunteer activities. The particular focus is on students and early career professionals.

**Activities: 2015**

- Electronic bulletin board. Working with the new social media platform that AAAS is developing, the working group will develop an electronic bulletin board with listings of

internships, fellowships, conferences, and other activities that can help students, early career, and more established professionals identify opportunities to integrate human rights considerations into their everyday work.

- Students are part of the STEM community, and the Service to the STEM Community Working Group will explore how the working group can contribute to other Coalition efforts to enhance and expand student involvement. Suggestions include educating students about AAAS and the Coalition, and finding funding for student delegates to attend Coalition meetings. Service to the STEM Community Working Group members will volunteer as judges in the Coalition's student poster and essay competitions.

## **2016**

- Maintain and expand the bulletin board.
- Begin developing a mentor matching service for students who want to learn how to integrate human rights considerations into STEM careers. Mentoring activity could range from simple email/telephone conversations to long distance project supervision to in-person work such as internships. Working group members will publicize opportunities for volunteer mentors and create a matching service on the bulletin board.
- Conduct training at the July 2016 Coalition meeting for individual affiliates to address the pathways available for engagement and participation in the Coalition.

## **2017**

- Continue to maintain and expand the bulletin board and mentor matching service.
- Begin exploring posting of audio and/or video stories (e.g., podcasts, interviews) from students and STEM professionals about their experiences with human rights activities.
- Maintain involvement of the working group in Coalition student outreach activities.

Output: Electronic bulletin board with active, current listings; lists of volunteer mentors and students seeking mentors. Postings of podcasts and interviews.

### **Benchmarks:**

#### **Project #1: "Making the Connections between Human Rights and STEM Disciplines Webinar Series"**

- Hold a minimum of 8 webinars.
- Have a minimum of 20 participants in each webinar.
- Have responses to pre- and post-webinar questions show an increase in awareness and understanding.
- Have at least 4 host associations carry out some type of follow-up activity because of the webinar.

#### **Project #2: "Human Rights Starter Kit and Communication Workshop"**

- Increase hits on starter kit by 15%.
- Disseminate messages about the starter kit 3 times to Coalition members.

**Project #3: “Communication Workshop”**

- Conduct 3 workshops.
- 25% of workshop participants report having followed through on plans created at the workshops.

**Project #4: “Internationalization of Article 15 Study of Scientists Views about the Meaning of the Right to Science.” (Joint Initiative Project)**

- Conduct 20 focus groups with international scientists.
- Secure collaboration agreements with a minimum of 5 international scientific associations.
- Construct a sampling frame of at least 5000 international scientists.
- Achieve a survey response rate of 40% or better.
- Deliver a comprehensive report on findings from focus groups and survey to the UN.
- Publish at least 2 peer-reviewed journal articles on findings.
- Present about project at least 6 times to diverse scientific, engineering, health, human rights, and policy audiences.

**Project #5: “Integrating Human Rights Considerations into STEM Careers”**

- Produce an electronic bulletin board with at least 3 areas (internships, fellowships, and conference announcements).
- Update information added to the bulletin board 30 times over the period – about once a month.
- Number of students involved in the Coalition’s working group activities increases by 30%.
- A minimum of 3 campus-based, student-led Coalition activities held.

## **Area IV: Service to the Human Rights Community Working Group**

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Scientists, engineers, and health professionals have skills and knowledge of potential benefit to the human rights community. By providing timely, accurate, and verifiable data for human rights claims, they can help human rights organizations carry out more effective, evidence-based advocacy. Scientists, engineers, and health professionals can also assist with testing and evaluation of human rights projects and programs to assess their impacts, including whether they are benefitting the intended populations. Analysis that is widely viewed as objective and based on evidence will strengthen the work of human rights organizations and enhance their credibility and their claims. The importance of the relationship of the scientific community and human rights advocates suggests that it would be valuable to build and foster ongoing communication among the scientific, engineering, health, and human rights communities to determine where and how scientific tools and technologies can be useful in human rights work, and then assist in making them accessible to human rights practitioners.

### **Objectives**

- (1) Facilitate and increase interaction between human rights organizations and scientists, engineers, and health professionals.
- (2) Facilitate and increase assistance to human rights organizations, including through collaborative partnerships with scientists, engineers, and health professionals.
- (3) Identify human rights organizations whose activities could benefit from collaboration with scientists/engineers/health professionals and provide services to enable collaboration with these organizations.
- (4) Provide data and potential indicators to assist human rights organizations and the United Nations in monitoring and tracking how well obligations under Article 15 are being met.

**Project #1: Identification of and Outreach to Human Rights Organizations to Facilitate their Use of Science and Technology** - The working group will explore and develop better means of identifying organizations that may benefit from increased use of science, engineering, and health expertise in their activities, including fostering communication with these organizations and encouraging use of scientific activities within these organizations (such as the AAAS On-call Scientists initiative – a project of the AAAS Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program).

### **Activities: 2015**

- Using web-based data analysis developed by working group members, create a list of human rights organizations with programs and operational structures that appear well suited to collaborating with scientists, engineers, and health professionals.
- Contact two to three of the candidate human rights organizations directly to make them aware of the On-call Scientists initiative and discuss/demonstrate the training offerings (see Project # 3), tools, services, and case studies (see Project #2) developed. Through the discussion, determine what additional scientific tools/services/approaches are currently used by or would be useful to the organizations.

- Based on first meetings, make adjustments or additions to the initial set of tools/service/case studies for growing demand and dissemination of current promising approaches.
- Analyze human rights organizations that have related activities (such as immigration and asylum rights) to identify methods/examples of successful partnerships between scientists and/or engineers and these organizations.
- Incorporate these methods/examples into the workshops described in Project #3, along with key points from “Human Rights Projects: Guidelines for Scientists and Human Rights Organizations.”
- Contact the director of the UN Department of Public Information NGO Cluster. Determine whether the human rights organizations in the NGO Cluster are interested in discussions about the application of science and/or the identified methods to their human rights work.
- Create a method for evaluation of the success of our activities in this area and begin collecting data to support the evaluation.

## **2016**

- Identify a second round of potential users.
- Improve/modify the tools/services and increase the number of case studies offered to the organizations.
- Make contact with the identified human rights organizations to discuss their current and potential needs that could be met by the tools/services available, based on lessons learned in 2015.
- Evaluate the process for individual contacts with human rights organizations and continue, expand or adjust the process
- Continue efforts to develop and expand communication/presentations with human rights organizations through UN Department of Public Information NGO Cluster.
- Produce interim evaluation on the effectiveness of activities.

## **2017**

- Identify a third round of organizations with the potential for increasing their use of science and technology.
- Modify/create new tools/services/case studies to grow demand.
- Produce another evaluation report.
- Assess options for long-term sustainability of this initiative.

Output: Criteria for human rights organizations ideally suited for partnerships; meetings with human rights organizations; yearly evaluation of the success of the activities that will be based on the number of new requests and the variety of requests.

**Project # 2: Case Studies:** Develop examples of the use of science and technology by human rights organizations. Make the cases studies available online and searchable by topic and type of project.

**Activities: 2015**

- Develop guidelines for case studies so that they can be written up in a similar format by diverse authors.
- Develop at least three case studies based on projects through the AAAS On-call Scientists initiative and three case studies from web-based research.
- Make these case studies available on the AAAS website.
- Make revisions as needed and add case studies.
- Develop a standardized method for data entry to create new case studies.

**2016**

- Some of the most promising cases would be written up with an eye to in-depth, analytic evaluation for dissemination in open source journals or other publications.
- Continue to evaluate, revise, and add case studies.

**2017**

- Continue to evaluate, revise, and add case studies.

Output: Guidelines for case studies; case studies; dissemination of case studies through a searchable database.

**Project #3: Organize and Provide Workshops and Seminars** - The working group will continue to collaborate with human rights organizations, Coalition member associations, AAAS, individual experts, and universities to organize and provide seminars and workshops on science and technology that are of interest and applicable to individuals working in human rights.

**Activities: 2015**

- Organize two workshops for a group of human rights organizations and/or students in law schools that have a human rights emphasis and/or university-based programs on human rights. The workshops will focus on a variety of topics including scientific methods, research techniques, and findings drawn from collaborations with human rights organizations, human rights-focused case studies, and the AAAS On-call Scientists project. Organizations would include groups that focus on a wide range of issues (e.g., refugees, land rights, civil liberties, Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights) and engage in different types of activities (campaigning, documentation, advocacy, monitoring, and evaluation).

- Determine feasibility of planning a session during the 2016 AAAS annual meeting, in which DC-based human rights organizations would be invited to showcase examples of their work demonstrating applications of science and technology to human rights.
- Plan a session during the 2016 or the 2017 annual meeting of one or more national scientific, engineering, or health associations on the links between their work and human rights.
- Collect and report on the evaluative responses of participants at all sessions conducted. Use this feedback to inform, shape, and refine future sessions.

## **2016**

- Evaluate the processes and mechanisms in place for outreach to the human rights community. Formalize and/or modify them, as needed.
- Organize two workshops or clinics for human rights organizations and/or law schools identified as having projects that could benefit from science or technological applications, to increase awareness of these potential partnerships.
- Evaluate methods for developing workshops/clinics, etc. Revise and modify strategies for future efforts.
- Hold a session for local human rights organizations as part of an annual meeting (AAAS or a Coalition member association).
- Consider feasibility of a session for local human rights organizations and scientists at the AAAS 2018 annual meeting to showcase examples of science and technological applications to human rights.
- Plan a session for the 2017 or the 2018 annual meeting of one or more national scientific, engineering, or health associations on the links between science and technology with the work of human rights organizations.
- Collect and report on the evaluative responses of participants at all sessions conducted. Use this information to improve future sessions.

## **2017**

- Hold a session for local human rights organizations as part of an annual meeting (AAAS or a Coalition member association).
- Evaluate the process for contacts with human rights organizations and law schools and formalize and/or modify as needed.
- Evaluate the process for presentations at the AAAS and other national scientific association meetings and formalize and/or modify as needed.
- Implement plans for communication based on feedback from the 2016 evaluation – workshops, clinics, or determine other modes that might reach a broader audience.

Output: Workshops for human rights practitioners and students working toward a career in human rights; sessions and/or workshops in conjunction with AAAS and other associations' national meetings.

**Project #4: Indicators of the Right to Enjoy the Benefits of Scientific Progress and its Applications (Joint Initiative Project)** – Develop a guide to assist human rights organizations in monitoring and tracking advancement of governments’ Article 15 obligations; this guide will include several sets of indicators by which to measure government compliance with the right (e.g., use of local languages in STEM education).

**Activities: 2015**

- Present first set of indicators during January 2015 Coalition meeting.
- Draft a guide to assist human rights organizations in monitoring and tracking advancement of governments’ Article 15 obligations (tentative title, “A Guide to Monitoring and Tracking Governments’ Efforts to Advance the Right to Benefit from Scientific Progress”).
- Discuss a second potential set of indicators with Working Group during July 2015 Coalition meeting.

**2016**

- Present penultimate draft of “A Guide to Monitoring and Tracking Governments’ Efforts to Advance the Right to Benefit from Scientific Progress” to Working Group during January 2016 Coalition meeting.
- Discuss a third potential set of “right to enjoy benefits of scientific progress and its application” indicators with Working Group during July 2016 meeting.
- Publish the second set of indicators on the Coalition website in time to announce at the July 2016 Coalition meeting.
- Finalize the Guide and make it available online and in hard copy at the July 2016 Coalition meeting.

**2017**

- Present a workshop on the indicators and the Guide at the January 2017 Coalition meeting.
- Discuss a fourth potential set of indicators with Working Group during July 2017 meeting.
- Present the third set of indicators during July 2017 Coalition meeting and add them to the Coalition website.
- Update the Guide to include the third set of indicators.

Output: Four sets of indicators; a Guide for using the indicators; workshop for human rights organizations.

## **Benchmarks**

### **Project #1: Identification of and Outreach to Human Rights Organizations to Facilitate their Use of Science and Technology**

- Identification of three to ten key variables that make a human rights organization likely to collaborate with scientists, engineers, and health professionals in their work.
- Identification of up to fifteen organizations that, based on analysis of these variables, are ideally situated to develop new partnerships.
- A minimum of six meetings with human rights NGOs and/or the United Nations NGO office presenting the opportunities available to collaborate with scientists, engineers, and health professionals.
- Evaluations that show improvement in success of outreach methods.

### **Project #2: Case Studies**

- A minimum of twenty case studies written and published through the database.
- At least one article published analyzing a minimum of three cases in detail.

### **Project #3: Organize and Provide Workshops and Seminars**

- Increased number of requests for assistance through the AAAS On-call Scientists and AAAS Geospatial Technologies initiatives.
- A minimum of four workshops for human rights organizations and students.
- A minimum of two sessions or workshops held at or at the same time as AAAS and other associations' national meetings.
- Evaluations indicate that a majority of participants in the workshops increased their knowledge and application of scientific methods, technologies, tools, and findings.

### **Project #4: Indicators of the Right to Enjoy the Benefits of Scientific Progress and Its Applications**

- Complete and publish four sets of indicators.
- A minimum of 40 organizations receive the indicators and the guide to assist human rights organizations in applying the indicators.
- A minimum of 25 attendees at workshops presenting the guidelines.

## **Area V: Education and Information Resources Working Group**

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The goals of this group are (a) to encourage and facilitate efforts to bridge the scientific, engineering, health, and human rights communities, and (b) to establish a stronger foundation for productive, collaborative work on human rights. To accomplish these, the Coalition will need to identify, compile, and develop resources and create opportunities for exchange of information on what science, engineering, and the health professions can bring to human rights work and what human rights can bring to science and technology. By developing targeted materials on such topics, the Coalition will make an important contribution to bridging these fields of expertise and their respective communities, and make their collaboration in tackling human rights challenges that face the world more fruitful.

### **Objectives:**

- (1)** To contribute to the professional development of science, engineering, and health teachers, including high school and college teachers, and human rights educators by illustrating the direct relevance of science and technology to human rights.
- (2)** To promote a deeper understanding of human rights among students, especially those in STEM fields, including raising student awareness of the ethical and practical applications of science and technology to the field of human rights.
- (3)** To develop educational materials on the various connections between human rights, science and technology, including the rights of scientists, engineers, and health professionals, applications of science and technology for human rights, and the human rights responsibility of scientists, engineers, and health professionals.

**Project #1: Professional development of science teachers/preparation of teaching modules** – Prepare STEM teaching modules on human rights, including Article 15, and discipline-specific ways in which science and engineering have contributed to or led to violations of human rights, taking advantage of existing course syllabi. While modules will be targeted at undergraduate students, they may include suggestions for adaptation for graduate students, high school students, or public outreach. The dissemination and implementation of these modules will help build a network of informed, committed, and engaged teachers who can successfully deliver courses that promote student awareness of the benefits and applications of science and technology to human rights.

### **Activities: 2015**

- Finalize the first set of teaching modules and make them available on the Coalition website.
- Identify teachers who are willing to test and assess the modules.
- Update and review existing course syllabi on science, engineering, health, and human rights. Recommend the strongest as models for other teachers.
- Coordinate with the Ethics and Human Rights and Service to the Human Rights Community Working Groups on their case study projects to identify ways to incorporate case studies into teaching modules.

## 2016

- Develop an evaluation tool for assessing the utility and effectiveness of the modules.
- Do a first pilot of teaching modules in undergraduate courses.
- Gather feedback from the teachers on any theoretical or practical suggestions to improve the teaching modules.
- Gather feedback from students on the usefulness of the teaching modules in raising their awareness of professional and practical links between their discipline and human rights. Gather any recommendations they may have on the quality and delivery of the teaching modules.

## 2017

- Informed by the teacher and student feedback, refine and continue to expand the development of teaching modules.
- Incorporate case studies developed by other working groups into educational resources, as appropriate.
- Build on the activities of the Service to the STEM Community working group. Coordinate with that working group to develop an online webinar on the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications. Aim the webinar for a STEM higher education audience.

Output: Modules; evaluation; webinar on Article 15 for STEM educators.

**Project #2: Preparation and dissemination of other educational resources** - Review and update the “Annotated Bibliography on Science and Human Rights” on the Coalition website.

### Activities: 2015 - 2017

- Update Annotated Bibliography entries on Education and Human Rights, Human Rights and Science, Human Rights in Linguistics, Human Rights in Economics, Human Rights in Engineering.
- Invite all Coalition members to review and suggest additions/deletions to the current bibliographic database.
- Working with section curators, continuously refresh the Annotated Bibliography with new resources.
- Draw attention to the Annotated Bibliography through the Human Rights Educators network and highlight it as an important resource in the Article 15 webinar for STEM educators.

### Benchmarks

- Produce minimum of six teaching modules for undergraduate courses in diverse disciplines.

- Have a minimum of ten teachers test the modules in their classes and provide feedback.
- Enroll a minimum of fifteen teachers in the educators' network by the end of 2017.
- Have a minimum of twenty-five educators participating in the Article 15 webinar.
- Enroll a curator for each section of the annotated bibliography.
- Have each curator review her/his section of the annotated (s) for updates once per year.
- Have each of the identified new sections of the annotated bibliography completed and published on the Coalition website by the end of 2017.

### 3. D. Coalition Governance and Support

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#### Coalition Council

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The Coalition Council is composed of member associations' two active representatives. The Council is the Coalition's highest policy-making and priority-setting body. It determines the direction of the Coalition, reviews recommendations from working groups, considers new initiatives, and reviews requests for new working groups and committees. The Coalition Council has met at least annually since its inception. Since 2012, the Council has met during each semiannual Coalition meeting to review and deliberate the Coalition's direction.

As representatives of member associations, Council members have the additional responsibility of serving as the conduit between the needs and interests of their respective associations and the Coalition goals and activities. As such, Council members are expected to:

- Build on the tools, knowledge and contacts developed through the Coalition to increase the capacity of their associations and members to address human rights;
- Share their associations' experiences and expertise in human rights with the Coalition;
- Bring to the Coalition their associations' needs or concerns in integrating human rights into their associations' activities;
- Identify and develop links between the work of the Coalition and other networks or associations that share common goals and objectives;
- Report to the Coalition on human rights activities in their associations; and
- Report to their associations' leadership, staff, and members on the resources and activities of the Coalition.

Council members attend and actively participate in Coalition Council meetings, participate in and actively contribute to quarterly working group or committee meetings, and attend semiannual Coalition meetings. Additional ways in which Council members can fulfill the role of intermediary between their association and the Coalition include: preparing a presentation to their association's leadership bodies on the human rights activities of the association and Coalition; drafting or soliciting an article on human rights for the association's journal and/or newsletter; and creating a website, discussion forum and/or listserv dedicated to addressing human rights issues relevant to the association and its members.

In 2015-2017, the Council will give priority to expanding Coalition membership and improving communications between the Coalition and its member associations.

#### Objectives:

- (1) Expand involvement of associations and individuals in the life and physical sciences, engineering, and health.

- (2) Increase communication with and engagement of a broader base within each member association.
- (3) Using the current benchmarks as a starting point, develop a matrix of each association's human rights and Coalition-related activities.

**Activities:**

- In close coordination with the Outreach and Communications Committee and Secretariat, develop a targeted outreach plan for engaging prospective member associations in the Coalition's activities. The plan will include specific, measurable goals for Council members. Examples of such goals might be the number of contacts each Council member will provide to the Outreach and Communications Committee, the number of new members each Council member should bring into the Coalition, etc.).
- Council members will use the workshops and tools to be developed by the Service to the STEM Community Working Group to aid in their communication of Coalition activities to their own association:
  - Delineate for each association the types of members or institutional entities who should be 'targeted' to receive communication about the Coalition (e.g., members, student members, committees, special interest groups, board members).
  - Associate with each type identified above, the current methods of communication (membership newsletter, emails to designated member groups (e.g., sections, interest groups, committees), general emails, presentations, ad hoc meetings etc.)
  - Identify the resources or tools that would be most appropriate and effective for communicating with the members and entities of each association; include contact details of responsible individuals and offices, where possible.
  - Identify the internal organizational pathways and tools for soliciting information about association-sponsored activities, and those of its members, related to human rights.
  - Develop regular and structured opportunities for the association's entities and members to report on their human rights activities, needs, questions, and concerns.
- Create a Benchmarks Committee to lead the Council's responsibility to track and share information regarding the activities each Coalition member association has undertaken with regard to human rights.
  - Using the benchmarks as a starting point, Council members will provide the Benchmarks Committee with a chart of activities their associations have undertaken with regard to human rights.
  - Based on these data, the Benchmarks Committee will develop and agree upon a workable process where a useful table of information can be compiled over time and provided to the Council on a periodic basis.

## **Coalition Steering Committee**

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The Coalition Steering Committee is comprised of the following:

- Working Group chairs and committee chairs (one each, up to six total)
- “Members at Large” selected from general membership (four)
- Members of the human rights community (two)
- Coalition Coordinator, AAAS Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program (one)

The Steering Committee ensures implementation of decisions taken by the Coalition Council; provides guidance to the working groups; and serves as the liaison among AAAS, the Coalition, scientific, engineering, and health associations, and human rights communities.

The Steering Committee meets every two months (or as needed via conference calls) to carry out its responsibilities. Members serve three-year terms, and may serve up to two consecutive terms.

### **Objectives:**

- (1) Facilitate effective communication across Coalition working groups and committees.
- (2) Provide leadership and guidance so that Coalition activities contribute to the realization of the Coalition’s long-term goals.

### **Activities:**

- Review and approve Coalition publications.
- Approve plans for the semi-annual Coalition meetings.
- In collaboration with the Secretariat, monitor Coalition progress and report to Council.
- Meet every other month with a high level of attendance, participation, and leadership by members.
- At the Steering Committee’s meeting in August of each year, review progress in implementation of this Plan of Action.

## **Executive Directors' Circle**

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The Executive Directors' Circle is a convening of the Executive Directors of the scientific, engineering, and health associations that comprise the AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition. The Executive Directors' Circle meets with the Secretariat during each of the semiannual Coalition meetings.

### **Objectives:**

- (1) Serve as a hub for innovative ideas and meaningful collaborations on issues of joint concern and interest arising from Coalition work.
- (2) Support the development of a community of practice focused on the intersections of science, technology, and human rights.
- (3) Foster their members' engagement on issues concerned with human rights.

### **Activities:**

- At each meeting, receive updates about the Coalition's activities and provide information and advice to the Secretariat.
- Identify issues of joint concern and suggest collaborative actions the Coalition and its member associations can take.
- Share information about the Coalition, its activities, and the resources it has created, and about human rights more generally, with association staff and members.

## Coalition Secretariat

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Fulfillment of the Coalition's mission requires engagement and active participation of all members – associations and individual affiliates – and the provision of services and facilitation of opportunities for members to support the Coalition's mission through their own actions. The AAAS Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program serves as the Coalition Secretariat and supports the Coalition with an array of member services. These services include the facilitation and coordination of the Coalition's activities; recruitment of qualified interns; organization of meetings; maintenance of a repository for Coalition documents and materials; coordination of the listserv; facilitation of links with the human rights community; and fundraising.

Following are the planned activities of the Secretariat for the period 2015-2017.

### Activities: Ongoing

- Generate content for members to place in association newsletters, websites, and other outlets, to help them educate their members about human rights issues and the association's own activities to advance human rights.
- Assist in dissemination of information about Coalition members' human rights activities.
- In coordination with the Outreach and Communications Committee, support the development of mentoring relationships between new members and those associations and individuals who have been deeply involved in the Coalition, to increase commitment and engagement.
- Continuously improve online access to Coalition resources.
- Organize the semi-annual Coalition and Council meetings and every-two-month Steering Committee meetings.
- Organize quarterly conference calls with the Joint Initiative activity leaders from each working group to coordinate the activities across the Coalition.
- Provide ongoing support as needed to the Coalition and its structures (working groups, Steering Committee and Council).
- Facilitate information exchange across working groups.
- Create and maintain a database of scientific, engineering, and health associations, including information on their disciplinary focus, geographic location, participation in working groups, and other criteria indicating Coalition representation and participation among associations.
- Identify strategic opportunities for Coalition member engagement in policy issues at the local, national, or international level (e.g., by writing a letter, proposing a hearing or providing testimony).
- Lead and coordinate Coalition fundraising efforts.

### 2015

- Disseminate foundational documents, a calendar of key dates, reporting templates, and other leadership tools to Coalition working group and committee co-chairs.

- Begin holding a New Member Orientation at each Coalition meeting.
- With the Service to the STEM Community Working Group, develop a plan to engage STEM associations internationally in defining and promoting realization of the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications.
- Develop and maintain on the Coalition website a library of relevant online resources, including films, television and radio programs, news, academic articles, books, websites, blogs, and other information.
- Develop and conduct two surveys to determine the motivations and needs of individual affiliates aimed at identifying clear opportunities for engagement and participation (one survey for current affiliates and one entry survey).
- Design a benchmark assessment of the use and impact of Coalition resources and activities on the structures and membership of Coalition member associations.
- Adopt the AAAS communications platform (“Trellis”) as a primary means of communication and information sharing to support the Coalition’s activities.
- Create and maintain a calendar of Coalition member and affiliate Annual Meeting dates and other events, and work with association representatives to organize human rights-related symposia.
- Promote the Coalition at a minimum of five events or meetings hosted by Coalition member associations (e.g., booths at Annual Meetings, presentations at affiliate group meetings, workshops for association members, etc.)

## 2016

- In coordination with the Welfare of Scientists Working Group, liaise with the UN in arranging an event to present the STEM community’s perspectives on the meaning and application of scientific freedom within the context of the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications.
- Seek and create opportunities for communicating the work and findings of the Coalition about the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications, including submission of journal articles in peer-reviewed journals and other formal written works, including Op-Eds, for both STEM and human rights audiences.
- Work with Coalition members who are also student members of human rights organizations and scientific, engineering, and health associations to design a unique, interactive section of the Coalition website dedicated to student information, needs, and interests.
- Contribute to the organization of annual Human Rights Day events by Coalition members.
- Create and maintain a detailed, searchable list of past and current Coalition activities, including how to participate.
- Conduct a benchmark assessment of the use and impact of Coalition resources and activities on the structures and membership of Coalition member associations and analyze responses.
- Analyze results and develop recommendations for pathways of engagement based on surveys of individual affiliates.

- Assess the entry survey mechanism, amend as necessary, and conduct the survey with any incoming affiliated individuals. Develop a mechanism for capturing, analyzing, and reporting entry survey responses.
- Expand the use of Trellis to support Coalition productivity. Resolve any hurdles that may have appeared in the first year.

## **2017**

- Conduct an entry survey. Analyze and report on survey responses.
- Evaluate Coalition progress and facilitate the planning for 2018-2020.
- Survey STEM and human rights organizations to determine effectiveness of outreach efforts and needs for further elucidation, awareness raising, or support. The findings of the survey should inform planning for 2018-2020.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of Trellis as the main means of communication within the Coalition. Identify needs for additional resources, if any.

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## 4. Benchmarks

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The purpose of the benchmark indicators is to measure the progress made towards meeting the goals of the Coalition. The following organization for the benchmarks attempts to clarify the range of processes and outcomes that we as a coalition are seeking to achieve and encourage. In each case, the measurements would reflect the status or activities in one calendar year.

All of the benchmarks from the two previous Plans of Action were retained, in the same organization as in the 2012-2014 plan, with one addition (B.6). The benchmarks in sections A – D are all measuring activities of the member and affiliated associations. The benchmarks in section E are intended to measure the engagement of affiliated individuals. And finally, the benchmarks in section F measure progress made specifically by the Coalition activities.

In 2015, the Council will create a Benchmarks Committee to oversee implementation of these benchmarks throughout the plan term. This new committee will collect the necessary information from Coalition members, analyze the data, and report findings to the Council at least once each year. The committee also will be tasked with reviewing the benchmarks periodically and suggesting improvements, as needed. Finally, the committee will support the working groups and Outreach and Communications Committee, analyzing their activity benchmarks to help reduce replication in data collection and, where possible, to make the benchmarks comparable across the groups.

### **A. Benchmarks for Member Association Involvement in the Coalition**

1. Proportion of Member Associations that attended the Council Meeting
2. Proportion of Members in each category (Member/Affiliate) participating actively in a working group
3. Proportion of Members in each category participating in the Coalition twice-yearly meetings
4. Proportion of Member Associations that have information about the Coalition on the Association's website

### **B. Benchmarks for an Association's Activities Aimed at Members of the Association or Discipline**

1. Have a human rights board or committee (i.e., an entity that is part of the association's governance structure)
2. Have a human rights membership subgroup (e.g., section, division, or special interest group)
3. Include "human rights" in their codes of ethics
4. Conducted research on human rights issues
5. Held education programs on human rights for their members
6. Organized sessions related to human rights during annual meetings and/or other important association meetings for members.
7. Awarded prizes for members' contributions to human rights
8. Applied discipline-specific knowledge and skills to human rights

9. Outreach/Publicity by Members to constituencies about human rights and/or the Coalition
10. Have human rights resources for members on the association's website or have a listserv for members on topics or issues regarding human rights

**C. Benchmarks for an Association's Activities Aimed at Human Rights Organizations**

1. Have a *pro bono* program for human rights groups
2. Other than through a dedicated *pro bono* program, have directly contributed to the work of a human rights organization
3. Have resources for human rights organizations on the member association's website
4. Awarded prizes or other honorary recognition to human rights practitioners

**D. Benchmarks for an Association's Activities Aimed at Policy Makers, Authorities, or the General Public**

1. Worked on protection of scientists, engineers, and/or health professionals during this year
  - Worked on human rights cases involving scientists, engineers, and/or health professionals
  - Worked on policy and practice affecting human rights of scientists, engineers, and/or health professionals
2. Issued statements or resolutions on human rights
3. Held public education programs on human rights and their discipline
4. Disseminated human rights resources and publications to the public, including through the association's website or through social media
5. Worked to promote understanding and awareness of the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications (Article 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights)

The benchmarks in the four categories A-D measure the activities and accomplishments of the Coalition Member and Affiliate associations. When an association joins the Coalition, they should be asked to provide the benchmark data outlined in categories B, C, and D.

The next category aims to measure the activities of the Coalition Affiliated Individuals

**E. Benchmarks for Activities by Coalition Affiliated Individuals**

1. Proportion of Affiliated Individuals participating actively in a working group
2. Proportion of Affiliated Individuals participating in the Coalition twice-yearly meetings
3. Applied discipline-specific knowledge and skills to human rights

The final category, below, reflects the activities of the Coalition Working Groups and Committee whose goals include providing resources for the STEM associations.

**F. Benchmarks for Coalition Resources available to STEM Associations**

1. Total number of stand-alone resources available from the Coalition Website (e.g. bibliographies, primers, teaching modules)

2. If possible, a measure of the number of views of the website resources and other analytics
3. Number of participatory sessions (e.g. webinars, workshops, clinics) organized by Working Groups or Committees this year, outside of the two Coalition meetings, and the number of participants

The following section describes in more detail the benchmark indicators listed above and the final section addresses the need to provide further assistance in the process of the measurement of the indicators and a pilot test of the resulting procedure.

## I. Description of Benchmark Indicators

### **Active Participation in the Coalition Activities and Process (A.1 - A.3)**

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*About the benchmarks:* These three indicators measure the level of participation by the association in the Coalition activities and can be measured directly by the Secretariat from information currently collected.

### **Informing the Member Association about the Coalition Activities (A.5 and B.8)**

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*About the benchmarks:* These two indicators measure the number of member and affiliated associations that regularly communicate information about the Coalition and their association's role in the Coalition to their membership. The indicator A.4 measures communication such as articles in newsletters or presentations at meetings. The last indicator, A.5, measures whether or not the association's website includes information about the Coalition. The information for these benchmarks would come from each association's representatives to the Council.

### **Human Rights Incorporated in the Structure of the Associations (B.1 and B.2)**

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*About the benchmarks:* This indicator addresses two different ways an association can foster and promote human rights through a position dedicated to human rights or through a subgroup with significant work in human rights. The first indicator (B.1) is the number of associations that have a board position or committee with responsibility for human rights or with significant work in human rights (such as a Vice President with responsibility for human rights issues). The second indicator (B.2) is the number of associations that have an active section, working group or special interest group which incorporates human rights into their objectives or by regular reference to human rights as a primary basis for their activities.

### **Human Rights in their Code of Ethics (B.3)**

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*About the benchmark:* This benchmark measures the number of associations that reference human rights in their rules for ethical conduct. This benchmark is most often met by a reference to "human rights" or a particular declaration of human rights, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR); it may also be met by reference to a specific human right.

### **Research on Human Rights Issues (B.4)**

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*About the benchmark:* This benchmark measures the number of associations that conduct or fund research on human rights. This may include reports published under the association name,

grants dedicated to human rights that are awarded by the association, or ongoing association-sponsored research. This benchmark is not applicable to members' individual research nor to the print or electronic publication of articles written by individual members, even if such work is published in an association journal.

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### **Educational Programs on Human Rights for their Members (B.5)**

*About the benchmark:* This benchmark measures the number of associations that create opportunities for members to learn about and engage in human rights. This benchmark is most often satisfied by presentations, panels and trainings conducted at annual meetings. Additional means by which an association may meet this benchmark include but are not limited to: conference call trainings or discussions, lectures or panel presentations to members of the association or of a particular committee, or on-line programs designated for association members only. This benchmark is unlikely to be met when only one member of a panel has a human rights focus, unless this member's focus is intrinsic to the topic of the panel as a whole. Educational programs, publications, and events that are open to the general public do not meet this benchmark and are, instead, covered by Benchmark D.3.

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### **Sessions on Human Rights at Annual Meetings (B.6)**

*About the benchmark:* This benchmark measures the number of sessions (oral or poster) related to human rights held during annual meetings (and other important member meetings) held by the associations.

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### **Awards or Prizes to Members (or Discipline) for Upholding Human Rights (B.7)**

*About the benchmark:* This benchmark measures the number of associations that offer prizes and awards for human rights work, whether conducted collectively or individually. Prizes and awards may be offered, for example, in recognition of publication or research in an area of human rights, or in recognition of individual activities and advocacy in support of human rights.

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### **Application of Discipline-specific Knowledge and Skills to Human Rights (B.8)**

*About the benchmark:* This benchmark measures the number of associations that conduct or fund discipline-specific research and activities in support of human rights work.

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### **Human Rights Resources available through Website or Networking (B.9)**

*About the benchmark:* This benchmark measures the number of associations that have relevant electronic resources or information regarding human rights on their websites, for example, a web page dedicated to human rights and the discipline or a listserv devoted to issues or concerns related to human rights.

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### **Pro-Bono Program for Human Rights Groups (C.1)**

*About the benchmark:* This benchmark measures the number of associations that have facilitated expert volunteers contributing to human rights work. Associations may facilitate such collaborations either through a dedicated group or program established for the purpose, or on an *ad hoc* basis through individual cases sponsored by the association or society.

### **Resources for Human Rights Associations (C.2)**

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*About the benchmark:* This benchmark measures the number of associations that provide information or resources specifically targeted to human rights organizations or activists who are not also members of the scientific discipline. These would most likely be links on the association website designed specifically for human rights organizations.

### **Awards or Prizes to Human Rights Organizations or Activists (C.3)**

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*About the benchmark:* This benchmark measures the number of associations that offer prizes and awards for human rights work, to individual activists or human rights organizations.

### **Work on Protection of Scientists, Engineers, and Health Professionals (D.1)**

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*About the benchmark:* This benchmark measures the number of associations that work to protect the human rights of scientists, engineers, and health professionals, either through a dedicated committee or on an ad-hoc basis. Such activities may include but are not limited to: investigative reports, calls to action, and letters the United States government or to foreign governments.

### **Issue Statements or Resolutions on Human Rights (D.2)**

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*About the benchmark:* This benchmark measures the number of associations that have released one or more declarations upholding human rights. These statements and resolutions may include broad support of all human rights, reference a particular human rights agreement or address one or more individual human right. This category is not intended to address the incorporation of human rights into an association's Code of Ethics, which is addressed by Benchmark B.3.

### **Public Education Programs on Human Rights and Their Discipline (D.3)**

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*About the benchmark:* This benchmark measures the number of associations that organize educational events that are open to or available to the public and address both human rights and an aspect of the association's disciplinary focus. Such events may include but are not limited to: public seminars or events and publicly available podcasts.

### **Dissemination of Human Rights Resources and Publications to the Public (D.4)**

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*About the benchmark:* This benchmark measures the number of associations that publish human rights materials on-line or in print for public use. Relevant publications and resources for the purposes of this benchmark would include but are not limited to: articles in scholarly journals, materials in newsletters and list serves, and resources online, including databases, interviews and other electronic materials.

### **Promote Understanding of Article 15 by Policy Makers (D.5)**

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*About the benchmark:* This benchmark measures the number of associations that have engaged policy makers or provided information to policy makers on the topic of the right to the benefit of scientific progress.

### **Active Participation by Affiliated Individuals in Coalition Activities and Process (E.1-E.2)**

*About the benchmarks:* These two indicators measure the level of participation by the scientists, engineers, and health professionals in the Coalition activities and can be measured directly from information currently collected by the Secretariat.

### **Affiliated Individuals Contributing their Technical Skills to Human Rights Work (E.3)**

*About the benchmark:* This benchmark measures the level of engagement of the affiliated individuals in applying his or her discipline to human rights activities. This is measured through an annual survey of affiliated individuals.

### **Resources Developed by the Coalition Working Groups and Committees (F1 – F3)**

*About the benchmark:* These benchmarks measure the resources made available to the Coalition’s Member and Affiliated associations by the Working Groups and Committees. The following table is an example of what these benchmark indicators might be for a given year.

Potential Benchmark Indicators for 2015

Stand-Alone Resources Available on the Website	Total # as of 12/31/2014	8
	# of requests/hits during 2015	
	New resources developed in 2015	
Interactive Programs Excluding Coalition Meetings (Webinars, clinics, etc.)	Number of events in 2015	
	Total Number of participants	

## **II. Measuring Benchmark Indicators**

It is important that benchmark indicators represent not only valuable information but also measurements that can be obtained with a reasonable degree of accuracy and consistency using available resources. For some of the benchmarks proposed in this document, obtaining accurate measurements should be straightforward at relatively low ‘cost’. For example, determining whether or not a website contains information for human rights organizations should be fairly straightforward and the measurement should have reasonable accuracy. (One might argue that if the information is not easily found on a website then it shouldn’t ‘count’.)

But many of the benchmarks proposed here will be difficult to measure without active participation and cooperation of the member and affiliate associations.

It is important that the process for obtaining benchmarks provides information distinguishing between cases where the measurement could be obtained and where it could not. Take for example the benchmark measuring whether an association has done research on human rights issues. An indicator of five associations out of 30 having done research has a different meaning if all 30 associations provided information and only 5 had done research, compared to 5 out of 6 responding associations had done research and 54 did not provide any information.

The number of respondents must be recorded and displayed with the measurements in order for the indicators to be useful. If we find that certain benchmark indicators cannot be reliably obtained with the resources available, this indicator should be changed or dropped.

Many of the benchmarks for the 2015-2017 Plan of Action are also indicators that have been used since the Coalition launched in 2009. An analysis of the process for obtaining those measurements in the past and an assessment of the difficulty and the reliability of these measurements would be valuable in determining whether or not we should continue to include them.