

## **AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition Plan of Action (2009-2011)**

For programmatic, organizational, communication, and funding purposes, the Coalition requires a three-year plan for moving forward. The plan of action is intended to be specific enough to provide guidance to the relevant committees, working groups, and the Steering Committee as they set about developing detailed plans of action, yet broad enough to accommodate new opportunities and developments that may arise.

The plan combines work on distinct areas of activity, with a larger, joint initiative intended to engage the entire membership. The specialized areas of activity will be pursued by separate working groups, providing scientific associations several different ways and opportunities to engage in human rights. The joint initiative, in turn, will bring the entire membership together, providing the cohesion necessary for identity, influence, and impact.

The following three-year plan of action covers:

- Programs: Areas of Activity and Joint Initiative
- Membership
- Outreach and Communication

Attached to the plan of action is a list of baseline data and benchmarks. The detailed plans of action to be developed by the working groups and committees will incorporate and expand this list, and include targets and benchmarks specific to each working group and committee.

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### **Program**

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The Coalition's programmatic work will be carried out along two parallel tracks: specialized areas of activity and an overarching initiative. The two sets of activities are envisioned to be mutually supportive and reinforcing, with progress on one enhancing the likelihood of progress in another.

### **Areas of Activity**

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Currently, the Coalition has five functioning working groups, each established to address a distinct area of activity:

- I. Welfare of Scientists
- II. Science Ethics and Human Rights
- III. Service to the Scientific Community
- IV. Service to the Human Rights Community
- V. Education and Information Resources

Each working group has identified a set of objectives and content specific to their area of activity (see Areas of Activity documents). Each working group will develop their three year detailed plans of action for their areas.

There are two objectives common to all working groups. The following three-year plan provides suggestions for only those activities that are common to *all* working groups, though carried out by each.

## **Objectives**

- A recognizable presence for each working group in the relevant community (scientific or human rights)
- Interest in and awareness and understanding of the importance of the area of activity in the relevant community (scientific or human rights)

## **Potential Common Activities**

### **2009**

- Identify initial set of target associations and invite them to join the working group
- Identify possible partners with specialized expertise in the relevant area of activity
- Design a presentation (PowerPoint, if possible) specific to the area of activity
- Hold two presentations at relevant venues (e.g., annual scientific meetings, human rights conferences)
- Develop content for Coalition brochure
- Contribute one article to SHRP Newsletter
- Develop Web presence on AAAS pages
- Publish article on area of activity work in own (working group members') association's newsletter and/or Web site
- Develop and submit proposals for sessions at relevant venues (e.g., annual meetings, conferences, seminars) for 2010

### **2010**

- Hold sessions at annual meetings, conferences, seminars, etc.
- Hold presentations for interested associations/groups
- Identify a second set of target associations and invite them to join the working group
- Identify potential international partners
- Develop plan for engaging member associations' counterparts and/or members abroad
- Begin planning activity for university science students on campuses
- Continue developing Web presence and content; consider whether database may be needed (that may require outside funding)
- Publish articles in relevant newsletters and/or on Web sites
- Submit proposals for sessions at relevant venues for 2011
- Identify and develop proposal for a multi-year Project (that may require outside funding)
- Contribute to Article 15 (Coalition joint initiative) presentation to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (Geneva or New York) (see Joint Initiative)

### **2011**

- Hold sessions at annual meetings, conferences, seminars, etc.
- Identify a third set of target associations and invite them to join the working group
- Make Article 15 presentation to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (Geneva or New York)
- Begin implementing the multi-year Project
- Implement international and/or campus activity

- Work with the Steering Committee to carry out the first three-year review to assess progress in meeting targets and identify lessons learned

## **Joint Initiative | Article 15: The Human Right to Benefit from Scientific Progress**

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In addition to specialized areas of activity that will engage different associations in the pursuit of many different objectives, the Coalition will pursue an overarching initiative to engage the full membership to accomplish a shared objective(s). Such a Coalition-wide initiative should have the following characteristics: (1) lies at the nexus of science and human rights; (2) cannot be accomplished without the scientific community; and (3) has direct relevance for each of the areas of activity to which the Coalition is already committed.

The human rights framework provides such an overarching science and human rights initiative: Article 15. This human right requires states to: (1) recognize the right of everyone to “enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications”; (2) take steps necessary for the “conservation, the development and the diffusion of science”; (3) respect the “freedom indispensable for scientific research”; and (4) recognize the benefits of “international contacts and co-operation in the scientific and cultural fields.”

As a right recognized by 159 states, which is directly relevant to each of the Coalition’s five areas of activity, Article 15 constitutes a strong basis upon which to mobilize the scientific community.

### **Objectives**

- Knowledge among scientific associations of the existence, significance and potential applications of this human right
- Engagement of scientific associations in the realization of this human right
- Leveraging of this human right to accomplish the objectives of the Coalition’s areas of activity

A three-year plan of action for the Coalition’s “Article 15” initiative follows:

#### **2009**

- Develop materials to introduce “Article 15” to Coalition members
- Hold a training session on Article 15 for new Coalition members
- In conjunction with working groups, identify applications of Article 15 specific to their areas of activity, and develop relevant information materials
- Design overall initiative with detailed plan of action, benchmarks, and objectives to begin implementing in 2010
- Prepare presentations for relevant meetings, conferences, etc.

#### **2010**

- Hold a training session on Article 15 for new Coalition members
- Hold sessions at relevant meetings, conferences, etc.
- Begin implementing Year I of the initiative
- Provide ongoing guidance to working groups

- Work with working groups to prepare presentation to UN Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights

### 2011

- Hold a training session on Article 15 for new Coalition members
- Hold sessions at relevant meetings, conferences, etc.
- Implement Year II of the initiative
- Hold major event ahead of the meeting with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (Geneva or New York)

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## Membership

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A Membership committee will work to encourage the participation of members in building the Coalition and expanding its programs and services.

### Objectives

- Growth in all categories of Coalition membership: member associations, affiliated associations, and affiliated scientists
- Membership becomes representative of the community of scientific associations, i.e., behavioral, life, physical, social sciences
- Steadily growing number of affiliated associations and scientists, indicating a growing interest in exploring and engaging in human rights
- Expansion in the number of working groups in which each member association is involved

### 2009 – 2011

- Maintain database of member associations, societies, and academies
- Communicate with member associations and scientists
- Refine criteria for commitment
- Provide support to association members that seek to increase their association's commitment and participation
- Track changes in membership along lines of types of organizations, disciplines, geographic location, participation in working groups, and other criteria indicating Coalition's reach and representation of scientific community
- Provide working groups with regular information regarding membership, especially new members, and facilitate exchange of such information across working groups

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## Outreach and Communication

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This committee will pursue outreach and communication with the aim of expanding the Coalition membership. The Coalition will seek to expand and grow, not as an objective in itself, but rather

as a means toward the end of enhancing and expanding the contribution of scientific associations to human rights efforts at home and around the world.

### **Objectives**

- Growth in the number of scientific associations that are actively engaged in human rights in some form
- Growth in the number of scientific associations with committees, sections, or working groups devoted to human rights
- More diverse forms of engagement by scientific associations in human rights efforts

### **2009 – 2011**

- Develop a multi-pronged strategy for outreach to scientific associations that includes a combination of information materials (including Coalition brochure), face-to-face meetings, special events, regular communication, and appeals from respected colleagues in their profession
- Develop a Coalition newsletter
- Track progress in reaching new scientific audiences and set annual targets and benchmarks
- Work with member associations to develop discipline-specific outreach efforts for associations in their scientific fields
- Work with affiliated associations and scientists to reach additional associations
- Work with affiliated associations and scientists to help them bring their associations to join as members
- Work with Membership committee to develop and implement strategic plan to expand membership
- Work with Membership committee to develop plan for presence on university campuses and engagement of science students
- Provide support to the working groups in their outreach to and engagement of associations and the human rights community
- Maintain (with SHRP support) a calendar of association annual meetings, identify opportunities for participation, and, in coordination with the working groups, develop a realistic plan for participation

## Appendix 1: Baseline and Benchmarks

	June 2008	July 2009	Dec 2009	Dec 2010	Dec 2011
<b>AAAS affiliated associations = 262</b>					
<b>Coalition Membership</b>					
Member Organizations	18	26			
Life sciences	(1)	(2)			
Physical sciences	(2)	(2)			
Social/ Behavioral sciences	(12)	(18)			
Engineering	(0)	(1)			
General scientific or networks	(3)	(3)			
Affiliated Organizations	-	15			
Life sciences	-	(2)			
Physical sciences	-	(7)			
Social/ Behavioral sciences	-	(3)			
Engineering	-	(1)			
General scientific or networks	-	(2)			
Affiliated Scientists	5	36			
Member/Affiliated Organizations active in working groups	11	24			
<b>Organizations* that:</b>					
▪ Have human rights committees, sections, or working groups	14				
▪ Issue statements or resolutions on human rights	11				
▪ Conduct research on human rights issues	?				
▪ Work on protection of scientists	14				
▪ Hold education programs on human rights for their members	?				
▪ Hold public education programs on human rights and their discipline	?				
▪ Award prizes for upholding human rights	?				
▪ Apply discipline-specific knowledge and skills to human rights	?				
▪ Have a <i>pro bono</i> program for human rights groups	?				
▪ Include “human rights” in their codes of ethics	8				

## Plan of Action (2009-2011) – Appendix

### **Working Groups**

- Sessions, meetings, and trainings for scientific associations 0
- Sessions, meetings, and trainings for human rights organizations 0
- Prepare, compile, and disseminate relevant materials 0

\* All scientific membership organizations, whether or not they are affiliated with AAAS or the Coalition