

AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition 2012-2014 Plan of Action [*adopted July 2012*]

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I. Introduction

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 societies 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 on January 14-16, 2009 to broaden the engagement of scientific and engineering communities in human rights and to achieve more far-reaching and sustainable contributions to human rights work.

Representing often large professional constituencies, these organizations are influential and well-respected within their own communities and beyond. Furthermore, they often play a significant role in the 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.

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 and engineering societies 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 and human rights communities.

Accomplishing these long-term goals requires:

- Expanding both the human rights and the scientific and engineering communities' appreciation of and commitment to collaboration on human rights,
- Enhancing both communities' capacity to incorporate the concerns and methods of the other,
- Encouraging scientific and engineering membership organizations to explore discipline-specific contributions to human rights work,
- Supporting the establishment and growth of human rights programming within scientific, engineering, and health membership organizations, and
- Participating in public policy and civil society initiatives that advance the role of science and technology in human rights.

The Coalition has organized its objectives, activities and governance structures with these goals at the forefront. To carry out its work, the Coalition has created five working groups:

- **Welfare of Scientists:** Expands participation and effectiveness of professional societies in defending the human rights of scientists, engineers and health professionals; increases awareness and implementation of human rights frameworks that protect scientists; and helps professional 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 ethics codes that guide the scientific, engineering and health communities to human rights principles.
- **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, and then assist in making these accessible to human rights practitioners.
- **Education and Information Resources:** Identifies, compiles and develops resources and creates opportunities for exchange in order to establish a stronger foundation for productive, collaborative human rights efforts; contributes 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 and grow the Coalition's impact, as a means of enhancing the contribution of the scientific and engineering communities to human rights efforts.

To date, 47 scientific and engineering organizations have joined the Coalition as member or affiliated organizations, including some of the world's largest associations of anthropologists, biomedical researchers, engineers, geographers, physicists, psychologists, and statisticians. Although individuals are encouraged to work through their professional societies, they may join the Coalition as affiliated individuals, and 63 have done so thus far.

The Coalition has created this Plan of Action to advance its mission and goals throughout 2012-2014. The Plan of Action builds on the Coalition's accomplishments since its launch in 2009 and extends many of the activities adopted in the first Plan of Action. The plan also proposes some new directions for the Coalition's work, based on feedback from the evaluation conducted at the end of 2011.

This plan is intended to be a dynamic document, with room for change and creativity as new opportunities or challenges arise, or as information from monitoring the benchmarks proposed at the end of this document suggests changes are needed.

II. 2012-2014 Goals

This plan is intended to guide the Coalition as it builds from its formation to gain momentum and solidify its early achievements. For the next three years, all of the Coalition's activities – direct action, creating and synthesizing resources, building networks and communication tools, education, outreach, and member engagement – should help shape and strengthen the Coalition as:

- A multi-disciplinary network of scientific, engineering and health membership organizations that have mainstreamed, or are working towards mainstreaming, human rights in their policy, training, research and other activities.
- A source for information on human rights, science and technology, including research and scholarship on the intersections among science, engineering, health and human rights, as well as 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 organizations.
- 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.
- An influential voice in international and national policy discussions at the intersections of science, engineering, health and human rights, particularly on protection 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).

With these characteristics, the Coalition will be better situated to accomplish its long-term goals of mobilizing scientific and engineering associations and their members for the benefit of human rights, identifying and implementing new applications of science and technology to human rights work, applying human rights standards to the conduct of science, and advancing the human right to the benefits of scientific progress and its applications throughout the science, engineering, health and human rights communities.

The sections that follow describe each working group, committee and governance structure's objectives and planned activities for 2012-2014. Some of the actions will have immediate impact on human rights, while others build the foundations for long-lasting institutional integration of human rights goals, positioning the scientific and engineering community for future challenges. As a collection of separate activities, they reinforce and complement each other in three key areas:

- Increasing applications of rigorous scientific methods and technologies to the defense of human rights,

- Drawing the scientific and engineering community’s attention to the relevance of human rights to their knowledge and skills, and the range of contributions professional societies and individuals can make to human rights, and
- Supporting the development of international human rights norms through the use of scientific approaches, particularly where those human rights standards have a special relevance to the scientific and engineering community, such as the right to benefit from scientific progress.

Member Engagement

Realizing the vision for the Coalition will require the active involvement of Coalition member and affiliated organizations as well as reaching out to these organizations’ own members. Individuals affiliated with the Coalition are also of the utmost importance. Therefore it is essential that the Coalition (a) ensures that all its member and affiliated organizations and affiliated individuals can benefit from the Coalition’s programs and services, (b) creates and encourages networking and professional development opportunities for members and affiliates, and (c) shares information about Coalition and member products, services, events and any other relevant information for the benefit of all members and affiliates.

The goals for member engagement are to:

- Develop resources that support member and affiliated organizations’ efforts to “mainstream” human rights in their respective associations.
- Provide organizational representatives as well as affiliated individuals with opportunities to deepen their understanding of human rights and the intersections with science and technology, and tools for sharing that knowledge with association membership, colleagues and students.
- Build internal structures within the Coalition that support peer-to-peer cross-disciplinary communication and information-sharing.
- Assist organizational representatives, affiliated individuals, and students in finding relevant and fulfilling roles within the Coalition, and identify ways in which the Coalition can support them in their own work and outreach.
- Create opportunities for members to engage with human rights organizations and policy makers.
- Support organizations’ and individuals’ efforts to engage with their international counterparts on human rights issues.

Member expansion

In order to enhance and extend the contribution of scientists, engineers, health professionals and their professional and scholarly associations to human rights efforts at home and around the world, the Coalition needs to grow. Strategic outreach and communication efforts are needed to increase the impact of the Coalition’s work by expanding the Coalition membership.

The goals for membership expansion are to:

- (1) Increase and diversify the engagement of scientific, engineering and health associations and their members in human rights activities.
- (2) Expand the disciplinary representation of associations and of individuals engaged in human rights activities including among: students, physical scientists, engineers, health professionals, women, and ethnic and racial minorities.

III. Joint Initiative: Right to Enjoy the Benefits of Scientific Progress (Article 15)

The right to “enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications” elevates fundamental scientific values, such as equitable access to scientific and technical knowledge, scientific freedom, and international cooperation, to universal standards that governments everywhere must protect. A right unto itself, this right is also a key prerequisite for the realization of other human rights, including the rights to health, food, water, and to a healthy environment. Although universally recognized, this human right remains largely ignored by governments, as well as the scientific, engineering, health and human rights communities. As a network of scientific, engineering and health organizations that recognize a role for science and technology in promoting human rights, the Coalition has a unique and vital contribution to make to efforts to ensure that governments respect, protect, and fulfill this neglected right.

The goals for the Joint Initiative in 2012-2014 are to:

- (1)** Bring the voice and perspectives of the scientific and engineering communities directly to the articulation and monitoring of the right to “enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications” by the United Nations and other relevant regional human rights organizations.
- (2)** Raise awareness among policy makers and government agencies of the articulation of the right within the scientific, engineering and human rights communities, as appropriate, including through the development and wide dissemination of written and multi-media resources.
- (3)** Contribute to enhanced monitoring of government compliance with their obligations under this right and to increase compliance with this right by those countries that are a party to the relevant international and regional treaties.

Activities:

Achieving the goals for the Joint Initiative is the shared responsibility of the Coalition and its members. In 2012-2014, the working groups have committed to the following projects:

Connecting Article 15 and scientific freedom – Develop a guide to encourage the human rights, scientific, engineering and health communities to address scientific freedom with specific reference to the obligation on governments to “respect the freedom indispensable for scientific research” (Article 15(3)) and identify opportunities and obstacles for further realization of this right (Working Group on Welfare of Scientists).

Defining “scientific responsibility” – Develop a human rights-based understanding of the ethical responsibilities of scientists, engineers and health professionals as a vital component of the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and a necessary corollary to the obligation of governments to respect scientific freedom (Working Group on Ethics and Human Rights).

Engaging the STEM community to define Article 15 - Build on success in holding Article 15 focus groups with disciplinary specific STEM societies in order to collect a body of knowledge regarding the meaning

of Article 15 from the perspective of STEM professionals, use this information to influence UN processes aimed at defining the right, and increase knowledge and engagement of associations and their members with the Coalition (Working Group on Service to the STEM Community).

Monitoring compliance with Article 15 - Develop a guide to assist human rights organizations in monitoring and tracking how well obligations under Article 15 are being met, specifically by developing indicators and identifying data necessary to measure compliance (Working Group on Service to the Human Rights Community).

Education and training in Article 15 - Prepare teaching modules on the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications, relevance of the right across STEM disciplines, opportunities for contributing to the realization of the right, and responsibilities of scientists, engineers and health professionals in ensuring enjoyment of the right (Working Group on Education and Information Resources).

IV. Areas of Work

In order to achieve the goals set out above, the Coalition has divided its efforts into five areas of substantive activity undertaken by separate working groups:

- Welfare of Scientists
- Ethics and Human Rights
- Service to the STEM Community
- Service to the Human Rights Community
- Education and Information Resources

These five working groups, led by organizational representatives and individual affiliates, carry out activities aimed at advancing the Coalition's goals. In addition, having recognized the importance of outreach and communication and the need for direct support to Coalition members to achieving the Coalition's goals, certain activities will also be carried out by an Outreach and Communication Committee.

The specific activities and responsibilities each group will undertake in 2012-2014 are outlined below.

IV. A. Welfare of Scientists Working Group

The scientific community is a strong supporter of the human rights of individual scientists. There is a need, however, to expand participation and work in this area, and to improve its effectiveness. By increasing the number of scientific and engineering associations involved, coordinating their efforts, and providing informational resources and advocacy tools, the Coalition will help the scientific and engineering communities to better respond to cases of alleged human rights violations. By improving their advocacy on behalf of persecuted members of their discipline or field, scientific and engineering associations and academies contribute to the broader defense of universal human rights.

The Working Group for the Welfare of Scientists works to expand participation and effectiveness of scientific and engineering organizations 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 better respond to cases of human rights violations.

The Plan of Action builds upon the past projects of the working group, namely:

- Connecting Article 15 and Scientific Freedom: A Guide.
- “Early Detection” Program
- Network: Shared Alerts
- Welfare of Scientists Guide for Associations

Two new areas of activity will implement the outputs generated from these projects and develop the projects’ remits further:

1. Alert Network Development
2. Human Rights for Scientists and Engineers

In addition, the working group’s third project will continue the current project of writing a guide on connecting Article 15 and scientific freedom. It will work collaboratively across the AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition working groups to meet the objectives of the overarching initiative on Article 15, the human right to the benefits of scientific progress.

Objectives

- (1)** Establish and develop relationships with human rights organizations that may receive early indications of threats to and the violation of the human rights of scientists or that may be able to help raise the profile of violations against scientists.
- (2)** Encourage and facilitate scientific and engineering associations to address human rights violations of persecuted colleagues.

- (3) Increase, enhance and diversify the resources for associations and organizations to use to communicate and collaborate on the protection of human rights of scientists and engineers, including resources for training.
- (4) Increase and enhance the online resources for individual scientists and engineers to protect their human rights.
- (5) Collaborate with the human rights community to identify barriers and take steps towards further realization of scientific freedom as part of the obligation on governments to “respect the freedom indispensable for scientific research” (Article 15(3)).

Activities

- (1) **Alert Network Development** - Together with scientific and engineering associations, such as Scholars and Risk and Committee of Concerned Scientists, and with human rights organizations that may receive early indications of threats to and the violation of the human rights of individual scientists and those that may be able to help raise the profile of violations against colleagues, the Alert Network engages Coalition members in advocacy on cases involving threats to, and the violation of, the human rights of scientists and engineers. By continuing to build and expand the reach of the Alert Network, the Welfare of Scientists Working Group will encourage and strengthen all Coalition members’ efforts to address human rights violations of individual scientists.

Ongoing

- Serve as a clearinghouse for associations to share resources and calls to action, including intervention on individual cases.
- Encourage all human rights and scientific and engineering counterparts to join the online Network for Shared Alerts.
- Working collaboratively with Coalition members, scientific and engineering associations, and human rights organizations, develop advocacy strategies to respond to threats to and violations of the rights of individual scientists that leverage the resources available throughout the scientific communities, including those within AAAS. Examples of resources include, but are not limited to, membership listservs, websites, institutional publications, annual meetings, public statements, and letters or petitions to governmental or human rights bodies, as appropriate in individual cases.
- Publicize individual cases of human rights violations brought to the group’s attention through resources like the online Network for Shared Alerts or the AAAS listserv, and through human rights organizations.
- Generate content for Coalition members to place in their association newsletters, websites and other outlets (press releases, letters, articles, presentations) about the Alert Network, especially success stories and how to take action on individual cases.

2012

- Meet with a selected group of human rights organizations, such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, to share information about the role scientific and engineering organizations play in promoting and protecting the human rights of colleagues and to exchange ideas about advocacy strategies.

2013

- Connect with a selected group of international human rights organizations in the United States and outside the United States to discuss the role scientific and engineering organizations play in promoting and protecting the human rights of colleagues and to seek their advice on improving effectiveness of associations' advocacy efforts.

2014

- Assess the impact of the Alert Network and make improvements as suggested by the evaluation.

(2) Human Rights for Scientists - Increase and enhance the online resources available for associations and organizations to use to communicate and collaborate on the protection of human rights of scientists, engineers and health professionals; develop and make available resources for individuals to protect their human rights and address issues pertaining to the human rights of scientists; educate Coalition members to the importance of advocacy in human rights work and the tools and tactics available to them; and deepen and diversify the reach of the Coalition's resources for training associations and organizations to address human rights.

2012

- Make the new Primer on Scientific Freedom and Human Rights available on the working group's webpage.
- Develop a dissemination plan to share the Primer on Scientific Freedom and Human Rights more widely, identifying ways to leverage a broad set of outlets, including human rights organizations' own communication tools.
- Gather online resources pertaining to human rights and science, engineering and health from members of the working group and other associations and organizations that can be placed on the working group web page.
- Develop training materials for Coalition members on the importance of advocacy in human rights work and the tools and tactics available to do so.

2013

- Update and publicize the directory of organizations working to protect the human rights of scientists.

- Develop an evaluation tool for use of the Primer on Scientific Freedom and Human Rights to determine its effectiveness, and to determine the effectiveness of the Coalition in advocating for the rights of scientists and engineers and scientific freedom.
- Conduct evaluation of Primer’s effectiveness and the role of the Coalition in advocacy for the rights of scientists and engineers, and scientific freedom.

2014

- Write an article on the results of the evaluation and present results to the Coalition.
- Update the Primer as suggested by the evaluation results.

(3) Guide on Connecting Article 15 and Scientific Freedom - Encourage the human rights and scientific and engineering communities to address scientific freedom as an issue of human rights, which is particularly relevant to the obligation on governments to “respect the freedom indispensable for scientific research” (Article 15(3)) and identify opportunities and obstacles for further realization of the right.

2012

- Identify cases where petitions to protect the human rights of scientists and engineers use international human rights law that directly uses or relates to Article 15.
- Identify scientific and engineering associations and human rights organizations with experience in addressing the welfare of scientists.
- Work with scientific and engineering associations to identify positive examples of steps taken by governments to promote scientific freedom
- Conduct an analysis of existing and previous cases of persecuted scientists and scholars at risk.

2013

- Write guide on connecting Article 15 and scientific freedom and gather input from AAAS staff, Coalition members, and other scientific and engineering associations and human rights organizations.
- Develop an outreach plan to make the Guide available to the members of the Coalition, other scientific and engineering associations, human rights organizations, and international human rights agencies.
- Begin to implement outreach plan.

2014

- Continue distribution, education, and possible projects around the report.

Assessing Impact

- (1)** How has the group's work contributed to the successful protection of individual scientists and engineers from human rights violations?
- (2)** How has the working group increased the capacity of Coalition members to address violations of the human rights of scientists and engineers?
- (3)** How have the group's activities led to the applications of new and increasingly effective resources for communicating and collaboration to protect the human rights of scientists and engineers?
- (4)** How has the working group increased the recognition by international human rights bodies, human rights organizations and Coalition members of scientific freedom as a human rights issue with a special interconnection to other rights, as recognized by Article 15?

IV. B. Ethics and Human Rights Working Group

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 and engineers help them identify with a profession, more firmly linking these to human rights principles will serve to bridge scientists and engineers 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)** To promote better understanding of the connections among human rights and the ethics of the practice of science and its applications.
- (2)** To encourage scientific, engineering and health associations in the U.S. to draw more explicit links between international human rights principles and their own ethical frameworks for professional conduct.
- (3)** To encourage scientific, engineering and health professional associations to incorporate human rights frameworks into their professional codes of ethics and ethical discussions.

Activities

- (1)** Identifying and highlighting important emerging intersections and frontiers of human rights, ethics, scientific practice, and its applications, with an emphasis upon the physical, life, engineering, and health sciences, as a basis of cooperating more closely with professional associations from these disciplines to the end of encouraging their more active engagement with the ongoing work of the Coalition.

2012

Our first step to this end is the organization of a half-day symposium which will bring together expert and professional voices – including from the overlapping communities of science policy, human rights, professional ethics, and relevant disciplines – to the end of addressing how best to consider the relationship between human rights, ethics, the practice of science, and its applications, for the disciplines in question.

2013

As a follow-up to our first report on the implications of intersections of human rights, ethics, and science for the case of human subjects protection, and based upon the outcome of our 2012 symposium, begin the process of developing a second report dedicated to describing and exploring the relationships between human rights, ethics, and social responsibility, with particular attention to the life and physical sciences, as well as the health and engineering communities. This process will include designating responsibilities for particular working group members, who will work to carry through on different parts of, and case studies for, the overall report. Early candidates for topics deserving of further consideration for development as case studies for inclusion in the report are:

dual-use science

licensing and international access to science

comparison of different models of scientific knowledge sharing

commercially- versus scientifically-available knowledge

neglect of the local in global scientific practice

desirable limits to availability of science

forms of public accountability among scientists

We will also explore bringing together the results of the symposium as a potential special topical issue for publication in the journal *Science* (or a comparable forum, such as *Ethics & International Affairs*) on the relationship of human rights to the ethical practice of the physical, life, engineering, and health sciences, and associated applications.

2014

Having determined the particular cases, and overall argument, we will move to complete the report-writing process and bring it out. This will include: the successful development of case studies for inclusion, the identification and incorporation of appropriate secondary literature, carrying out both external and internal reviews of a report draft, revisions, and eventual release of the report on the AAAS website.

- (2) To support the ongoing Article 15 project by helping to better define the extent of the meaning of “social responsibility” for the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and the social responsibilities of science and of scientists. By “social responsibility,” we most generally mean a sharper appreciation for what might be required from scientists and engineers, and the scientific and engineering communities, in order to ensure an adequate understanding and pursuit of “the benefits of scientific progress.” This includes attention to identifying the relationships between: scientific freedoms, access to scientific results and applications, equity in the distribution and availability of science and technology, and the identification of particular barriers to achieving

these goals. This work will be incorporated into the development of our second report and separately.

- (3) To continue to promote the development of our Coalition digital case archive through the ongoing elicitation and collection of new cases, including as developed for the upcoming working group symposium, and by seeking additional ways to make use of the archive as a comparative resource, through more regular collaboration with other working groups such as the Service to the STEM Community working group and the Outreach and Communication committee.

Assessing Impact

- (1) How have the working group's activities increased Coalition members' awareness of emerging intersections and frontiers of human rights, ethics, scientific practice, and its applications?
- (2) In what ways have the working group's activities increased Coalition members' understanding of the definition of "social responsibility" for the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and identification of particular barriers to achieving these goals?
- (3) How has the working group increased the availability of, and access to, information on professional ethics and human rights?

IV. C. Service to the STEM Community Working Group

Scientific and engineering 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 scientific and engineering associations have recognized this and have incorporated human rights 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 and engineering 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

In the first 3 years of this working group's effort, the main objective was capacity building in scientific organizations and identifying areas of mutual interest. As the group moves into its next phase of development, additional objectives are to directly engage a broader array of working group members and their associations in the areas of interest previously identified in order to advance human rights.

- (1)** Develop, maintain, disseminate and evaluate resources and tools for use by the STEM community in conducting activities related to human rights.
- (2)** Solicit, synthesize and report on feedback received from the STEM community regarding their perception and understanding of human rights within the context of their work as STEM professionals.
- (3)** Engage members of the working group and the broader STEM community in working to achieve these objectives by directly engaging them in project activities that make maximum use of their professional expertise and affiliations.

Activities

(1) Human Rights Starter Kit

2012

- Design a formative evaluation process to identify content and format changes to the Starter Kit.
- Increase interactivity and appeal of Starter Kit as basis of training and outreach
- Write a draft email for member delegates and affiliates to use when sending copies of the Starter Kit within their own associations.
- Add web tracking tools (e.g. Google Analytics, short links, or comment features)
- Define 3+ distinct approaches for dissemination (e.g. through social networking sites including Facebook and twitter, press release sent to all member associations, New Member Orientation at Coalition meetings, etc.).

2013

- Conduct formative evaluation.
- Monitor dissemination and pick up rates across dissemination approaches
- Shift dissemination approaches as needed based on measured rates.

2014

- Write up process and results and share in a format that can inform other efforts to disseminate human rights materials to the STEM community.
- Revise Starter Kit based on evaluation results.

(2) Webinar Series: Implement the usage of webinars as a tool to explore the links between STEM disciplines and human rights and bring human rights to members of associations in STEM fields.

2012

- Create webinar template based on the ASCE pilot webinar.
- Develop plan for inviting associations to sponsor webinars for their members, in coordination with the Outreach and Communication Committee, mindful of the overall Coalition growth goals.
- Develop brief post-webinar evaluation that includes a question asking for permission to follow up after 6 months to ask about activities.
- Begin to conduct webinars and post webinars on the working group website.

2013

- Based on participant feedback, modify webinar template.
- Conduct webinars.
- Follow up with participants.
- Explore the possibility of recording webinars and making them widely available via YouTube or some other easily accessible platform.

2014

- Continue to conduct webinars.
- Compile longitudinal data on webinar participation and impact of webinar on associations and individuals.
- Write up results for appropriate audiences: outcome should include a scientifically informed article on the results.

(3) Article 15 Focus Groups and Analysis: Build on prior success with Article 15 focus groups in order to collect a body of knowledge on the meaning of Article 15 across engineering and scientific disciplinary perspectives in order to influence UN processes as well as increase knowledge of and engagement of associations and their members with Coalition.

2012

- Conduct additional focus groups through middle of year;
- Establish analytic framework for qualitative analysis of focus group transcripts and participant comments, then code and analyze information;
- Develop template for follow up and feedback to participating organizations to increase knowledge and engagement with human rights and Coalition.
- Write report for UN on findings arising from the focus group process and requesting Day of General Discussion.

2013

- Participate in UN meeting on Article 15 and provide input on General Comment, as feasible.
- Develop information materials and resources for communicating the findings of the analysis of the STEM community's perspective on the right.
- Continue to follow up with participating organizations.
- Conduct outreach to non-member STEM associations using focus group framework.
- Develop plan to work with individual scientific, engineering and health associations to assist them integrate Article 15-related concerns into their current activities, and work with individual associations to address Article 15 in their 2014 activities.
- Engage the STEM community internationally in defining and promoting realization of the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress, including through systematic monitoring of compliance with the right by states party to the relevant treaties.

2014

- Write scholarly articles for peer reviewed journals, other audiences as appropriate.
- Continue work to integrate Article 15 into the specific activities of individual scientific, engineering and health associations, and encourage collaborations across disciplines, as appropriate.
- Evaluate success of follow up activities.

(4) Ongoing Outreach: Increase the ability of STEM professionals to identify the links between their disciplines and human rights and to see how their expertise could advance the cause of human rights.

2012-2014

- Organize, conduct and evaluate interactive educational workshops, seminars, and other presentations at meetings and gatherings of STEM professionals.
- Create and disseminate informational hand-outs, press releases, newsletter articles, and other communication tools for associations to share with their members, and for

individual affiliated scientists and engineers to share with their colleagues and association leadership.

- Compile feedback.
- Develop a “next steps” guide for associations, to follow the Starter Kit, that includes detailed examples, “how-to” lists, and similar resources for associations on such activities as forming a human rights committee, developing a written plan for further educating its members about the human rights aspects of its activities, incorporating human rights statements in a code of ethics, and creating a human rights award.
- Develop a framework for outreach based on the focus groups, with a focus on increasing engagement with non-member STEM associations.
- Contribute to New Member Orientation at each semi-annual Coalition meeting.
- Contribute to training for Human Rights Committee Chairs in scientific and engineering associations and societies.

Assessing Impact

- (1) How have the working group’s activities increased awareness and appreciation within the scientific community of human rights issues and options for addressing them?
- (2) How has the working group strengthened Coalition members’ capacity to address human rights issues?
- (3) How have the working group’s activities increased access to more varied forms of engagement in human rights activities, including the application of their discipline’s tools and techniques?

IV. D. Service to the Human Rights Community Working Group

All 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, scientists can help human rights organizations carry out more effective, evidence-based advocacy. Scientists and engineers can also assist with testing and assessment of human rights projects and programs to ensure they benefit the intended populations. Analysis that is widely viewed as objective and based in evidence will strengthen the work of human rights organizations and buttress their credibility and their claims. This suggests that it would be valuable to build ongoing communication between the scientific, engineering, health and human rights communities to determine where and how quantitative and qualitative approaches and scientific tools and technologies can be useful to human rights work, and then assist in making these accessible to human rights practitioners.

The Plan of Action for 2009-2011 focused on the task of improving communication between scientists and human rights organizations. One project that showed promise was for members of the Working Group to identify 'local' human rights organizations with specific projects that could benefit by scientific and technical skills. The identification was made either through personal knowledge or by reading the current projects described on the organization's website. Through individual contacts, a clinic was set up bringing together a human rights organization and On-Call scientists to provide useful support to the human rights organization.

The current plan attempts to continue this approach, being more specific and focused on identifying human rights activities which might benefit from applications of science. The On-Call Scientists and other pro-bono scientific/engineering programs have been very successful in engaging large and diverse segments of the scientific community ready to apply their expertise to aid human rights practitioners. The need now is to make connections with the human rights organizations.

Objectives

- (1)** Facilitate and increase partnerships between human rights organizations and scientists and engineers, including through the AAAS On-Call Scientists initiative
- (2)** Develop techniques and capacity for identifying human rights organizations whose projects/activities could benefit from collaboration with scientists/engineers/health professionals and methods for communication with these organizations
- (3)** Provide examples of data and potential indicators to assist human rights organizations in monitoring and tracking how well obligations under Article 15 are being met
- (4)** Investigate other avenues for bringing together human rights organizations and scientists, engineers, and health professionals

Activities

- (1) Guidelines for Scientists and Human Rights Organizations** – A group of collaborating scientists and representatives of human rights organizations are preparing a guide for establishing

science, engineering and human rights partnerships, to facilitate and promote cooperation between scientists and engineers and human rights organizations seeking technical expertise.

2012

- Finalize Guidelines, including final review and approval by AAAS and Coalition.
- “Field test” the presentation of the Guidelines at the International Symposium on Human Identification meeting in October.
- Update the slides for presentation as appropriate to finalize as a standard presentation.
- Draft press releases, newsletter articles and other outreach for Coalition members to publicize the Guidelines among their membership and colleagues.

2013

- Investigate, identify and employ additional methods of dissemination.
- Investigate the feasibility and utility of translation into other languages.
- Develop an evaluation tool to inform future use of the Guidelines and identify any needed revisions.

2014

- Evaluate the dissemination of the Guidelines and any further enhancements

(2) Outreach to Human Rights Organizations to Facilitate their Partnerships with Use of On-Call Scientists - The working group will undertake activities to increase human rights organizations’ awareness of the pro bono opportunities available and to facilitate their ability to make use of programs such as the AAAS On-Call Scientist initiative.

2012

- Begin a program where Working Group members identify and contact Human rights organizations directly to make them aware of the On-Call Scientists and how the program could benefit their activities, and, if appropriate, help them contact the On-Call Scientists initiative.
- Organize a workshop for a group of human rights organizations who have related activities (such as immigration and asylum rights). The workshop would describe the On-Call Scientists program and specific examples of projects in this area, and allow for discussion of needs in their own organization.
- Contact director of UN Department of Public Information NGO Cluster to determine whether the human rights organizations in the NGO Cluster would be interested in discussions of the application of science to their human rights projects.
- Determine feasibility of planning a session for AAAS 2014 meeting with a discussion between local human rights organizations (Chicago) to showcase examples of science/engineering applications to human rights.

- Coordinate with other working groups to develop a training for Human Rights Committee Chairs in scientific and engineering associations and societies.

2013

- Explore the need for additional resources which could benefit the conversations with human rights organizations, such as case studies of partnerships, possibly targeting particularly relevant or common issues/disciplines, discipline-specific contributions to human rights work, FAQs, podcasts etc.
- Evaluate the process for individual contacts with human rights organizations and continue, expand or adjust
- Organize two workshops or clinics for human rights organizations identified as having projects which could benefit from scientific or technological applications, in order to increase their awareness of these potential partnerships.
- Continue efforts to develop and expand communication/presentations with human rights organizations through UN Department of Public Information NGO Cluster
- Evaluate methods of workshops/clinics etc and revise plans for future efforts
- Consider feasibility of a session for local human rights organizations at AAAS 2015 meeting (San Jose) to showcase examples of scientific and technological applications to human rights.

2014

- Evaluate the process for individual contacts with human rights organizations and continue, expand or adjust
- Follow through with plans for communication based on 2013 evaluation – workshops, clinics, or something different.

Output: Increased number of human rights organizations being aware of and taking advantage of On-Call Scientists Program; Workshops or Clinics for human rights organizations; Sessions or workshops in conjunction with AAAS annual meetings

- (3) Joint Initiative:** Develop a guide to assist human rights organizations in monitoring and tracking how well obligations under Article 15 are being met through the development of a set of indicators by which to measure government compliance with the right (e.g., use of local languages in STEM education).

2012

- Finalize the Green Paper.
- Develop and implement a dissemination plan.
- Identify at least one data set and begin analysis.

2013

- Finalize discussion of at least one example of a potential indicator.
- Develop session at Coalition meeting on indicators for Article 15.
- Together with the Service to the STEM Community Working Group, develop a plan to bring the findings of the analysis of that group to the human rights community in the US, regionally and internationally.

2014

- Finalize discussion of at least one additional indicator.
- Write articles on the project for Coalition members to include in their newsletters, etc.
- Engage the human rights community in the US, regionally and internationally in raising awareness about and promoting realization of the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress.

(4) Open Access Journal – In 2012, the Working Group will explore the potential to develop an open access journal to share examples of scientific collaborations, technologies, and techniques applicable to the work of human rights organizations. The Working Group will investigate the resources needed and propose a plan of action. If the Coalition agrees to pursue the project, the Working Group will incorporate that plan of action into its work plans for 2013-2014 and beyond.

Assessing Impact

- (1)** How has the working group created more effective channels for communication between scientists and human rights groups?
- (2)** In what ways has the working group facilitated the direct involvement of diverse segments of the scientific and engineering communities with human rights work?
- (3)** How have the working group's activities enhanced the capacity of human rights practitioners to apply scientific methods, tools, and technologies in their work?

IV. E. Education and Information Resources Working Group

To encourage and facilitate efforts to bridge the scientific and engineering and human rights communities, the Coalition will need to identify, compile, and develop resources and create opportunities for exchange to establish a stronger foundation for productive, collaborative work on human rights. Crucial for this project is the exchange of information on what science and engineering can bring to human rights work and what human rights practitioners can bring to science and technology. By providing a variety of materials on such topics, the Coalition will make an important contribution to bridging science, engineering and human rights and their respective communities, and make their collaboration in tackling human rights challenges that face the world more fruitful.

Objectives

- (1) To facilitate deliberation on practical ways of illuminating the connections among science, engineering, and human rights among Coalition members.
- (2) To contribute to the professional development of science and engineering teachers including high school and college teachers and human rights educators, and promote a deeper understanding of human rights among students in science, engineering, and health classes, including raising student awareness of the ethical and practical applications of science to the field of human rights and developing educational materials on the human rights of scientists, engineers and health professionals.
- (3) To promote a deeper understanding of the practical applications of science, engineering, and the health professions to human rights among practitioners (whether working for local, national, or international organizations or independently).

Activities

- (1) **Professional development of science teachers/preparation of teaching modules** – Prepare teaching modules on an overview of human rights, Article 15, and discipline-specific ways in which each science and engineering have contributed to or led to violations of human rights, taking advantage of existing course syllabi. While modules will be targeted for 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.

2012

- Identify teachers (faculties, institutions) of as many fields of science and engineering as possible who are willing to participate in the project.
- Collaborate with these teachers in identifying and targeting particular cohorts of

students for whom to tailor the teaching modules.

- Provide contributors with guidelines for the teaching modules developed by the Working Group.
- By December 2012, place teaching modules on the Coalition website for use in undergraduate courses.

2013

- First hands-on trial of teaching modules.
- Promote and track the use of existing modules in undergraduate courses.
- Develop a register of feedback from the teachers as to any theoretical or practical suggestions and issues relating to the teaching modules.
- Develop a register of feedback from students as to the usefulness of the teaching modules in raising their awareness of professional and practical links between their branch of science or engineering and human rights, along with any recommendations they may have on the quality and delivery of the teaching modules.

2014

- Informed by the teacher and student feedback, refine and continue to expand the collection of teaching modules and seek funding for translation of modules into local languages other than English.
- Develop an educators network that includes interactive tools for students and teachers for online discussions.
- Based on outcome of the analysis conducted by the Service to the STEM Community working group, develop an online webinar on the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications for a STEM audience.
- Review existing course syllabi on science and human rights with a view to recommending the strongest as models for other teachers.

(2) Preparation of other educational resources - Review and update the Annotated “Bibliographic Database on Science and Human Rights” on the Coalition website.

2012 - 2014

- Invite all Coalition members to review and suggest additions/deletions to the current bibliographic database.
- Continuously augment the Bibliographic Database with more materials on science and human rights, initially focusing on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

(3) Other forms of outreach

- Create, sustain, and amplify a conversation among Coalition participants on how science and engineering can contribute to the realization of human rights (and vice versa).

- Share the results of this conversation not only with academics outside the Coalition, but also with human rights practitioners, the media, and the general public.
- Investigate case studies of human rights practitioners who have drawn on science and technology in their work.

2012

- In-house conversation among Coalition members: ask each Coalition member to list three ways that science or technology in general, and their discipline in particular, could contribute to the realization of human rights.
- Information gathering: edit and share these lists with at least four Human Rights NGOs (e.g., Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and Human Rights First) and request their feedback and suggestions.
- Investigation of success stories of human rights practitioners drawing on science and technology in their work: ask each Coalition member to identify specific case studies of how their discipline has been used to advance human rights. Request from at least four human rights NGOs examples of case studies of how science has been used to advance their work.

2013

- Conference session(s) on the complexities of the science-human rights relation;
- Production of informational brochure(s) on what the Coalition has to offer human rights practitioners;
- Press releases on case studies.

2014

- Production of informational brochures on the ways human rights work benefits from the efforts of scientists, engineers and health professionals;
- Press releases on case studies.

Assessing Impact

- (1) How have the materials made available by the working group filled gaps in information not already covered by human rights organizations or scientific societies?
- (2) How has the working group contributed to the professional development of STEM teachers in ways that promote a deeper understanding of human rights among teachers and their students?
- (3) How have the working group's activities supported the development of better-informed scientific and human rights communities, with members who are better-prepared to work together?

IV. F. Outreach and Communication

The Outreach and Communication committee aims to expand the impact of the Coalition's work by expanding the Coalition membership and building bridges with scientific, engineering, and health professionals as well as the human rights community. The Coalition will continue 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 and engineering associations to human rights efforts at home and around the world.

Objectives

- (1) Increase awareness of connections among science, technology and human rights among individual scientists, scientific and engineering associations, and their members;
- (2) Increase and diversify the engagement of scientific and engineering associations and their members in human rights activities;
- (3) Expand the disciplinary representation of scientific and engineering associations, and individuals engaged in human rights activities including: student associations; physical sciences associations; engineering associations; health sciences associations; minority associations; indigenous associations; and international associations;
- (4) Support and facilitate the outreach efforts of the working groups;
- (5) Increase the understanding within the human rights community of the value of applying scientific tools, techniques and technologies to human rights problems.

Activities

Ongoing

Outreach

- Support the outreach and communication activities of Coalition working groups.
- Work with member associations to help outreach efforts in diverse disciplines. Publish articles on current Coalition working group and member association projects that relate to human rights in member association newsletters.
- In collaboration with the secretariat, provide draft announcements on Coalition activities and other events related to science and human rights to scientific and engineering associations for outreach to their members.

Student outreach

- Reach out to university student populations to disseminate information resources. Welcome new members with specific ideas of how they could contribute meaningfully to the work of the Coalition.
- Develop practical opportunities for students to engage in the activities of the Coalition, both in advance of and during Coalition meetings, as well as through working groups and committees.

In collaboration with the secretariat

- Develop and maintain an online, searchable database of science and human rights resources for use by the public, including materials in languages other than English.
- Contribute content to the Coalition component of the AAAS website. Develop and maintain a collaborative website for internal use by the Coalition.
- Create and maintain a database of contacts, including member and affiliate information, other relevant scientific and engineering contacts, human rights organizations, and media contacts.

Internet

- Create and maintain Coalition social networking resources, including LinkedIn <<http://linkd.in/HuRiScLI>>, Twitter <<http://bit.ly/HuRiScTW>>, and Nature Network accounts <<http://bit.ly/HuRiScNN>>.
- Identify, develop and maintain effective web-based outreach and organizational tools for Coalition events, resources, activities, and member actions, including a clear, comprehensive, dynamic, up-to-date and useable web presence

Events

- Organize a session at the AAAS annual meeting with a plenary speaker or panel discussion.
- Organize presentations at member and affiliated association annual meetings, e.g. a plenary session, panel discussion, or an information booth.
- Digitally record and subsequently store Coalition events online.

Media

- Work with the secretariat to establish ties to media organizations and general science and engineering journals.
- Seek assistance from media organizations to cover specific examples of Coalition work by members local to each media organization.
- Seek assistance from the media offices of universities and the other employers of Coalition members.
- Develop press releases on Coalition projects and events, and about members' human rights activities, for Coalition members to adapt and send out through their own press offices.

Joint Initiative

- Develop and execute communication plan for raising awareness of Article 15 and the Coalition's activities with the STEM and human rights communities, including through the use of social media.

2012

Outreach

- Identify specific scientific, engineering, health, student, minority, international, indigenous and other organizations that the Coalition will invite to become member associations.
- Communication about the work of the Coalition and an invitation to prospective member associations through letters or presentations to executive directors and governing bodies.

Student Outreach

- Host student poster competition at each annual meeting, beginning with students from local universities in 2013 and expanding to other institutions in subsequent years.

Resources

- Update the Coalition brochure.
- Write clear description of how to participate in Coalition activities, including benefits to and responsibilities of individual and association members. Incorporate this into Coalition websites and brochure and share with Coalition members for use in their newsletters and on their websites.

2013

Resources

- Develop presentations for use at Science café <<http://www.sciencecafes.org>> or Cafe Scientifique <<http://www.cafescientifique.org/>> events.

Events

- Webcast Coalition events and post them on the Coalition website.
- Work with students and associations to incorporate science into events such as films, theatre, or seminars to celebrate Human Rights Day annually on 10 December.

Outreach

- Develop a plan for outreach to the business community in an effort to reach scientists, engineers and related professionals in the private sector.
- Develop a plan for outreach to government and international agencies where scientists, engineers and related professionals work.
- Based on an evaluation of the student outreach program, expand student outreach activities beyond the Washington, DC area.

Internet

Develop and maintain a science and human rights blog that will incorporate instructional and topical content.

2014

Events

- Plan a global congress or other significant gathering of science, engineering, and human rights practitioners. Use this event as a mechanism for the establishment of global multidisciplinary network.
- Identify options for hosting one Coalition meeting each year in Washington, DC and the second meeting in another city.

Resources

- Create and maintain a database of human rights organizations and relevant contacts, and organize the database according to the UDHR articles that each organization addresses.
- Identify opportunities to obtain representation from respected individuals in scientific disciplines, i.e. 'Ambassadors'.
- Create annual prizes for activities at the junction of science and human rights.

Outreach

- Engage government scientists by hosting events highlighting the activities and achievements of the Coalition for the benefit of relevant government agencies, including NSF, NIH, DOE, EPA, RCUK, BIS, and others.
- Engage scientists and engineers in the business sector by hosting events highlighting the activities and achievements of the Coalition for the benefit of the business community.

V. Coalition Governance and Support

V. A. Coalition Council

The Coalition Council is composed of member organizations' two active representatives. The Council is the Coalition's highest policy-making and priority-setting body. It sets the direction of the Coalition, reviews recommendations from working groups, considers new initiatives, and reviews requests for new working groups. The Coalition Council has met at least annually since its inception. In 2012-2014, the Council will meet at least every other year to review and deliberate the Coalition's direction.

As representatives of member organizations, Council members have the additional responsibility of serving as the conduit between the needs and interests of their respective organizations 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 organizations and members to address human rights
- Share their organizations' experiences and expertise in human rights with the Coalition
- Bring to the Coalition their organizations' needs or concerns in integrating human rights into their organizations' activities
- Identify and develop links between the work of the Coalition and other networks or organizations that share common goals and objectives
- Report to the Coalition on human rights activities in their organizations
- Report to their organizations - 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 bi-annual Coalition meetings. Additional ways in which Council members can fulfill the role of intermediary between their organization and the Coalition include: prepare a presentation to the organization's Council on the human rights activities of the organization and Coalition, draft or solicit an article on human rights for the organization journal and/or newsletter, and create a website, discussion forum and/or listserv dedicated to addressing human rights issues relevant to the organization and its members.

In 2012-2014, the Council will give priority to expanding Coalition membership and improving communications between the Coalition and organizational members.

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 organization
- (3) using the current benchmarks as a starting point, develop a matrix of each organization's human rights and Coalition-related activities.

Activities:

- (1) Identify and create opportunities for engaging in the Coalition associations in the life and physical sciences, engineering and health.
- (2) Identify tools or methods to aid in the communication from the Coalition to the organization:
 - a. Delineate for each association the types of members or organizational entities who should be 'targeted' to receive communication (e.g., members, student members, Committees, special interest groups, board members)
 - b. Associate with each type identified above, the current methods of communication (membership newsletter, Section emails, general emails, presentations, ad hoc meetings etc.)
 - c. Identify the resources or tools that would be most appropriate and effective for communicating with the members and entities of each organization, include contact details of responsible individuals and offices, where possible.
- (3) Identify tools or methods to aid in the communication from organizational members to the Coalition
 - a. Identify the internal organizational pathways and tools for soliciting information about organizational and member activities related to human rights
 - b. Develop regular and structured opportunities for organizational entities and members to report on their human rights activities, needs, questions and concerns.
- (4) Summarize the activities each organization has undertaken with regard to human rights.
 - a. Using the benchmarks as a starting point, the Council members will provide a chart of activities their organizations have undertaken with regard to human rights.
 - b. Consolidate the data from all organizations into one table
 - c. Based on these data, develop and agree upon a workable process where a useful table of information can be accumulated over time and provided on a summarized basis

V. B. Coalition Steering Committee

The **Coalition Steering Committee** is composed of ten member representatives, two members of the human rights community, and a staff member, comprised of the following:

- Working Group chairs and committee chairs (one each, up to six total)
- “Members at Large” selected from general membership (for a total of ten members)
- Members of the human rights community (two total)
- 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 activity working groups; and serves as the liaison between 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:

- To successfully transition to regular election of Steering Committee members and the rotation of members through staggered three year terms.
- To increase the diversity among representatives who serve on the Steering Committee.
- To develop and implement a monitoring and evaluation plan for the Steering Committee.
- To facilitate effective communication across Coalition working groups and committees.

Activities:

Ongoing

- 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 bi-monthly with a high level of attendance, participation, and leadership by members.

2012

- Complete first election and transition of membership.

2013

- Develop a Coalition evaluation process.

2014

- Execute evaluation process and oversee planning for 2015-2017.

V. C. Coalition Secretariat

The AAAS Scientific Responsibility, Human Rights and Law Program serves as the Secretariat and supports the Coalition through the facilitation and coordination of its 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 2012-2014.

Activities

Ongoing

- Generate content for members to place in association newsletters, websites, and other outlets, to help them educate their members on human rights issues and the association's own activities to advance human rights.
- Develop mentoring relationships between new members and those associations and individuals who have been deeply involved in the Coalition, to increase commitment and engagement.
- Improve online access to Coalition resources.
- Organize the semi-annual Coalition meetings.
- Hold a New Member Orientation at each semi-annual Coalition meeting, in coordination with Service to the STEM Community Working Group.
- 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 and engineering organizations, including information on their disciplinary focus, geographic location, participation in working groups, and other criteria indicating Coalition representation and participation among scientific and engineering 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)

2012

- Develop a plan to engage the STEM community 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 maintain a collaborative website for internal use by the Coalition, including an accessible and searchable database with individual members (names, specialties, locations, which working group, other work with the Coalition, etc.) and contact information for professional association members.

- 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.
- Survey all affiliated scientists on ways in which they believe they can best contribute to the Coalition, and on how the Coalition could serve their work and outreach.
- Develop a training for Human Rights Committee Chairs in scientific and engineering associations and societies, in coordination with Service to the STEM Community, Service to the Human Rights Community, and Welfare of Scientists working groups.
- Create an ad hoc committee to explore the possibility of international outreach, outlining the opportunities, challenges, considerations for Coalition members, and recommending next steps.

2013

- Liaise with the United Nations in arranging an event to present the STEM community's perspectives on the meaning and application 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 with regard to 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 student members of human rights organizations and scientific associations to design a unique, interactive section of the Coalition website dedicated to student information, needs and interests.
- Develop plan to organize annual Human Rights Day events in collaboration with Coalition members.
- Create and maintain a detailed, searchable list of past and current Coalition activities, including how to participate.
- Review progress on how well affiliated scientists are contributing to the Coalition, on possible roadblocks to their contributions, and on how well the Coalition is serving the needs of affiliated individuals.

2014

- Survey STEM and human rights communities to determine effectiveness of outreach efforts and needs for further elucidation, awareness raising, or support. Based on the findings of the survey, work with the Coalition to determine whether Article 15 should remain the focus of the Coalition's Joint Initiative and, if so, develop a Plan of Action 2015-2017.
- Start planning for an international conference to address progress in defining, promoting and applying the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications.
- Plan events to celebrate the 5th anniversary of the Coalition that focus on the progress that the Coalition has made during the first 5 years of its existence, and collect input on where the Coalition should focus in future.

- Assist member and affiliated associations conduct association-wide reviews of institutional activities.
- Evaluate Coalition progress and facilitate the planning for 2015-2017.

V. D. Funding Resources

In order to ensure the continued viability of the Coalition, the Secretariat will work in close collaboration with the Council and Steering Committee to identify appropriate funding sources and seek funding for Coalition activities. Funding may be sought from a variety of sources including Foundations, government funding agencies and the STEM community. The appropriate source of funding in a given instance will depend on the precise activity to be funded. These include:

- SRHRL's role as the Secretariat, including but not limited to: organizing and coordinating Coalition meetings; facilitating partnerships between the Coalition and other groups/individuals working in related fields; identifying appropriate trainers, experts, organizations and materials to assist the working groups in their activities; hosting and maintaining the Coalition website and listserv; publicizing Coalition events and activities online and through the newsletter and listserv; providing other logistic and material support to activities of the Coalition, as appropriate;
- The Coalition's specific projects, e.g. individual working group activities; and
- The involvement of members in the ongoing work of the Coalition, such as travel awards to Coalition meetings, prizes to recognize contributions to science, engineering and human rights efforts, etc. This information will be shared with Coalition members.

VI. Summary Chart of Activities and Outputs

Working Groups/Committees						
Coalition Goals	Welfare of Scientists	Science Ethics and Human Rights	Service to the STEM Community	Service to the Human Rights Community	Education and Information Resources	Outreach and Communications
Mobilize professional societies and their members to protect and promote human rights.	Alert Network Development Human Rights for Scientists		Human Rights Starter Kit and Ongoing Outreach Webinar Series			Outreach to associations and societies: events, media, social networking, individual contact Student Outreach
Identify and implement new applications of science and technology to human rights work.				Guidelines for Scientists and Human Rights Organizations Outreach to Human Rights Organizations to Facilitate their Partnerships with On-Call Scientists Open Access Journal	Professional development of science teachers Preparation of teaching modules and other educational resources Other outreach to teachers and students (activities advance all four goals)	Coordinate with working groups to expand reach and impact of their activities, especially new resources and events
Apply human rights standards to the conduct of science.		Science Ethics and Human Rights Studies Digital Case Archive				
Advance the human right to the benefits of science throughout the STEM and human rights	Guide on Connecting Article 15 and Scientific Freedom	"Social Responsibility" and Article 15	Article 15 Focus Groups and Analysis	Indicators for monitoring and tracking obligations under Article 15		Communication strategies to support Article 15 activities

VII. Benchmarks

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 the identification of new appropriate benchmark. In each case, the measurements would reflect the status or activities in one calendar year.

All of the benchmarks from the 2009-2011 Plan of Action were retained (Sections B-D) but organized differently. New indicators have also been proposed. The benchmarks in sections A – D are all measuring activities of the member and affiliated organizations. The benchmarks in section E are intended to measure the engagement of affiliated individuals. And finally, the benchmarks in section F are to measure progress made specifically by the Coalition activities.

- A. Benchmarks for Organizational Involvement in the Coalition
 - 1. Proportion of Member Organizations 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 Organizations that have information about the Coalition on the Organization's website

- B. Benchmarks for an Organization's Activities Aimed at Members of the Organization or Discipline
 - 1. Have a human rights board or committee (i.e., an entity that is part of the organization'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. Awarded prizes for members' contributions to human rights
 - 7. Applied discipline-specific knowledge and skills to human rights
 - 8. Outreach/Publicity by Members to constituencies about the Coalition
 - 9. Have human rights resources for members on the organization's website or have a listserv for members on topics or issues regarding human rights

- C. Benchmarks for an Organization'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 organization's website

4. Awarded prizes or other honorary recognition to human rights practitioners

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

1. Worked on protection of scientists during this year
 - Worked on human rights cases involving scientists
 - Worked on policy and practice affecting scientists' human rights
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 organization's website or through social media
5. Worked to promote understanding and awareness of 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 organizations. 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 organizations.

F. Benchmarks for Coalition Resources available to STEM Organizations

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 hits on the website resources.
3. Number of participatory sessions (e.g. webinars, clinics) organized by Working Groups or Committees this year, outside of the two Coalition meetings, and the number of participants.

When an organization joins the Coalition, they should be asked to provide the benchmark data outlined in categories B, C and D.

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)

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

Informing the Member Organization about the Coalition Activities (A.5 and B.8)

About the benchmarks: These two indicators measure the number of member and affiliated organizations which regularly communicate information about the Coalition and their organization'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 organization's website includes information about the Coalition. The information for these benchmarks would come from each Organization.

Human Rights Incorporated in the Structure of the Organizations (B.1 and B.2)

About the benchmarks: This indicator addresses two different ways a scientific or engineering organization 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 organizations which 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 organizations 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)

About the benchmark: This benchmark measures the number of scientific and engineering organizations 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.

Examples:

The American Psychological Association's Code of Ethics, which previously addressed human rights, has been amended to affirm that [the Code may not "under \[any\] circumstances ... be used to justify or defend violating human rights"](#). This change comes into effect on June 1, 2010.

Research on Human Rights Issues (B.4)

About the benchmark: This benchmark measures the number of scientific and engineering organizations 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.

Examples:

The American Psychological Association Presidential Task Force on Psychology's Contribution to End Homelessness issued a report assessing the psychosocial impacts on homelessness as well as the role psychologists should play in combating homelessness. [The policy position is premised on the human right to housing and "recognizes safe and stable housing as a right to which every person is entitled"](#).

The American Public Health Association Governing Council adopted a draft report that addresses US security responsibilities and human rights obligations. [The report urges the development of security policies that do not harm the health or violate the human rights of undocumented persons.](#)

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

About the benchmark: This benchmark measures the number of scientific and engineering organizations 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 organization may meet this benchmark include but are not limited to: conference call trainings or discussions, lectures or panel presentations to members of the organization 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.

Examples:

The American Anthropological Association held a session entitled [“Do ‘Illegal’ Migrants have a Right to Health?”](#) at their Annual Meeting in December 2009.

The American Public Health Association’s Annual Meeting in November, 2009 incorporated six sessions on human rights, each of which was organized or sponsored by the APHA-International Human Rights Committee. Topics included the [Right to Water, Human Rights and Health, Prisoner’s Health Rights and Human Trafficking](#).

The American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene has outlined a session on [“Neglected Diseases and Human Rights”](#) to be held at its November 2010 Annual Meeting.

The Association of American Geographers organized a set of Human Rights sessions at their Annual Meeting in April 2010. These sessions included [“Human Rights 101 for Geographers”](#), [“Geographic Approaches to Human Rights Concerns”](#) and [“Geography of Genocide: a Film Screening and Panel Discussion”](#).

The American Political Science Association, in conjunction with the International Studies Association and the International Political Science Association, has announced a conference dedicated to [“Assessing the State of Human Rights Nine Years after 9/11”](#). The conference is scheduled for June 2010.

Awards or Prizes to Members (or Discipline) for Upholding Human Rights (B.6)

About the benchmark: This benchmark measures the number of scientific and engineering organizations 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.

Examples:

The American Educational Research Association introduced [The Ella Baker/Septima Clark Human Rights Award](#), an annual award for work integrating human rights and curriculum studies.

Application of Discipline-specific Knowledge and Skills to Human Rights (B.7)

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

Example:

The American Psychological Association, in response to a solicitation from its Coalition representatives, has begun the process of “identify[ing] issues and recommend[ing] areas of inquiry relevant to” the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications.

Human Rights Resources available through Website or Networking (B.8)

About the benchmark: This benchmark measures the number of organizations which 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.

Example:

The American Psychological Association has launched a [human rights website](#) with information about human rights generally, the APA’s activities on human rights, latest news in human rights relevant to psychologists, the AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition and opportunities for psychologists to work on human rights issues.

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

About the benchmark: This benchmark measures the number of scientific and engineering organizations that have facilitated expert volunteers contributing to human rights work. Organizations 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.

Example:

Since before August 2009, the American Statistical Association has offered a *pro bono* program for human rights groups. No additional associations have met this benchmark since August 2009.

Resources for Human Rights Associations (C.2)

About the benchmark: This benchmark measures the number of scientific and engineering organizations 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)

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

Work on Protection of Scientists (D.1)

About the benchmark: This benchmark measures the number of organizations 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.

Examples:

The American Association of University Professors, the American Sociological Association, the American Statistical Association, and the Linguistic Society of America signed [a letter to the Secretary of State urging that “all applicants for admission to the United States \[...\] be evaluated on the basis of their actions, not their political beliefs and associations.”](#)

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

About the benchmark: This benchmark measures the number of scientific and engineering organizations 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 or society’s Code of Ethics, which is addressed by Benchmark B.3.

Examples:

The American Psychological Association adopted a [Statement Against Torture condemning psychologist’s involvement with torture.](#)

The American Association of Anthropologists issued a [Resolution on Honduras](#) on December 3, 2009, in which they **cite human rights violations following the June 28, 2009 coup d’etat and urge the United States to “[a]cknowledge and condemn” such violations.**

The American Sociological Association issued two statements on August 12, 2009: a [Statement Affirming and Expanding the Commitment of the American Sociological Association to Human Rights, including the right to “benefit from scientific advancement”](#), as well as a [Statement by the Council of the American Sociological Association on the Employee Free Choice Act.](#)

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

About the benchmark: This benchmark measures the number of scientific and engineering organizations 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.

Examples:

The National History Center, an initiative of the American Historical Association, and the Woodrow Wilson Center, sponsored a weekly history [seminar addressing the historical involvement of the United States in the international human rights system](#).

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

About the benchmark: This benchmark measures the number of scientific and engineering organizations 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.

Examples:

John Steen’s article “[Community Participation as Necessary for Social Justice](#)” was published on the American Public Health Association website. Steen cites UNESCO’s General Comment 14 as “the world’s most authoritative operational understanding of what constitutes a right to health.”

[Footnotes](#), the American Sociological Association’s newsletter, featured an article in remembrance of women’s rights activist Alice Rossi.

The Journal for Social Action, co-sponsored by Psychologists for Social Responsibility, published “[The Roots of Social Justice: The personal journey of a human rights advocate](#)” as part of a section on social justice.

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

About the benchmark: This benchmark measures the number of scientific and engineering organizations 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 Scientists in the Coalition Activities and Process (E.1 – E.2)

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

Affiliated Individuals Contributing their Technical Skills to Human Rights work

About the benchmark: This benchmark measures the level of engagement of the affiliated individuals in applying his or her discipline to human rights activities. It would be measured by a survey of the 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 organizations 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 2012

Stand-Alone Resources Available on the Website	Total # as of 12/31/2011	8
	# of requests/hits during 2012	
	New resources developed in 2012	
Interactive Programs Excluding Coalition Meetings (Webinars, clinics, etc.)	Number of events in 2012	
	Total Number of participants	

II. Measuring Benchmark Indicators

It is important that benchmark indicators represent not only valuable information but 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 benchmark proposed here will be difficult to measure without active participation and cooperation of the member and affiliate organizations.

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

indicator measuring whether an organization has done research on human rights issues. An indicator of 5 organizations out of 60 having done research has a different meaning if all 60 organizations provided information and only 5 had done research, compared to 5 out of 6 responding organizations 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 proposed benchmarks for the 2012-2014 Plan of Action are also indicators that have been used over the last three years. 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.