



National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights

CONCEPT NOTE

Project Theme: A Critical Review of the Draft National Action Plan (NAP)

Date: 23rd August 2019

Venue: The Nigerian Stock Exchange, Stock Exchange House, 2-4 Customs Street, Lagos, Nigeria

Organised by the International Network for Corporate Social Responsibility (IN-CSR) in association with the National Human Rights Commission of Nigeria (NHRC) and Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Background

While there is ample evidence on the costs of corporate-related human rights abuse borne by organizations - whether in terms of about 120 factory workers that died after a massive fire swept through a rubber slippers/aluminium spoon/bottled water factory in Ikorodu, Lagos State in 2002, 20.9 million people estimated by ILO to be victims of forced labour in 2018 (mostly from Africa), the \$1bn needed to restore the environment damaged by oil extraction in Niger Delta or more recently, 14-year-old Joseph Ekwenobe (Jnr) who was electrocuted by a faulty machine at the factory of a Lagos-based Chinese footwear company - the financial implications for companies, however, are still poorly understood.

Getting more clarity on the costs and risks to companies that result from adverse human rights impacts might help to break the impasse in the implementation of human rights due diligence as an integral part of organizations' corporate governance thereby support the business case for the National Action Plan (NAP). Widely accepted by the global business community during the negotiations of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights though is that due diligence obligation is the salient business strategy through which companies demonstrate their respect for human rights. However, multiple concerns have been raised about the current draft document ranging from the issue of exclusion of some key stakeholders during the consultation process to the rate of awareness, implementation plan and adoption within the Organised Private Sector (OPS).

For this reason, the National Human Rights Commission of Nigeria has partnered with the International Network for Corporate Social Responsibility (IN-CSR) to

further review the current draft NAP document using a robust evidence-based stakeholder identification, mapping and engagement process.

The project which will be in two phases will involve A. field research and B. validation workshop as follows:

A. IN-CSR will work to develop a business case document for NAP to serve as a reference document for capacity building initiatives within the Organised Private Sector (OPS) operators. This phase of the project is intended to provide available evidence through extensive desk and field research in support of economic arguments for corporate human rights in four key areas:

1. Assessing how companies affect human rights;
2. Evaluating the costs of litigation over corporate abuses;
3. Anticipating business and human rights trends;
4. Making a Business Case for NAP

On each of the above sections, IN-CSR will provide convincing and detailed evidence indicating that costs of ignoring human rights as well as opportunities linked to respecting human rights are underestimated and deserve much greater attention in research, business practice, and public policy than they currently get.

This document will be the first step towards building more evidence-based research on the 'business case' for NAP in Nigeria. It is hoped that both the government, OPS and funding organizations can prioritize funding in this area and actively support the development of the NAP in order to foster and promote the continual integration of human rights considerations in business strategies and operations.

B. In partnership with the NHRC and NSE, IN-CSR will organise a stakeholder workshop particularly focused on reviewing the draft NAP with the aim of ensuring that all key stakeholders' interests are adequately provided for. The workshop has therefore been designed to study and deal with the unprecedented impacts of business and human rights on sustainable development, societal welfare and the environment. It will facilitate the elaboration of the business case for BHR with the goal of developing a standard NAP document for implementation.



Experts and the OPS operators from all industries will be properly consulted to review the draft NAP and offer robust recommendations that will provide for seamless implementation and ownership.

As usual, the forum will be a leading platform for business leaders, academics and government officials to discuss the intrinsic link between public policy and corporate behavior; a place to identify solutions that integrate human rights principles into corporate governance and core business practice, a networking opportunity to build relationships with key partners, a means to gain reputational benefits from being involved. The one-day workshop will recognize innovative approaches being implemented by leading organizations, regulators and feature thought leaders; and research on a diverse range of BHR issues facing the government and business in Nigeria. It brings together representatives from various industries and leading businesses to share their experiences, challenges and ideas in this area and will replace IN-CSR's annual Conference for this year, 2019.

Call for Sponsorship

We solicit for your financial support in order to make this event a great success. We will also be delighted to discuss other recognition opportunities. Please contact admin@incsr.org for more information.