

Police Accountability: the Africa region

14th and 15th October 2005

**Erata Hotel, Ouagadougou Avenue, Okponglo East Legon, Accra, Ghana
Organized by the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative**

THURSDAY 13th OCTOBER

6:30 Evening reception for participants and police / civil society networks in Accra
This includes the launch of the report: *Police Accountability: Too Important to Neglect, Too Urgent to Delay*. The venue of this event will be the British Council, Accra.

DAY 1: FRIDAY 14th OCTOBER

9:00 – 9:30 Registration

9:30 – 10:30 Opening session

Key Note Address (Topic - the Need for Police Reform): Sam Okudzeto (Chair, International Advisory Commission, CHRI)

Welcome and introduction: Nana Oye Lithur (Coordinator, Africa Office, CHRI)

10:30 – 11:30 Police Accountability (overview)

Discussion Leader: Maja Daruwala (Director, CHRI)

To include: an overview of what is meant by “police accountability” – of what, to whom, etc and so would briefly cover the idea of accountability to the state, internal and external, and to the community. This will ensure common understanding among the group.

11:30 – 12:00 Tea Break

12:00 – 1:00 Challenges

Discussion Leader: Mo Poole (Uniform Solutions, Sierra Leone)

To include: the reasons why making this a reality is so difficult – internal culture in the police, lack of political will etc, challenges even for reform-minded police

1:00 – 2:00 Lunch

2:00 – 4:00 Status in the Region – Moving Towards Democratic Policing

Discussion Leader: Janine Rauch (Consultant) and GP Joshi (Police Programme Coordinator, CHRI)

To include: the principles of policing that we are progressing towards and their inclusion in the legal framework; followed by state of progress across the region, with input from participants. As well as input on the situation in countries in Southern, East and West Africa represented at the meeting, this will include input on regional initiatives, namely the African Policing Oversight Forum (APCOF)

DAY 2: SATURDAY 15th OCTOBER

9:00 – 12:30 Practical Examples of Oversight and Accountability

Discussion Leader: Tommy Tshabalala (APCOF)

To include: case studies of three different types of oversight bodies to include details about the process for establishment, structure, mandate, challenges faced and how overcome, success stories and reasons for success etc; followed by discussion

Independent Complaints Bodies - case study of South Africa: Leslie Xinwa (Acting Director, Independent Complaints Directorate)

Service Commissions - case study of Nigeria: Blessing Kadiri (CLEEN Foundation)

National Human Rights Commissions - case study of Uganda and Ghana: Veronica Eragu Bichetero (Ugandan Human Rights Commission) and Richard Quayson (Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice)

Other contributions to increasing accountability – case study of training project in West Africa: Jarvis Matiya (Acting Head, Human Rights Unit, Commonwealth Secretariat)

12:30 – 1:30 Lunch

1:30 – 4:30 Process Toward Reform

Small group discussion on actions to take toward such reform including advocacy strategies that have worked and why etc.

4:30 – 5:00 Adoption of statement and close