

National and Regional Consultation Processes

Summary

In order to build national and regional ownership of the legal empowerment agenda, a series of Regional Consultations, preceded by National Consultation Processes (NCP), are envisioned by the Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor (Legal Empowerment). In November 2006, Legal Empowerment is organizing a Regional Consultation in East Africa, with National Consultation Processes in Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Kenya, with the participation of local academics and NGOs, senior government officials, and other relevant actors. Legal Empowerment will also be hosting National Consultation Processes in Indonesia, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh in fall 2006, which will ultimately culminate in an Asian Regional Consultation in early 2007,

These NCP will foster a dialogue between the different stakeholders, drawing local and national knowledge and experiences on poverty reduction through secure, enforceable property and labor rights, within an enabling environment that expands legal business opportunity and access to justice.

Information on the outcomes will be brought to the regional level meeting, envisioned as essentially political, with the participation of senior representatives of the regional organizations.

The outcomes of the NCP and regional meeting will also feed into the research of the Commission's Working Groups on Property Rights, Labor Rights, Access to Justice and the Rule of Law, and Entrepreneurship: Expanding Opportunities for Legally Establishing and Operating Businesses. This should ensure that research findings and policy recommendations are grounded in local realities.

Sequence of Activities

National Consultation Processes (NCP) will have the following format:

Working Papers

As part of the NCP, four papers will be commissioned to technical experts on the areas of interest of the Commission (as described above). These papers will set the stage for discussions on the occasion of the focus groups meetings and of the national conference.



Focus Groups

Focus groups meetings aim to provide an opportunity for discussions by the several stakeholders (local academics and NGOs, senior government officials, and other relevant actors). Participation will reflect gender balance (with a goal of 50% man/woman ratio), as well as involve indigenous peoples when appropriate (according to the regional and national population patterns). A total of 48 to 60 participants (12 to 15 for each focus group) are expected to attend.

Each focus group will be organized around each thematic area and stakeholders will be invited to participate according to their area of expertise. Discussions will have the working papers as a starting point and should help stakeholders to reflect on the existing challenges and their possible solutions, preparing them for the national conference.

Notes for the Record will be prepared by the lead institution in each country and distributed to stakeholders on the occasion of the national conference.

National Conference

This process will culminate in the national conference, bringing together all stakeholders (local academics and NGOs, senior government officials, and other relevant actors). Participation may vary from 80 to 200 participants per conference.

Based on the working papers and outcome of focus groups discussions, the conference will be divided into 4 panels (with a moderator and 2 speakers each), during 1.5 consecutive days. Each presentation will be followed by discussions. A final version of the reports of the national conferences will be available approximately one month following each conference.

Regional Meeting

Policy and political constraints and opportunities from each of the NCP will be discussed at the regional level at the Regional Consultation, which will be held in partnership with regional organizations such as the African, Asian and Inter-American Development Banks, UN Economic Commissions, and others.