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Executive Summary

The UPR Info, Africa Regional Office was opened on 1st June, 2015 following the recruitment of the Africa Regional Representative, Mr. Gilbert Onyango. Hitherto, all activities being undertaken in Africa were being coordinated by the headquarters in Geneva. The activities that were implemented fell within the follow up programme which sought to enhance the utilisation of the opportunities offered to civil society organisation (CSOs) by the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process.

The contribution of the new Africa office cannot be overstated. Indeed, it created new opportunities for collaboration with stakeholders such as the support that Regional Representative provided to the Government of Namibia towards the elaboration of the national report; the support to CSOs in Tanzania; and the multi stakeholders meeting that was held in Ethiopia. All these were a confirmation of the willingness of different stakeholders from the African to pro-actively engage with the UPR mechanism. With this success of the Africa office comes the challenge that the office must now put in place adequate human and financial resources to build on the demand.

UPR Info Africa aims to raise awareness and provide capacity-building tools to all domestic actors at the international and, most importantly, national levels, in accordance with the UPR values. This report therefore seeks to bring out how UPR Info Africa has performed thus far. It covers the year 2015 and is divided into two parts. The first part is the Management Report which deals with the matters relating to the office. The second is the Activities Report which is dedicated to the activities that have been undertaken and/or implemented by UPR Info Africaduring the year 2015.
1. MANAGEMENT REPORT

1.1 UPR Info Africa Strategy

At the opening of the Africa Regional Office in June, 2015, a two pronged strategy was put in place to guide the activities at the UPR Info International Office in Geneva and more so, the regional offices which were at their nascent stages. The first strategy was in relation to the Universal Periodic Review itself. In this regard, UPR Info sought to:

1. Expand **civil society participation in the UPR**: Ensure that more NGOs involved in the UPR process;
2. Expand the **inclusiveness of the participation** in the UPR: more UN Agencies, institutions, embassies and parliaments should be fully involved in the UPR;
3. Establish in-country **governmental structures for the UPR**: An interministerial committee for the follow-up of the UPR in each government should be sought;
4. Establish **trust between the actors**: Provide opportunities for confidence building among stakeholders;
5. **Connect CSOs with donors** for the implementation of the activities.

The second strategy was more inward oriented. In this, UPR Info sought:

1. Deeper involvement in regional mechanisms/activities;
2. Long-term and sustainable relationships with human rights activists of the region, establish a closer network;
3. Expand the donors, address book in Africa.

It is therefore against the aforementioned strategies that the regional office was established and all activities thereafter premised.
1.2 Setting up of UPR Info Africa Regional Office in Nairobi

1.2.1 Identification of Board of Directors

The institutionalisation of any organisation is dependent on the finalisation of several requirements including the identification and engagement of suitable members to sit on its Board of Directors. UPR Info Africa is no exception. To this end, there has been an ongoing process that sought to bring together individuals of high standing that will serve in the Board of Directors. Indeed, the choice of Board members is very sensitive and crucial to the future success of UPR Info Africa and should therefore be handled very cautiously and very deliberately to ensure that the individuals that are picked add value to the organisation. They must be very knowledgeable on human rights as a whole and/or the UPR process in particular; knowledgeable about how Government(s) work; among other things. Because of the nature of work and close working relationship that UPR Info has with governments, the Board members should be individuals that do not attract unnecessary spotlight because of advocacy activities, but are instead believe in constructive cooperation.

With this in mind, we approached Ms. Christine Alai, Regional Programme Manager of Physicians without Borders\(^1\); and Commissioner George Morara\(^2\) both of whom accepted to serve on the Board. They attended the first meeting that was held 3rd November, 2015 whereat Ms. Christine Alai was elected Chairperson of the UPR Info

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\(^1\) Ms. Alai has previously worked in different capacities with the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights; and the Kenya Human Rights Commission. She was very instrumental in Kenya's first reporting cycle under the UPR and is still following the process very keenly. She has agreed to serve on the Board of Directors of UPR Info. Ms. Alai serves on the Board of among other organizations, the East African Centre for Human Rights

\(^2\) Commissioner Morara is the current Vice Chair of the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights and is in charge of the UPR process at the Commission. He spearheaded the process during the 2\(^{nd}\) UPR Cycle. Commissioner Morara has plenty of experience working in the civil society having worked for many years at the Kenya Human Rights Commission.
Africa. The members were briefed on the progress made with regard to establishing the office; fundraising, among other things. The meeting resolved that the Chairperson would contact Ms. Betty Murungi\textsuperscript{3}; and that the Regional Representative shall proceed to put in place structures, strategies and focus for its work. It was also agreed that it is necessary to have a formal launch for the *UPR Info* Africa during the first quarter of 2016.

### 1.2.2 Registration of *UPR Info* Africa

For many years, CSOs in Kenya have been registered under very many different registration regimes including registration as a company limited by guarantee (under the Companies Act); a trust (at the registrar of documents at the Ministry of Lands); a society and Community Based Organisation (under the Ministry in charge of social services); or an NGO (under the NGO Act). With the enactment of The Public Benefits Organisation Act, there has been a desire to among other things move all civil society organisations in Kenya under one registration regime. However, the Act has not been fully implemented to date. Amendments to some of the provisions of the Act have been proposed which will, if enacted, have a bearing on the operations of *UPR Info* Africa. Key among them was a proposal to cap or ceiling on how much funding an NGO can receive from outside the country. This necessitated wide consultations before a decision is arrived at. In the meantime, it was agreed that *UPR Info* Africa should be hosted by an already existing Kenyan NGO.

### 1.3 Hosting of *UPR Info* Africa and securing an office space

It is common practise in Kenya that when an (international) NGO is setting up in the country, it is usually hosted by an already existing organisation. This is because at the initial stages, the young organisation cannot open a bank account, execute a

\textsuperscript{3} Ms. Betty Murungi...
lease agreement, among other things. Consequently, UPR Info Africa signed a hosting Memorandum of Understanding with The East African Centre for Human Rights (EACHRights) which included contributing to the office rent, office cleaning, water and electricity. This will be reviewed in January, 2016 when the issue of registration will have clarified. The plan is to secure an office come March, 2016.

1.4 Fund raising for UPR Info Africa

The funding environment in Kenya is faced by unprecedented challenges that have seen a general reduction in funding for NGOs in the country and thus an increased competition for the limited funds available. This may be attributed to among other reasons a shift in focus by the donor community to the ongoing migrant crisis in Europe; the rebasing of Kenya’s economy; the reclassification of Kenya as no longer being a less developed country; to name just but a few. That notwithstanding, a lot of effort was placed on fundraising which entailed raising awareness to the donor community that UPR Info has opened a regional office in Nairobi; introducing the donors to the organisation and what it does; developing relationships with the donors; among other things. Some of the meetings are highlighted hereunder.

1. In July, 2015, UPR Info met with the Regional Director of Open Society Initiative of Eastern Africa which serves Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Sudan and South Sudan. OSIEA characterises itself as a human rights grants making organisation that works through CSOs with a particular focus on what is local and regional. UPR Info will seek to work with OSIEA in Tanzania and Uganda.

2. In September, 2015, the Africa Representative met with the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Nairobi. Consequently, UPR Info Africa submitted a proposal to support CSOs in Kenya, Côte d’Ivoire, Uganda and Somalia for consideration.

3. In October, 2015, UPR Info held several meetings in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia with among others, the OHCHR and the EU on the possibility of working with
them on Ethiopia’s UPR process. This discussion will hopefully be picked up in 2016.

4. In November, 2015, UPR Info Africa met with the Canadian High Commission in Nairobi. The Canadian High Commission offered to give in kind support.

5. In November, 2015, UPR Info met with the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Nairobi. They offered UPR Info Africa to join the Human Rights Defenders working group. This also needs to be looked at while bearing in mind that The Netherlands has prioritised protection of HRDs, LGBTs, Freedom of Religion and Internet Freedom. The RNE is also very keen on protecting CSO space in Kenya.
1.5 Building partnerships

No organisation can work in isolation and *UPR Info* is no exception. In order to forge partnerships with Governments and other CSOs in the region, *UPR Info* met and held talks with the following just to mention but a few:

(i) The Department of Justice in the Government of Kenya; the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights; and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to discuss Kenya’s UPR.

(ii) Article 19 and shared experiences on some of the challenges of operating in some of the countries with the region. The meeting also discussed the possibilities of implementing joint activities. This will be pursued in 2016.

(iii) Transitional Justice and Governance, Association des Amie du Pere Tony (ASAPT) from DRC. The meeting discussed possible areas of collaboration.

(iv) The Franciscan Family in Kenya comprising of Human Life International Kenya (HLI Kenya); Kenya Movement of Catholic Professionals (KMCP); Justice, Peace and Integrity Creation (JPIC); Mother Earth Network; and Edmund Rice.

(v) The Department for World Service (DWS) of The Lutheran World Federation which has a programme in Kenya and Djibouti.

(vi) The OHCHR Advisor in Rwanda and the Ministry of Justice in Rwanda.

(vii) The Ministry of Justice in Malawi.

(viii) The Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition in Dar es Salaam.
2. PROJECTS ACTIVITIES REPORT

This part is dedicated to the activities that were undertaken during the year 2015. It must be noted that these activities were not being conducted in a vacuum but within the wider strategic framework of the organisation that also includes the headquarters in Geneva and the Asia office in Bangkok. For this reason, the report first highlights the areas of focus for UPR Info Africa activities, the priority countries, and then the actual activities.

2.1 Areas of focus for the UPR Info Africa

During the year under review, the areas of focus for UPR Info activities included:

1) Organising national consultations one year prior to the UPR where we seek to involve more actors and create UPR coalitions comprised of ESC and CP rights-related NGOs;

2) Supporting civil society and involve new NGOs by maintaining contacts already established with UPR activists in the region; connecting the activists within the region; identifying new potential NGOs to be involved in the UPR; creating UPR coalitions comprised of ESC and CP rights-related NGOs; and training journalists;

3) Organising domestic pre-sessions by inviting NGOs and the NHRI to speak for 3 hours; inviting all the Embassies, UN Agencies to listen to NGOs;

4) Promoting publication of mid-term reports by contacting governments at mid-term to see if they need support in drafting their mid-term report; and encouraging UPR coalitions/NGOs to publish a report at mid-term;

5) Strengthening the NHRI by promoting the creation of a UPR focal point within the NHRI;

6) Strengthening Governments by organising discussions of National plan of action, and training ministries on the UPR;
7) Extracting more accurate and relevant information from the regions by among other things, listing good practices in the region;
8) Developing *UPR Info* contacts with donors.

### 2.2 *UPR Info Africa* priority countries

*UPR Info* Africa follows the Universal Periodic Review agenda established by the OHCHR\(^4\). As a consequence of this pre-made selection, the Regional Office is focusing on the following countries:

1) Countries under the ongoing project (2015: Kenya, Malawi, and Rwanda. 2016: Niger, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda);
2) Countries to be reviewed in 2016, organisation of a national consultation 1 year before the UPR.
3) Any country requesting the support of the Regional office.

### 2.3 *UPR Info’s* engagement in the UPR processes

Typically, the engagement of *UPR Info* in a country’s UPR process is fourfold. The first step consists of a Pre-session meeting organised by *UPR Info* in Geneva. This happens one month before the UPR. At the Pre-session\(^5\), 5 CSO representatives from the country present their concerns and recommendations to members of the Permanent Missions in Geneva. These presentations assist the Permanent Missions to draft their statements to the State under Review. The second step which occurs usually one month after the review consists of the CSO Strategic Workshop that is organised by *UPR Info* in collaboration with the partners and is held in the country. At this meeting, CSOs develop an implementation plan for UPR recommendations and identified expected actions from the Government and activities they could carry out to

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\(^5\) More about this Headquarters’ activity: [http://www.upr-info.org/en/upr-process/pre-sessions](http://www.upr-info.org/en/upr-process/pre-sessions)
facilitate the implementation process. The third step is a dialogue between government and CSOs. It provides an opportunity for all stakeholders to meet and discuss possibility of co-operation towards effective and full implementation of the UPR recommendations. A fourth is the drafting of the Mid-term report. This is more particularised in the figure below.

2.4 Country activities

The most important measure of success of the UPR mechanism is whether or not the recommendations that the State under Review receives are implemented. Data from UPR Info’s publication “Beyond promises: the impact of the UPR on the ground” indicates that, in the first cycle, 48% of recommendations had triggered action by mid-term, 2.5 years after the UPR. It is important to note that the Government is the main actor responsible for implementation; However, given the wide reach of UPR recommendations, national stakeholders must co-operate in order to ensure that implementation is as sustainable and effective as possible. This is the vision that guides UPR Info’s long-term project in all the countries. During this period, there were several activities and workshops that were held in Kenya, Malawi and Rwanda.
This part of the report is divided into three sub headings namely (a) Step 1 workshops which entails meeting with CSOs; (b) Step 2 workshops which are co-ordination meetings with UPR stakeholders; and (c) the trainings that were facilitated by UPR Info Africa.

2.4.1 Step 1 workshops - Meetings with CSOs

These workshops are organised with CSOs immediately after the UPR sessions in Geneva, UPR Info. There were three of them namely in Kenya (in March, 2015), Malawi (in June, 2015) and Rwanda (in December, 2015). The purpose of these meetings is to better equip CSOs in the various countries to utilise the UPR recommendations by ensuring that they co-ordinate their activities and also ensure that all the participating stakeholders understand the core value of the mechanism which is, cooperation. These workshops were intended to, (i) improve the CSOs’ knowledge of the UPR process; (ii) raise awareness of UPR recommendations made to the country; (iii) empower civil society representatives; and (iv) define the activities for the next months. By the end of the workshops, participants had (i) discussed and drafted a tentative implementation plan, meant to be shared with other NGOs and Government representatives; (ii) discussed and drafted a tentative action strategy for NGOs, meant to be shared with other NGOs.
1. CSO strategy workshop on implementation of UPR recommendations held in Kenya on 10-12 March 2015

On 10-12 March 2015, UPR Info, the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) and the Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC) organised the “CSO strategy workshop on implementation of UPR recommendations”. The Independent Medico-Legal Unit (IMLU), Independent Commission of Jurists (ICJ-Kenya), and the National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders also contributed to the workshop and its outcomes. Approximately 25 civil society members participated. During the three-day meeting, the participants considered the UPR recommendations and learned about the opportunities the mechanism offered. They worked with many new partners and identified ways in which they could communicate and collaborate with the Government during the implementation period. The issues discussed during the workshop included: civil and political rights; justice; women’s rights; transgender people’s rights; rights of the child; and access to health, food and safe drinking water. Whereas the Africa office had not yet been established, the Regional Representative attended the meeting and provided input based on his past experience in relation with the UPR in Kenya.

2. CSO strategy workshop on implementation of UPR recommendations held in Malawi on 18 – 20 June 2015

On 18-20 June, UPR Info together with the Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation (CHRR) and the Centre for Development of People (CEDEP), with the support of CIVICUS, organised a “CSO strategy workshop on implementation of UPR recommendations”. More than 40 representatives from civil
society participated in the workshop from various that represented all issues that were raised during the UPR of Malawi. During the three-day workshop, the participants analysed the 199 UPR recommendations that Malawi received and learned about the opportunities the mechanism can offer. They drafted a detailed implementation plan and action strategy, working sometimes with new CSO partners. They also identified ways in which they could communicate and collaborate with the Government to implement the recommendations. With regard to the engagement with all the different stakeholders, UPR Info met a government representative who confirmed that a national task force (that includes Government representatives, the NCHR and CSOs representatives) was already in place and will be used as a platform for multi-stakeholders follow-up on the UPR process.

3. CSO strategy workshop on implementation of UPR recommendations held in Musanze, Rwanda on 7-9 December, 2015

On 7-9 December, 2015, UPR Info, together with Association Rwandaise pour la Promotion et la Connaissance des Droits de l’Homme (ARPCDH); and Maison de droits (MDD)organised a workshop dubbed “CSO strategy workshop on implementation of UPR recommendations” that was held at Our Lady of Fatima Pastoral Centre in Musanze Town, Rwanda. The December, 2015 meeting was facilitated by UPR Info and was attended by 39 participants representing 30 CSOs working on diverse issues. The participants were divided into 6 thematic groups namely women and gender; justice; civil and political rights; economic, social and cultural rights; rights of the child; other vulnerable groups, to
discuss and write the implementation plan, which included CSOs’ ideas on how UPR recommendations should be implemented. During the three-day workshop, the participants scrutinised all the UPR recommendations that were made to Rwanda. These comprised of 50 recommendations that were outrightly accepted, 104 recommendations that the Rwandan delegation accepted as they considered them in the process of being implemented; and 81 that were noted.

2.4.2 Step 2 workshops - Co-ordination meetings with UPR Stakeholders

The formal adoption of the UPR by the UN Human Rights Council marks the beginning of the implementation phase. In order to ensure that all national stakeholders are equipped with the tools to make the most of the implementation phase, UPR Info, together with its partners usually organise 1) a one-day workshop among civil society organisations 2) a one-day dialogue between CSOs and the Government. During these meetings, UPR recommendations and a corresponding implementation plans are discussed among by CSOs and the Government thus paving the way for future cooperation that will positively impact the human rights situation in the country.

1. Strengthening Dialogue and Cooperation between All UPR Stakeholders
   Nairobi, Kenya held on 13-14 July 2015

On 13-14 July 2015, UPR Info, thanks to the support of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nairobi, and together with the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights and the Kenya Human Rights Commission, organised a “Coordination Meeting for UPR stakeholders”. The purpose of the two-day event was to ensure that
all national stakeholders are equipped with the tools to maximise their influence and input in the implementation phase. The meeting also aimed to create space for a cooperative dialogue between civil society organisations (CSOs) and Government representatives, a space to meet and discuss the way forward, and the possibility of securing partnerships to ensure an effective and inclusive process of implementation of UPR recommendations in Kenya. Overall, 50 civil society members and over 15 Government representatives participated in the event. This ensured a solid foundation for fruitful discussion and collaboration.

In September, 2015, the Office of the Attorney General and Department of Justice with support from OHCHR organised another 5 day meeting at the Sentrim Hotel, Elementaita that brought together over 20 government and 20 civil society representatives to discuss and finalise the government implementation matrix. The said matrix is currently being finalised.

2. Strengthening knowledge and capacity in Malawian Government held in Lilongwe, Malawi on 30 November 2015

On 30 November 2015, UPR Info and the Ministry of Justice in Malawi, organised a training session for government representatives, including a presentation of a civil society representative (from IPAS) to discuss the implementation phase of UPR recommendations and share best practices. Initially, the project was to bring together CSO representatives and Government to ensure that all national stakeholders are equipped with the tools to maximise their cooperation in the implementation phase with an aim of creating space for a concrete dialogue between CSOs and Government representatives.
However, this was scaled down due to a limited response of CSOs thus providing an opportunity to provide an extensive training to over 20 officials of the Malawi Government.

### 2.5 Training and capacity building on the UPR

#### 1. Training for Government and CSOs in Namibia held in Windhoek, Namibia on 9 June, 2015

On 9th June, 2015, UPR Info held a training session in Windhoek, Namibia on the UPR process, advocacy strategies, CSOs submissions, national report, and general engagement with the mechanism at all stages. The training was attended by four civil society representatives from Namibia, the Ombudsman, and over 10 representatives from various Ministries such as Justice, Health and Defense. The training was organised by and with support from the Permanent Mission of Namibia in Geneva in preparation for Namibia’s UPR scheduled to take place at the UN in Geneva in January 2016. The aim of the training was to have all the stakeholders meet and openly discuss the UPR of Namibia, paving the way for a fruitful cooperation among the different actors involved in the process, and also creating the basis for an effective engagement with the UPR and its follow-up activities. The session was also designed to make the participants more aware about the UPR process and how to engage with it in the most effective way. CSOs submissions were analysed, underlining best practices and what kind of information needs to be included in the reports to be sent to the
OHCHR office. The afternoon was dedicated to reading through the draft national report of Namibia presented by a representative of the Ministry of Justice: Ombudsman and CSOs inputs were taken into consideration and included in the new draft of the report. Advocacy strategies and follow-up activities were also discussed in order for the participants to have a clear picture of all the different stages of the UPR mechanism and how to work and engage with it. CSOs, Ombudsman and Government representatives were able to openly discuss the human rights situation in Namibia.

2. UPR training at the CSO validation workshop held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on 17 September, 2015

On 17th September, 2015, UPR Info Africa took part in the Tanzania CSOs’ report validation workshop that was held at the Double View Hotel in Dar es Salaam. Indeed, Tanzania will be reviewed during the 25th Working Group session to be held in Geneva in April, 2016. In preparation for this, Tanzanian CSOs developed the Stakeholder reports that were submitted to the OHCHR on 21st September, 2015. It was in this regard that UPR Info Africa was invited by the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition, which is coordinating over 80 Tanzanian CSOs in the UPR process, to participate in the validation meeting. Participants to the validation meeting included 35 civil society organisations based in Dar es Salaam and 10 from outside the city. In his opening remarks, the Coordinator of the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC), Mr. Onesmo Olengurumwa informed the meeting that during the 1st Cycle, Tanzania received 107 recommendations. Of these, only 10 percent were implemented; 62 percent were half implemented; while 29 percent were
not implemented at all. This state of affairs presents a major challenge for CSOs to double their advocacy efforts. The meeting was also attended by OHCHR Senior Human Rights Advisor, Tanzania, Ms. Chitralekha Marie Massey who in her remarks underscored the importance of CSOs to work together in the development of the Stakeholders’ reports; and also with the Government of Tanzania in the development of the Government report. She added that the UN is supporting the Government of Tanzania to develop benchmarks and indicators that will be integrated in the Human Rights Action Plan and will be used to monitor the implementation of the recommendations. Several thematic groups presented their draft reports for consideration and adoption. These were to be reduced into 10 page reports of the various thematic groups before the submission. However, it must be noted that a large percentage of the participants in the process and meeting were new to human rights treaty reporting and the UPR. It is for this reason that UPR Info was asked to train them on the history of UPR; the importance of the UPR in promoting human rights; how the UPR works; how to develop a Stakeholders’ report; and how to lobby both in Geneva and in Dar es Salaam.

3. Training on effective monitoring of UPR recommendations through multi-stakeholder engagement and awareness raising on the UPR held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 7 October, 2015

On 7th October, 2015, UPR Info made a presentation at a conference titled ‘Effective Monitoring of Universal Periodic Review Recommendations through multi-stakeholder Engagement and Awareness Raising on the UPR process in Ethiopia’. Ethiopia was reviewed for the first time under the Universal Periodic Review in the Human Rights Council in 2009.
and for the second time in 2014. The 2014 review resulted in 188 accepted and 64 noted recommendations by Ethiopia during the 27th session of the Human Rights Council. In order to put this under perspective, the presentation highlighted the important role of the civil society in Ethiopia in monitoring and participating in the implementation of the UPR recommendations adopted by the Government of Ethiopia and making the recommendations and pledges known to the public. Civil society should also monitor government implementation plans and activities - in several countries CS shadow reporting takes place - and whenever possible, collaborate with the government in implementing the recommendations. This is important because currently, there are no planned civil society initiatives to follow-up and monitor the implementation of the UPR recommendations and the civil society faces challenges to participate in the UPR process as well as in implementation and monitoring of the National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP). There are little resources available for CSO's to engage in the process. The objectives of the conference was therefore to enhance the capacity of local stakeholders such as the university centres of human rights/law schools and NGO's to monitor and follow-up effective implementation of the UPR recommendations accepted by the Government of Ethiopia; and to enhance coordination and exchange of information within the civil society and among the stakeholders on the UPR process. The outcome of the conference were therefore provide input for development of the Monitoring Tool by different stakeholders; create awareness about the importance of monitoring UPR recommendations and the monitoring tool; and establish working relationship among stakeholders for effective implementation.
3. CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

The follow up project sought answers for the deficiencies, needs, and difficulties that still remain in the utilisation of the UPR. To this end, UPR Info was able to expand the opportunities for participatory governance through the UPR in countries that we intervened. *UPR Info* succeeded in creating channels for NGOs to engage governments to uphold human rights.

Going forward, we will continue engaging with the countries that we worked with in 2015, albeit with less emphasis. However, we will embark on other countries whose UPR is due in 2016 including but not limited to Niger, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda. For these 6 countries, all efforts will be made to secure support to implement projects therein.

In order to encourage all stakeholders to make full use of the Universal Periodic Review process and to bring the international mechanism to the ground, to meet stakeholders’ needs in Africa, the year 2015 fully demonstrated the willingness of UPR Info to open a regional office in Africa was legitimate. This is just the beginning of a long-term collaboration with a rich landscape of CSOs, committed government individuals, dedicated institutions.

REPORT COMPiled BY

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