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Greetings from SAHRiNGON!

We at SAHRiNGON hope this newsletter finds you well. As part of our ongoing commitment to improve our communications with members, we will be producing regular newsletters.

This will be a space to share our latest initiatives, ideas, and experiences. Although we have plenty to say, we would also like to hear your stories as well. If you have any news you would like to share with other members, please get in touch and we can include it in a future newsletter. Pictures are especially welcome!

The purpose of the newsletter is to allow members to become more familiar with the work of the other members, as well as the activities of the Secretariat. We hope that sharing this information will help us gain a greater understanding of human rights issues across Tanzania, and possibly lead to partnerships on future projects.

This issue is being disseminated to members via email, and we will be uploading a copy to our website as well. However, we appreciate that not everyone has regular internet access, so we would be grateful if you could assist us in passing along the information to your colleagues. If anyone has any suggestions on how we might reach a wider audience, we'd be happy to hear them!

Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting was held at the Wanyama Hotel on 22-23 June. 61 members were in attendance, and it was great to see everyone there. There was a flurry of activity over the two days. On the agenda was the validation of SAHRiNGON's 2012-2017 strategic plan.

In addition, Phiona Kulabako, who has been with SAHRiNGON since January as part of the Fredskorpset exchange programme, spoke about our new communications hub, as well as plans to arrange members into thematic clusters to facilitate partnership working.

Attendees were also very fortunate to hear from the Foundation for Civil Society, who provided further information and advice on how to apply for funding. This valuable advice was followed by a presentation from Deus Kibamba of Jukwaa la Katiba, who spoke about the Constitutional review process.

SAHRiNGON would once again like to extend thanks to all of the presenters and the members who were able to attend.

SAHRiNGON Member Clusters

by Phiona Kulabako

Having developed the new strategic plan, SAHRiNGON together with members have restructured the operations. The growing number of member organizations has also prompted the grouping of member organizations into cluster groups. Clusters have been grouped according to 5 thematic areas of human rights at the Annual General Meeting held on 22nd June 2012. These clusters include the following:

- Women and Gender Rights
- Child Rights
- Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights
- Civil and Political Rights
- Environmental Rights

These clusters are expected to enable an increase in member involvement and active participation in network activities, improve communication within the Network, ensure needs based capacity building for members, and increase efficiency in network joint activities.

As a result SAHRiNGON will have increased flow of information on ongoing activities and current issues among cluster members and secretariat, increased member participation, improved efficiency in implementation of the network activities and active participation in CSOs joint activities.

Establishment of a Communications Hub

by Phiona Kulabako

SAHRiNGON has established a communication tool to enable communication between grassroots, policy makers and the Secretariat. The contact number launched on 22nd June 2012 at the Annual General Meeting is **0787877713**. The database is to have contacts of all stakeholders in the country including CSOs, policy makers, local leaders in target areas, Human Rights activists, politicians, leaders of political parties and other stakeholders.

This is aimed at improving communication with member organizations, enabling the monitoring and investigating of human rights violations in the country. It will also facilitate collective action in the network against human rights violations, survey human rights incidence/ prevalence in the country, mobilize support for ongoing human rights campaigns in the country, and increase human rights awareness.

SAHRiNGON Collaborates Using Google Docs

SAHRiNGON staff have recently been experimenting with ways to make editing shared documents easier. It seemed that every new assignment involved a series of email attachments, a handful of USB flash drives, and multiple versions of the same document. Sound familiar to anyone?

Realising that there must be a better way, SAHRiNGON has begun to use Google Docs to create, edit, and share documents online. There are other applications that offer similar features, but Google Docs was chosen for its familiar platform and relative ease of use. It allows users to create word processing documents, as well as presentations, spreadsheets, and surveys. In fact, this newsletter was created using Google Docs!

In addition to the collaborative aspect, Google now offers a feature called Google Drive that provides users with limited storage to back up files. This helps us to safeguard against theft or damage to laptops. As we become more familiar with it, we hope to share this knowledge with our members. We might not be able to offer immediate training to all who would like it, but please do get in touch if you have any queries. If any of our members are currently using Google Docs or similar, we'd love to hear more about your experiences.