

EXECUTIVE REPORT

A meeting of the Metagora Task Team on Pilot Surveys was held on 14-16 July 2004 in Pretoria and hosted by the Human Sciences Research Council of South Africa (HSRC). It was attended by:

- National Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines (Mrs. Anita Chauhan) and the National Statistical Co-ordination Board (Mrs. Estrella Domingo);
- Fundar, Mexico (Mrs. Claire Naval and Mr. Juan Salgado);
- HSRC, South Africa (Mrs. Maxine Reitzes and Mr. Michael Aliber);
- Mrs. Jana Asher (StatAid, USA);
- Mr. Jan Robert Suesser (ADETEF, France); and
- MCT (Mrs. Sylvie Walter and Mr. Raul Suarez de Miguel).

The meeting was chaired by Mrs Maxine Reitzes (South Africa).

As part of the interaction and cross-fertilisation processes that are inherent to Metagora, the meeting aimed at gathering together the local co-ordinators and leading experts from the three countries where pilot surveys on human rights issues are currently being designed and will soon be implemented: **Mexico** (survey on ill-treatment), **the Philippines** (survey on the rights of indigenous people) and **South Africa** (survey on the human rights dimensions of the national program of land restitution).

In the three cases, the survey-based approach to measure human rights issues aims at assessing specific key national policies and includes participatory processes in which stakeholders are involved namely in the definition of the issues to be tackled as well as in the formulation of the hypothesis to be verified through the survey. Also, although the characteristics, size and distribution of the targeted populations are quite different in the three countries, the planned pilot surveys present a number of common conceptual, methodological and technical problems. The meeting allowed experts to discuss both the various specific challenges of each survey and the common problems.

The presentation of the work carried out in the three countries highlighted three aspects that appear to be crucial for a comprehensive definition of the issues to be measured as well as for the subsequent design and formulation of questionnaires:

- i) an accurate, sound internal analysis of the policies at stake (particularly strong in South Africa);
- ii) the inter-institutional and participatory process that allows to identify the relevant issues to be measured (particularly impressive in the Philippines);
- iii) the use of preliminary in-depth narrative interviews of actors involved in human rights violations, either as perpetrators or as victims, that allows to figure out circumstances and aspects that should be taken into account when formulating the questionnaire (particularly fruitful in Mexico).

The attendants discussed in-depth survey plans and survey design in the three countries. The Mexican and South African teams are solidly developing their designs and

plans on the conceptual and technical basis presented during the March meeting of MPG. The attendants noticed a remarkable progress of the survey plans in the Philippines where, during the last three months, important modifications intervened and important steps were taken to consolidate the organization, working methods and technical basis of the activity.

Last but not least, the more focused and important part of the meeting was the mutual detailed review of draft survey questionnaires.

As an outcome of the meeting, participants agreed:

- To review the draft questionnaires for the upcoming meeting of the Metagora Partners' Group (MPG) to be held in Paris on 23-25 August 2004. The revised questionnaires will be presented and submitted for further discussion to the members of the MPG,
- To include in the questionnaires, an indication of the different assumptions formulated by the various stakeholders and which would be either confirmed or invalidated through the survey,
- To prepare a one to two-page progress report,
- For the Mexican survey, to provide with a summary in English of the different in-depth narrative interviews that had been conducted.
- Provisional calendars of conduct of the field operations are:
 1. Mexico: September (pre-testing of the questionnaire, training of the interviewers), October-November (conduct of the survey)
 2. South Africa: October-November
 3. Philippines: October-November

The deadline for transmission of the above documentation to the MCT was set at 13 August 2004 to allow for a timely dissemination of the documentation to all participants in the MPG meeting.

Annex:

1: Final agenda

ANNEX I

FINAL AGENDA

1. Welcome to participants by Maxine Reitzes
2. Introduction and objectives of the meeting
3. Round table on the Metagora processes in South Africa, Mexico and the Philippines (short general briefings) and the survey in Sierra Leone
4. Expected results and their integration in the global synthesis and in the final products
5. **South Africa:** presentation of the work carried out and its expected outcomes (Objectives, survey design, sampling issues, consultation and involvement of stakeholders, main steps and deadlines)
In-depth discussion on the draft questionnaire and its links with hypothesis and expectations
6. **Mexico:** presentation of the work carried out and its expected outcomes (objectives, survey design, sample issues, consultation and involvement of stakeholders, main steps and deadlines)
In-depth discussion on the draft questionnaire and its links with hypothesis and expectations
7. **Philippines:** presentation of the work carried out, the local actors and experts and the expected outcomes (objectives, consultation and involvement of stakeholders, general design of the survey, sampling issues, foreseen main steps and deadlines)
Towards the questionnaire design: steps, exchanges with Metagora partners
8. **Progressing together:** planning next exchanges and technical assistance