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Dear Anne

I hope that this letter finds you and your colleagues at SAIIA well.

The purpose of this rather formal correspondence is to provide feedback and some hopefully useful comment on the way forward on the SAIIA 'concept note' to the African Human Security Initiative (AHSI) project.

Let me start off by thanking you for this first iteration of the SAIIA document that we received some time ago. You will recall that the purpose is to update the presentation that SAIIA provided during our September meeting, based on the feedback and subsequent discussion, and thereby:

- Present a theoretical framework that would justify the choice of a set of key commitments of African Heads of State within the ambit of the SAIIA theme, namely democracy and political governance. These commitments would also be unpacked in a table that covers, for each commitment, key indicators of compliance, methodology of how the partner would go about measuring compliance and any associated problems (if any, and measures to overcome these problems). In summary this input would motivate, define, document (and subsequently comply) with a solid methodology; and
- Provide a schedule of activities in the form of a work plan. This would include a time schedule, activities and output, providing a clear description of the research process over time, including country visits, etc.

You will recall that it is up to the ISS to work on a draft conceptual paper, to be circulated to other project partners by the end of October. One of our tasks is to provide some type of definition and framework for our discussion of 'human security' since it represents the core concept that binds the various research clusters together, and include within that framework a motivation for the 'choice' of clusters. This is therefore still a bit of a lacuna in providing conceptual coherence to the work of the various partners.

That said, we think the conceptual framework you have drafted for the democracy and political governance theme is excellent, especially where you draw the link between human security and specific aspects of political governance. You will see on the website that we have circulated your paper to the other partners as an example.

Turning to the particular commitments you have chosen to review, we recommend that you liaise closely with WANEP on no. 4 “political pluralism”, and with SAHRIT on no. 7 “independence of the judiciary”, which is also a feature of the anti-corruption theme.

Your table of indicators is very impressive and a solid foundation for the review. The next step is to send us a work plan of which countries you are looking at when, who you are interviewing, etc. in order to share contacts and co-ordinate your work with the other partners.

Hope this helps and look forward to receipt of a revised and updated version of the SAIIA document at your earliest convenience.

Warm regards,

Jakkie Cilliers & Kathryn Sturman  
Institute for Security Studies