


<b>AFRICAN UNION</b>		<b>UNION AFRICAINE</b>
<b>الاتحاد الأفريقي</b> African Commission on Human & Peoples' Rights		<b>UNIÃO AFRICANA</b> Commission Africaine des Droits de l'Homme & des Peuples
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**STRATEGIC PLAN OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE PREVENTION OF TORTURE  
IN AFRICA 2012 - 2014**

**A. THE COMMITTEE FOR THE PREVENTION OF TORTURE IN AFRICA**

**i. Background**

The absolute prohibition of torture and other forms of ill treatment, considered by the international community as a peremptory norm, breach of which constitutes a very serious human rights violation, is established in Article 5 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights (African Charter). This prohibition notwithstanding, torture is still a widespread problem in most parts of the African continent. The prevalence of torture on the continent is commonly attributed to ignorance by the general public of their rights and of officials of the law and their responsibilities, lack of training and information, impunity, discrimination, dysfunctional judicial systems, lack of monitoring and advisory mechanisms, corruption and deficiencies in governance and the rule of law, amongst others.

Alive to this reality, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (the African Commission or Commission) in October 2002 at its 32<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Session, took

a significant step in addressing the problem of torture on the continent by adopting the Measures and Guidelines for the Prohibition and Prevention of Torture, Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in Africa, commonly known as the Robben Island Guidelines or RIG. The RIG were developed from a joint workshop organized by the African Commission and the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT) in Robben Island, South Africa, from 12 -14 February 2002 and brought together African and international experts from different professional backgrounds dealing with the issue of torture.

The Robben Island Guidelines are a set of concrete measures for the implementation of the provisions of Article 5 of the African Charter on the prohibition and prevention of torture. The RIG are divided into three parts: the first part calls on States to ratify existing international instruments on the prohibition and prevention of torture as well as to domesticate and effectively implement them; the second part sets out a range of preventive measures covering the different stages of criminal procedure and the third part outlines ways of responding to the needs of victims of torture.

In order to ensure the effective implementation of the RIG, the African Commission pursuant to its mandate under Article 45 of the African Charter, established the Follow-up Committee on the Implementation of the Robben Island Guidelines, as its Special Mechanism dedicated to the fight against torture. Due to the difficulties stakeholders had in associating the name of the above Committee with its torture prevention mandate, it was subsequently renamed the **Committee for the Prevention of Torture in Africa (CPTA)**, in November 2009 by resolution *ACHPR/Res158(XLVI).09*, adopted at the 46<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the African Commission.

## **ii. Mandate**

The mandate of the CPTA as set out in the African Commission Resolution *ACHPR/Res.61(XXXII)02* on the Robben Island Guidelines is summarized as follows:

- a) To promote and facilitate the effective implementation of the RIG within member states
- b) To disseminate the RIG to national and regional stakeholders
- c) To develop and propose to the ACHPR strategies and advise on the promotion and implementation of the RIG for the effective prohibition and prevention of torture in Africa.

### **iii. Structure**

The CPTA comprises member (s) of the African Commission, the Association for the Prevention of Torture and any other prominent African experts as the Commission may decide. Members of the CPTA are appointed through a resolution of the African Commission for a two years renewable term. The CPTA is headed by a Chairperson who is usually a Commissioner of the African Commission and a Vice Chairperson. Secretariat services as well as funding for the CPTA are provided by the African Commission. The CPTA also has the leverage to raise funds from external sources.

### **iv. Guiding Principles**

The CPTA subscribes to the guiding principles of the African Commission as contained in the African Charter which provides that the Commission be guided by the principles of *“freedom, equality, justice and dignity, which are essential objectives for the achievement of the legitimate aspirations of the African peoples”*.

The work of the CPTA is also inspired by international law on human and peoples' rights and based on a number of values including objectivity, non-discrimination, transparency, integrity and impartiality.

### **v. Vision**

The CPTA envisions an African continent which is free of torture and upholds human dignity.

**vi. Mission and strategic domains of intervention**

The CPTA seeks to achieve its vision by promoting and facilitating the effective implementation of the Robben Island Guidelines in Member States of the AU. In order to achieve its mission, the CPTA has adopted four over-arching strategic areas of intervention, in accordance with its mandate and for the duration of this strategic plan:

- i. Raising public awareness on the RIG and the prohibition and prevention of torture
- ii. Advocating for the effective implementation of the RIG at national level
- iii. Strengthening capacities of relevant actors for the effective implementation of the provisions of RIG
- iv. Providing advice and making recommendations to African States and other relevant actors on the effective prohibition and prevention of torture as well as on responding to the needs of victims

<b>B. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES</b>
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**Strategic Objective 1**

**Dissemination of the Robben Island Guidelines to national and regional stakeholders**

**Sub-objectives:**

1. To develop and disseminate promotional material on provisions of the RIG

2. To organise in country initiatives to build and strengthen public knowledge on the provisions of the RIG
3. To engage with the media community to advertise the RIG
4. To engage with the regional human rights community to promote the RIG

## **Strategic Objective 2**

**Promoting and facilitating the effective implementation of the RIG within Member States.**

### **Sub-objectives:**

1. To undertake in-country missions to support the effective implementation of the provisions of the RIG by State parties
2. To engage African States on their obligations to prohibit and prevent torture during sessions of the Commission
3. To cooperate with other regional and international human rights bodies working on torture

## **Strategic Objective 3**

**Developing and proposing to the ACHPR, strategies to promote and implement the RIG to national & regional stakeholders.**

### **Sub-objectives:**

1. To continue reporting on CPTA activities to the Commission at each ordinary session and present an annual comprehensive progress report on the implementation of the RIG and prevention of torture on the continent
2. To undertake and publicize studies and research related to RIG provisions and their implementation in Africa
3. To develop and publicize tools to strengthen CPTA work.

**C. PLAN OF ACTIVITIES, EXPECTED RESULTS AND INDICATORS OF ACHIEVEMENT**

**Strategic objective 1: Dissemination of the RIG to national and regional stakeholders**

CPTA Key mandate area	Activity	Place	Expected dates	CPTA focal point	Key actors & partners	Specific activity objective	Expected results	Main indicators of result & sources	Main risk & mitigation measures
<b>1.1. To develop and disseminate promotional material on the RIG</b>	Newsletter	ACHPR	Bi annual	Chair/Editing Committee	General public	Publicize the RIG & the work of the CPTA; Sensitize and inform the public on torture prevention issues including relevant initiatives/developments in the region and worldwide	Improved knowledge of the Rig & work of CPTA	Feedback from readers + N° of copies disseminated	Funding
	Assessment of CPTA webpage		Every 6 months	CPTA members & Secretariat	General public	Ensure the public is regularly kept abreast with the work of the CPTA; Sensitize and inform the public on torture prevention issues including relevant initiatives/developments in the region and worldwide	Regularly updated website	Feedback from visitors to website	

	Production of informational brochures		1/year	CPTA members & Secretariat	General public	Publicize the RIG & the work of the CPTA; and inform the public on torture prevention issues including relevant initiatives/developments in the region and worldwide	Improved knowledge of CPTA and RIG	Brochures produced	Funding
<b>1.2 To take initiatives to build capacities and strengthen public knowledge on the RIG</b>	In country /regional workshops	To be determined	2/year	CPTA members & Secretariat	State & law enforcement officials, civil society, NHRIs, NPMs, media	Make the RIG and work of CPTA known among target groups; Strengthen knowledge of target groups on the RIG and to encourage target groups to promote and use the RIG	Target groups have better knowledge of the RIG and use them in their day to day activities	Workshops organized	Funding
	10th anniversary of the RIG regional colloquium	To be determined	2012	CPTA members & Secretariat		Retrospect on the work of the CPTA for past 10 yrs and prospect on ways and means of ensuring better functioning of mechanism and effective implementation of the RIG	Work of CPTA during the decade reviewed and recommendations made for better functioning of mechanism	Colloquium held	Funding



1.3 To engage with the media community to advertise the RIG	To systematically engage with the media during CPTA in-country activities	To be determined	To be determined	CPTA members & Secretariat	media	Generate interest in the media on the work of the CPTA and the prevention of torture in general	Press engaged in reporting on torture prevention	Press coverage for CPTA activities and other prevention initiatives	Funding
	To produce press releases for CPTA in country activities and deliver key messages at specific occasions	To be determined	To be determined + 26 June, International Day in Support of Victims of Torture	CPTA members & Secretariat	Relevant actors, media and general public	To put relevant actors and general public in State Party on notice of an impending CPTA activity for purposes of information gathering etc Raise public awareness on prohibition and prevention of torture	Relevant actors and general public in State Party informed of CPTA activities, General public aware of prohibition of torture through key messages at specific occasions	Relevant actors and public provide information to the CPTA Number of press releases issued and proportion of their dissemination	
1.4 To engage with the regional human rights community to promote implementation of the RIG	CPTA Special Interest Group discussion + panel discussion on torture in plenary during NGO Forum	NGO Forum & ACHPR sessions	During NGO forums and ACHPR sessions	CPTA members and Secretariat	NGOs and other interested actors	Create forum for regular interaction between the CPTA and NGOs and enlist their assistance in raising awareness on the RIG, disseminating them and providing relevant information		Special interest group and panel discussions held	

Exchanges and cooperation with existing African human rights networks and promotion of new networks	Sessions of the ACHPR, CPTA events, venue of other relevant events	Ongoing	CPTA members and Secretariat staff	African NHRI, NPM, police and penitentiary services networks etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Integrate torture prevention in the work of the relevant networks and enhance cooperation between the CPTA and the networks</li> <li>- Stimulate a regional torture prevention movement/dynamic</li> <li>- Encourage establishment of national torture prevention and CPTA focal points</li> </ul>	Network use the RIG in their work, provide information to CPTA , carry out joint activities etc	<p>Proportion of CPTA activities involving exchanges with existing networks as well as proportion of CPTA participation in activities of existing networks</p> <p>Terms of reference for collaboration developed</p>
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***Strategic Objective 2: Promoting and facilitating the effective implementation of the RIG within Member states***

CPTA Key mandate area	Activity	Place	Expected dates	CPTA focal point	Key stakeholders & partners	Specific activity objective	Expected results	Main indicators of result & sources	Main risks & mitigation measure
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<p><b>2.1. To undertake in-country missions to support the effective implementation of the RIG by State parties</b></p>	<p>In-country missions</p>	<p>To be determined</p>	<p>2/year</p>	<p>CPTA members and Secretariat</p>	<p>Target groups</p>	<p>Constructive dialogue with States Parties on how to comply with their obligations to prohibit and prevent torture, on the spot monitoring visits and advocacy activities involving various national actors</p>	<p>Enhanced implementation of RIG measures within the State</p>	<p>Ratification and implantation of relevant instruments including OPCAT ; Criminalization of torture; Existence of detention national monitoring schemes</p>	
<p><b>2.2 To engage African States on their obligations to prohibit and prevent torture during sessions of the Commission</b></p>	<p>Collect torture related information and develop key questions to be asked during presentation of periodic reports</p>	<p>ACHPR session</p>	<p>Twice/year</p>	<p>Secretariat (research)</p>		<p>Seek clarifications from and advise States Parties on practical modalities of implementing the RIG</p>		<p>Questions posed to State Parties during presentation of their periodic reports</p>	
<p><b>2.3 To cooperate with other regional and international human rights bodies working on torture</b></p>	<p>Networking sessions with relevant anti-torture bodies: invite one or more members of relevant bodies at sessions of the ACHPR for</p>		<p>Twice /year</p>	<p>CAT, SPT, UNSRT, CPT, etc</p>	<p>CPTA members and Secretariat</p>	<p>interaction between CPTA and other related international mechanisms for information/experience sharing, joint activities and publications</p>			

interaction and exchange with CPTA.

**Strategic Objective 3: Developing and proposing to the ACHPR strategies to promote and implement the RIG**

CPTA Key mandate area	Activity	Place	Expected dates	CPTA focal point	Key stakeholders & partners	Specific activity objective	Expected results	Main indicators of result & sources	Main risks & mitigation measure
3.1 Reporting to the Commission	Reporting on CPTA activities		Twice/year	CPTA members and Secretariat		Integrate torture prevention in the work of the ACHPR and enable it develop a comprehensive and coherent strategy for the implementation of Art. 5 of the Charter			

	Analytical progress report on RIG implementation		Annual	CPTA members and Secretariat		Provide analysis on torture prevention and progress of RIG implementation	CPTA visibility enhanced. CPTA authoritative and guiding views provided through its recommendations and analysis	Progress reports presented	
<b>3.2 Undertake studies/research and develop guiding tools for the effective prohibition and prevention of torture</b>	Elaborate guidelines on anti torture laws		first half of 2013	CPTA member		Provide authoritative guidance to States Parties on the elaboration of anti-torture legislations	Guidelines used by state Parties in developing anti-torture legislation including criminalization	Guidelines developed	
<b>3.3. To develop and publicize tools to strengthen CPTA work</b>	Guidelines on in-country missions to States Parties		first quarter 2012	CPTA members & Secretariat		Develop a clear methodology for promotional missions for purposes of transparency and monitoring State compliance with the RIG	Relevant actors are aware of what to expect from CPTA promotion missions	Guidelines developed	funding

CPTA rules of procedure and methods of work		first quarter 2012	CPTA members		Develop transparent rules of procedure and working methods	CPTA visibility enhanced	Rules of Procedure and working methods elaborated and applied	

#### **D. Monitoring and Evaluation**

In order to deliver on and implement this Strategic Plan, the CPTA will develop operational work plans with specific activities to be carried out on a yearly basis. The strategic plan and annual operational work plans will be reviewed regularly through a consultative process during meetings of CPTA members in order to foster a common understanding and commitment. To be able to successfully achieve the strategic objectives, the CPTA will develop a monitoring system to measure results and take corrective actions and also to ensure that there is a strategic link between the key goals and strategies objectives with new developments on the ground.

The CPTA will seek to prioritise the allocation of adequate financial and human resources to undertake its mandate and the activities planned as part of the present process in a suitable way. For that purpose, funding shall be sought both within the African union system as well as externally.

