

## **STATEMENT TO THE ACPR 56 ORDINARY SESSION**

**21 APRIL 2015 – KAIRABA BEACH HOTEL – BANJUL, THE GAMBIA**

Recognizing the status and position of persons with Disabilities in the African society as declared in the African Union Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2010-2019;

Noting with grave concern that the situation of Persons with Disabilities in Africa remains dire due to the lack of accessibility and enjoyment of rights;

Concerned that there is a complex patchwork of legislation relating to Persons with Disabilities rights across the continent, which pose significant barrier on the effective harmonization of laws and legal protection for the right to accessibility for Persons with Disabilities;

Deeply concerned about the lack of guidelines or frameworks that provide adequate protection for the right to accessibility for Persons with Disabilities across Africa;

HEREBY recommend to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights to urge states to:

1. Request the Commission to institute a study on the right to accessibility and reasonable accommodation for Persons with Disability in Africa.
2. Urge the Commission to encourage the member states to ratify the Marrakech treaty, which was adopted in June, 2013 so that Persons with visual impairment and otherwise Persons with print Disabilities get access to published books or arts;
3. Call on the Commission's working group to hold consultations with Francophone states to accelerate the finalization of the drafting of the African Disability Rights Protocol.