

Intersession Activity Report of Commissioner Yeung Kam John Yeung Sik Yuen in his joint capacity as Commissioner and Chairperson of the Working Group on the Rights of Older Persons and People with Disabilities in Africa.

Introduction

1. This Report is presented on the occasion of the 53rd Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (the Commission). It outlines the progress made since the adoption of the Draft Protocol on the Rights of Older Persons. The second part is on my intersession activity.
2. The Draft Protocol on the Rights of Older Persons which was adopted at the 52nd Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights held in Yamoussoukro, Cote D'Ivoire has been channeled to the African Union Commission. You will recall that this Draft Protocol brings to life Article 18(4) of the African Charter which stipulates that "*the aged and the disabled shall also have the right to special measures of protection in keeping with their physical or moral needs.*" The Draft Protocol urges African Governments to institute measures aimed at addressing the needs of older persons such as access to regular incomes; equitable distribution of resources; employment opportunities; access to appropriate health services; access to basic social services such as food, water, clothing and shelter; access to good care and support from the family, the state and private organizations; recognition of their contribution towards the care of persons with AIDS and orphans; respect and recognition of the role and contribution that older persons make to society; and a recognition of their special needs in emergency situations. There is still however a process to follow on the Protocol and I hope that all stakeholders will work together to ensure that it is finally adopted by the Heads of State and Government.
3. Our work is however not complete as there is still the Protocol on the Rights of People with Disabilities in Africa. I am confident that if this task is approached with the same energy and commitment as the one that has just been accomplished with the Protocol on the Rights of Older Persons, the same result will be achieved in much a shorter period of time.

Intersession Activity

4. On 4th March 2013, I gave a lecture at the Sir Harilall Vaghjee Hall at Government House, Mauritius. The lecture was attended by the President of the Republic of Mauritius, the Vice President, the Vice Prime Minister, Ministers, Judges, Magistrates, lawyers, academics, and ambassadors including some 350 persons. In the lecture, I made reference to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights [African Charter]. Of particular significance is the elaboration of the civil and political rights as well as the economic, social and cultural rights in the Charter. Emphasis was laid on one peculiarity in the Charter which can be considered as a benefit in that it not only spells out the rights of the individual but also his duties, as well as the duties of State parties.