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**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**  
**Forty-Sixth Ordinary Session**  
**14 January - 13 February 2025**  
**Addis Ababa (ETHIOPIA)**

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**ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE  
AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS  
(ACHPR)**



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African Commission on  
Human and Peoples' Rights

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**56<sup>TH</sup> AND 57<sup>TH</sup> ACTIVITY REPORTS**

**OF THE**

**AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS**



## I. SUMMARY

1. The 56<sup>th</sup> and 57<sup>th</sup> Combined Activity Reports of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (the Commission or the ACHPR) are presented to the Heads of State and Government of the African Union (AU), in accordance with Article 54 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (the African Charter) and cover the period from **10 November 2023** to **10 November 2024**.
2. The activities presented in this Report, that the Commission undertook during the period under review, are geared towards achieving the priority areas set out in the Commission's 2021-2025 Strategic Plan. Accordingly, the Commission's statutory meetings were devoted, in particular, to strengthening the protection mandate by processing Communications on alleged human rights violations, thereby reinforcing the Commission's implementation of its mandate to protect human and peoples' rights. This mandate is further strengthened by the Commission's interventions on urgent and pressing human rights issues through urgent appeal letters, press releases, resolutions and letters of commendation.
3. It also includes activities relating to better promotion of human rights on the continent, as required by the African Charter.
4. The activities carried out by the Commission's Special Mechanisms and the consideration of Reports of States Parties to the African Charter on the implementation of the rights and freedoms enshrined in the African Charter, have contributed to the improvement of national legal and institutional frameworks for the promotion and protection of rights at national level through the adoption of new laws, the revision of existing laws and the creation or reform of relevant institutions in States Parties. The Report also presents issues relating to the Commission's finances, staffing and functioning, as well as the Commission's recommendations on the human rights situation on the continent.

## II. BACKGROUND

5. The Commission is an independent organ established under Article 30 of the African Charter, which was adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in 1981. The African Charter has been ratified by all AU Member States, with the exception of the Kingdom of Morocco which rejoined the Union in January 2017. The Commission became operational in 1987 and is based in Banjul, The Gambia.
6. The Commission is composed of eleven (11) members elected by the Heads of State and Government of the AU, and they serve in their individual capacity and on a part-time basis.
7. The Commission's mandate, as defined in Article 45 of the African Charter, is as follows:



# ACHPR

African Commission on  
Human and Peoples' Rights

Human Rights our  
Collective Responsibility

- i. To promote human and peoples' rights, and in particular;
  - a) To collect documentation, carry out studies and research on African problems in the field of human and peoples' rights, organise seminars, colloquia and conferences, disseminate information, encourage national and local bodies concerned with human and peoples' rights and, where appropriate, give advice or make recommendations to Governments;
  - b) To formulate and lay down principles and rules to resolve legal problems relating to the enjoyment of human and peoples' rights and fundamental freedoms, with a view to serving as a basis for the adoption of legislative texts by African Governments;
  - c) To cooperate with other African and international institutions concerned with the promotion and protection of human and peoples' rights;
- ii. To ensure the protection of human and peoples' rights under the conditions laid down in this Charter;
- iii. To Interpret any provision of the present Charter at the request of a State Party, an OAU Institution or an African Organization recognized by the OAU; and
- iv. To carry out any other tasks that may be entrusted to it by the Conference of Heads of State and Government.

### **III. MEETINGS OF THE AU POLICY-MAKING ORGANS, STATUTORY MEETINGS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONAL MEETINGS DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD**

#### **A. MEETINGS OF THE AU POLICY-MAKING ORGANS**

##### **37<sup>th</sup> African Union Summit, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

8. The Commission participated in the following meetings of the AU Policy Organs, held from 15 January to 18 February 2024:
  - i. The 47<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) held virtually from 15 January to 13 February 2024;
  - ii. The 44<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Executive Council (EC), held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 14 to 15 February 2024;
  - iii. The 37<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government (the Assembly) held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 17 to 18 February 2024.
9. In accordance with the African Charter and established practice, the 54<sup>th</sup> and 55<sup>th</sup> Combined Activity Reports of the Commission were presented to the 47<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the PRC. After discussions at PRC and Executive Council level, publication of the Activity Reports was authorised by **Decision EX.CL/Dec.1244(XLIV)**. The Report has been published on the Commission's website.
10. The Commission also participated in the following meetings of the AU Policy Organs, held in July 2024:



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African Commission on  
Human and Peoples' Rights

Human Rights our  
Collective Responsibility

- i. 46<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Permanent Representatives' Committee (PRC) held virtually from 19 June to 15 July 2024;
- ii. 43<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, held in Accra, Ghana, from 18 to 19 July 2024; and
- iii. The 6<sup>th</sup> Mid-Year Coordination Meeting between the African Union, Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms held in Accra, Ghana on 21 July 2024.

## B. STATUTORY AND INSTITUTIONAL MEETINGS

### ➤ 78<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session (Private)

11. The 78<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session was held virtually from 23 February to 08 March 2024. The Final Communiqué of this Session, published on the Commission's website, gives a full account of the deliberations which occurred.

### ➤ 79<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session

12. The 79<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session was held in hybrid mode in Banjul, The Gambia, from 14 May to 03 June 2024.

13. During this Session, the Commission organised the following panels:

- i. Panel on the celebration of the United Nations Convention against Torture and 20 years of the Committee for the Prevention of Torture in Africa;
- ii. Panel on the Abolition of the Death Penalty and Security Issues;
- iii. Panel on challenges to the implementation of Article 5(b) of the Maputo Protocol and launch of the second edition of the Maputo@20 Newsletter dedicated to victims of female genital mutilation;
- iv. Panel on forced displacement to mark the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Kampala Convention;
- v. Panel on the African Union's theme of the Year 2024: The Right to Education;
- vi. Panel on the Commemoration of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda;
- vii. Panel on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Luanda Guidelines;
- viii. Panel on the submission of reports by States Parties; and
- ix. Panel on the African Declaration on the Promotion of the Role of Human Rights Defenders and their Protection in Africa.

14. Details of the activities undertaken by the Commission at its 79<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session are set out in the corresponding Final Communiqué, which can be consulted on the Commission's website: [www.achpr.org](http://www.achpr.org).

15. The intersession reports presented by the Members of the Commission and its special mechanisms, at the 79<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session can also be consulted on the Commission's website.

### ➤ 80<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session (Private)



16. The 80<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session was held virtually from 24 July to 02 August 2024. The Final Communiqué of this Session, published on the Commission's website, gives a full account of the deliberations conducted.

➤ **81<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Session (Public)**

17. The 81<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Session was held from 17 October to 06 November 2024, in Banjul, The Gambia.

18. During this Session, the Commission held the following Panels:

- i. Panel on the African Guiding Principles on the Human Rights of all Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers;
- ii. Panel on the situation of Human Rights Defenders in Africa;
- iii. Panel on the celebration of the entry into force of the Protocol on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa, and sensitisation for the entry into force of the Protocol on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa;
- iv. Panel on Upholding the Mendez Principles in Africa: Enhancing Safeguards through Effective Interviewing;
- v. Panel on the Human Rights Situation in The Sudan;
- vi. Panel on the role of education and training in the prevention of torture, ill-treatment and violence in Africa;
- vii. Panel on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and National Development Plans in Africa;
- viii. Panel on the presentation of the World Report on Women in the criminal justice system;
- ix. Panel on the celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Luanda Guidelines;
- x. Panel on Critical Minerals and Artificial Intelligence;
- xi. Panel on the impact of Article 59 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Communications' Procedure of the African Commission;
- xii. Panel on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Entry into Force of the OAU Convention on the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa: Assessment, Challenges and Prospects;
- xiii. Panel discussion to present the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances Report on the Visit to the African Union Judicial and Human Rights Organs and other sub-regional bodies;
- xiv. Panel on Hosting the Sessions of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights;
- xv. Panel on Agenda 2063 and Human rights: the way forward.

19. Additionally, the Commission held the Joint Colloquium on Realizing Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights in Africa, with a Focus on the Right to Education, in commemoration of Africa Human Rights Day.

20. During the Session, the Commission launched the CPTA Newsletter No. 2024, the Study on the Human Rights Impact of Law Enforcement on Asylum Seekers,



# ACHPR

African Commission on  
Human and Peoples' Rights

Human Rights our  
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Refugees and Migrants in Africa, in addition to the 17<sup>th</sup> edition of the Newsletter on Police and Human Rights: Reflections on 10 years of the Luanda Guidelines.

## C. OTHER ACHPR ACTIVITIES

### ➤ **Joint Retreat of the ACHPR Commissioners and its Secretariat**

21. From **02 to 04 December 2023**, the ACHPR Commissioners and Secretariat held a strategic planning meeting, which reviewed the mid-term evaluation report on the ACHPR Strategic Plan 2021-2025 and the planning, monitoring and evaluation plan, and considered and adopted its Annual Workplan for 2024.

### ➤ **Joint Retreat of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Permanent Representatives Committee of the African Union (PRC)**

22. From **05 to 07 December 2023**, the Commission and the PRC, represented by the Sub-Committee on Human Rights, Democracy and Governance, the Sub-Committee on General Supervision and Coordination of Budgetary, Financial and Administrative Matters, in addition to the Sub-Committee on Structural Reforms, held a Joint Retreat.

23. The meeting, organised in accordance with Executive Council Decision **EX.CL/Dec.1045 (XXXIV)** requesting that a "Joint Retreat of the PRC and the ACHPR be held annually," was aimed at strengthening synergy between the two bodies and establishing a working relationship conducive to harmonious interactions, with a view to better promotion and protection of human rights on the Continent.

24. The Joint Retreat was structured around four sessions, namely: an overview of the mandate and working methods of the Commission as well as the mandates of the PRC sub-committee procedures; reflections on the work and institutional performance of the Commission; strengthening the Commission with a view to its contribution to the Africa we all want; and strengthening the relationship and synergies between the Commission and the PRC/States Parties.

### ➤ **Joint Forum of Special Mechanisms of the ACHPR**

25. From **25 to 27 April 2024**, the Commission convened the inaugural Joint Forum of Special Mechanisms, in Dakar, Senegal. This pioneering event was under the theme "**Advancing the protection and promotion of human rights in Africa: Strengthening commitments, overcoming challenges, and reinforcing opportunities.**" The Forum served as a platform for stakeholders to engage in joint initiatives and transversal activities addressing cross-cutting human rights issues, and underscoring the interdependence of all human rights.





# ACHPR

African Commission on  
Human and Peoples' Rights

Human Rights our  
Collective Responsibility

26. A Declaration of the 1<sup>st</sup> Joint Forum of the Special Mechanisms of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights was adopted, and can be accessed on the Commission's website: [www.achpr.org](http://www.achpr.org).

➤ **Benchmarking mission to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights**

27. From **10 to 16 July 2024**, the Commission conducted a benchmarking mission to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, in Washington DC. The visit focused on mutual exchanges on best practices aimed at strengthening the working methods and capacities of the two institutions, in accordance with the mandates and objectives set in the respective founding instruments. The visit also served as an opportunity to engage with a number of civil society organizations working in the African and Inter-American human rights systems.

28. The meeting concluded with a Joint Declaration on collaboration for better promotion and protection of human rights through the establishment of focal points, exchange of public information and best practices in the field of human rights, and the convening of annual high-level dialogues in order to facilitate institutional alliance.

➤ **State Party Pre-Session Forum, on the margins of the ACHPR 81<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Session**

29. From **15 to 16 October 2024**, the Commission convened the inaugural States Parties Pre-Session Forum in Banjul, The Gambia, preceding the ACHPR's 81<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Session. The Pre-Session Forum was attended by States Parties to the African Charter, the Chairperson and members of the PRC Sub-Committee on Human Rights, Democracy and Governance, in addition to Members of the Commission, the ACHPR Secretariat and other representatives from the African Union Commission.

30. The meeting was organised in accordance with **EX.CL/1045(XXXIV)** and **EX.CL/1065(XXXV)**, adopted with the aim of establishing regular consultations between the Commission and the PRC, promoting dialogue and collaboration. Additionally, the Forum aimed to enhance the PRC's comprehension of Africa's human rights landscape.

#### **IV. STATUS OF SUBMISSION OF PERIODIC REPORTS**

31. The Commission monitors implementation of the African Charter and other relevant legal instruments, including the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (the Maputo Protocol) and the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (the Kampala Convention), by: receiving and examining periodic reports during the Ordinary Session; engaging directly with States on the content of their Report; drawing Conclusions and making general Recommendations on the





# ACHPR

African Commission on  
Human and Peoples' Rights

Human Rights our  
Collective Responsibility

Reports; in addition to following up on the non-submission of Periodic Reports by States Parties.

32. During the 79<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session, the Commission examined the Combined Report of the Republic of Mozambique, covering the period from 2015 to 2021.

33. During the 81<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Session, the Commission examined the following State Reports:

- i. The fifth, sixth and seventh Combined Periodic reports of Burkina Faso, covering the period from 2015 - 2021; and
- ii. The 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Combined Periodic Reports of the Republic of Angola, covering the period 2016 - 2023.

34. Under Article 62 of the African Charter, States Parties are required to submit Periodic Reports every two (2) years. The status of Periodic Reports submitted to the Commission by States Parties, counting from the last reporting period, is therefore as follows:

Status	States Parties	Number
<b>Report under review</b>	Angola, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mauritius and Zimbabwe	05
<b>Up to date</b>	Angola, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritius, Mauritania, Mozambique, Senegal, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe	15
<b>1 report overdue</b>	Benin, Chad, Eswatini, Gambia, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria and Togo	10
<b>2 reports overdue</b>	Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda	03
<b>3 reports outstanding</b>	Mali	01
<b>More than 3 reports outstanding</b>	Algeria, Burundi, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Congo, Djibouti, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania and Tunisia	19
<b>No report submitted</b>	Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia and South Sudan	06

35. With specific regard to Article 26 of the Maputo Protocol, the following **twenty-one (21)** States Parties have submitted their periodic reports to date: Angola, Burkina



# ACHPR

African Commission on  
Human and Peoples' Rights

Human Rights our  
Collective Responsibility

Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gambia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Nigeria, Mauritania, Namibia, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

36. From the **thirty-four (34)** States Parties which have ratified the Kampala Convention, the Republics of Cameroon, Angola and Burkina Faso have submitted Reports on its implementation.

## V. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION

37. The Commission adopted the following Resolutions during the period under review:

SESSION	RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED
<b>78<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Resolution on Internet Shutdowns and Elections in Africa;</li> <li>ii. Resolution on the Need for a Study on the Extent of Implementation of the ACHPR Soft Laws on Access to Information in Africa;</li> <li>iii. Resolution on the need to take measures to reduce forced internal displacement in Africa;</li> <li>iv. Resolution on the Extension of the deadline for Conducting a Study on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions in Africa;</li> <li>v. Resolution on the Development of Guidelines on the Protection of the Rights of Workers in the Informal Economy Sector in Africa.</li> </ul>
<b>79<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Resolution on the Development of an Addendum on Data to the State Party Reporting Guidelines for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (Tunis Reporting Guidelines);</li> <li>ii. Resolution on the preparation of a General Comment on the right to development in Africa;</li> <li>iii. Resolution on the Substitution of the Vice Chairperson of the Working Group on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Africa;</li> <li>iv. Resolution on the Human Rights Situation in the Republic of Sudan.</li> </ul>
<b>80<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Resolution on the Renewal of the Mandate of the Working Group on the Rights of Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities in Africa and on the Appointment of its Chair and Members;</li> <li>ii. Resolution for the development of a Model Law on the implementation and domestication of the Maputo Protocol;</li> <li>iii. Resolution on the need to develop guidelines on the drafting of periodic reports covering the rights to freedom of association (Article 10) and assembly (Article 11) in Africa;</li> <li>iv. Resolution for a joint analytical study on challenges of litigating the rights of women and girls at the AU Human Rights Organs.</li> </ul>



# ACHPR

African Commission on  
Human and Peoples' Rights

Human Rights our  
Collective Responsibility

<b>81<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Session</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. Resolution on the Renewal of the Mandate and Reconstitution of the Committee for the Prevention of Torture in Africa and the Appointment of its Members;</li><li>ii. Resolution on the Renewal of the Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Prisons, Conditions of Detention and Policing in Africa;</li><li>iii. Resolution on the Renewal of the Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa;</li><li>iv. Resolution on the Extension of the Mandate of the Advisory Committee on Budgetary and Staff Matters (ACBSM) to include supervision of audit functions;</li><li>v. Resolution on the renewal of the mandate of the Advisory Committee on Budgetary and Personnel Matters ;</li><li>vi. Resolution on the Renewal of the Mandate of the Working Group on Communications;</li><li>vii. Resolution on the Renewal of the Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa;</li><li>viii. Resolution on the Renewal of the Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders and Focal Point on Reprisals in Africa;</li><li>ix. Resolution on the Renewal of the Mandate of the Working Group on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Africa;</li><li>x. Resolution on the renewal of the mandate and Reconstitution of the Working Group on Extractive Industries, the Environment and Human Rights Violations in Africa ;</li><li>xi. Resolution on the Renewal of the Mandate of certain Expert Members of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of People Living with HIV (PLHIV), People at Risk, Vulnerable and Affected by HIV;</li><li>xii. Resolution on the Renewal of the Mandate of Certain Members of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations/Communities and Minorities in Africa;</li><li>xiii. Resolution on the Renewal of the Mandate of the Working Group on the Death Penalty, Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions and Enforced Disappearances in Africa;</li><li>xiv. Resolution on the Renewal of the Mandate of the Support Group of the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders and Focal Point on Reprisals in Africa for the promotion and effective implementation of the Guidelines on Freedom of Association and Assembly in Africa;</li><li>xv. Resolution on the Renewal of the Mandate of the Joint Fact-Finding Mission to the Republic of Sudan;</li><li>xvi. Resolution on the Impact of Sanctions on the Realisation of Human Rights in Zimbabwe;</li></ol>



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African Commission on  
Human and Peoples' Rights

Human Rights our  
Collective Responsibility

- xvii. Resolution on the Pre- and Post-Electoral Instability in Mozambique;
- xviii. Resolution on the situation of human rights defenders working on environmental issues in Uganda;
- xix. Resolution on the Situation in Palestine and the Occupied Territories;
- xx. Resolution on the United Nations General Assembly Biannual vote calling for a Moratorium on the use of the Death Penalty ;
- xxi. Resolution on the promotion of the use of indigenous languages as a means of learning and communication in the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area;
- xxii. Resolution in preparation for the AU theme for 2025 “*Justice for Africans and People of African Descent through Reparations*” through consultations on Afro Descendants, Indigenous/Ethnic, Ancestry, Reparations and the 6<sup>th</sup> Region of the African Union;
- xxiii. Resolution on the Entry into Force and Implementation of the Protocols on the Rights of Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities in Africa;
- xxiv. Resolution on the drafting of a General Comment on Article 26 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights;
- xxv. Resolution on the promotion and harnessing of access to data as a tool for the promotion of human rights and sustainable development in the digital age;
- xxvi. Resolution on the protection and promotion of the rights of Communities Discriminated by, Work and Descent (CDWD) in Africa ; and
- xxvii. Resolution on the creation of the Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela African Human Rights Scholarship in recognition of his legacy.

## VI. HUMAN RIGHTS COMPLAINTS/COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COMMISSION

### Communications

38. As part of its protection mandate, the Commission is specifically mandated by the African Charter to receive and consider Communications (Complaints) submitted to it on alleged human rights violations.
39. The following Communications were considered during the period under review out of the **one hundred and eighty-two (182)** currently pending before the Commission:

SESSION

ADOPTED COMMUNICATIONS



# ACHPR

African Commission on  
Human and Peoples' Rights

Human Rights our  
Collective Responsibility

**78<sup>th</sup> Ordinary  
Session  
(Private)**

**Decisions adopted on Merits - 6**

- i. Communication 376/09: Acleo Kalinga (represented by REDRESS, OMCT and IRCT) v. Republic of Uganda;
- ii. Communication 471/14: Meriam Yahia Ibrahim and three more v. Republic of The Sudan;
- iii. Communication 734/19: J (Represented by the Initiative for Strategic Litigation in Africa (ISLA) & Kenya Legal and Ethical Issues Network on HIV & AIDS (KELIN)) v. Republic of Namibia;
- iv. Communication 607/16: Famille de Feu Juvenal Habyarimana v. Republic of Burundi;
- v. Communication 704/18: Berhane Abrehe Kidane (represented by Solomon Weldekirstos and Eritrean Law Society) v. The State of Eritrea;
- vi. Communication 780/22: Chapter One Foundation Limited and Young Women in action v. Republic of Zambia.

**Decisions adopted on Admissibility - 6**

**Admissible - 4**

- i. Communication 679/17: Kenyans for Peace with Truth and Justice (represented by Kenya Human Rights Commission) v. Republic of Kenya;
- ii. Communication 632/16: X and Y (represented by Lawyers for Justice in Libya and the Redress Trust) v. Libya;
- iii. Communication 779/22: Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma v. Republic of South Africa;
- iv. Communication 765/21: Barankitse Marguerite and 11 others exiled HRDs v. Republic of Burundi.

**Inadmissible - 2**

- i. Communication 744/20: Justin Ndoundangoye (represented by Barrister Calvin Job) v. Gabonese Republic;
- ii. Comunicação 741/20: Christian Patrichi TANASA (represented by Advocate Calvin Job) v. Gabon.

**79<sup>th</sup> Ordinary  
Session**

**Decisions adopted on Merits - 1**

- i. Communication 480/14: Senate Masupha & Others v. Kingdom of Lesotho.

**Decisions adopted on Admissibility - 5**

**Admissible - 4**

- i. Communication 685/18: Nack Emmanuel (Represented by Ndikum Law Offices) v. Republic of Cameroon;
- ii. Communication 799/22: Busisiwe Mkhwebane (represented by Shadrack Tebeile) v. Republic of South Africa;



# ACHPR

African Commission on  
Human and Peoples' Rights

Human Rights our  
Collective Responsibility

	<p>iii. Communication 747/21: Van- Heerden and two others v. Republic of South Africa;</p> <p>iv. Communication 801/22: Afekuru Animu Rasasi Amiati (Represented by Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa) v. Republic of South Sudan.</p> <p><b>Inadmissible - 1</b></p> <p>i. Communication 803/22: Abdulrashid Abshir Warsame v. Federal Republic of The Sudan.</p> <p><b>Strike-out – 2</b></p> <p>i. Communication 671/17: Ahmed Abdel Hady El-Sihaimy v. Arab Republic of Egypt;</p> <p>ii. Communication 660/17: Jenny Naluwa Cherubala v. Democratic Republic of Congo.</p>
<b>80<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session (Private)</b>	<p><b>Decisions adopted on Merits – 5</b></p> <p>i. Communication 709/19: Senator Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo v. Democratic Republic of Congo;</p> <p>ii. Communication 476/14: Magdy Moustafa El- Baghdady v. Federal Republic of the Sudan;</p> <p>iii. Communication 801/22: Afekuru Animu Rasasi Amiati (Represented by Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa) v. Republic of South Sudan;</p> <p>iv. Communication 432/12: Peter Odiwuor Ngoge v. The Republic of Kenya;</p> <p>v. Communication 700/18: Association des femmes Avocates Defenseures des Droits Humains et Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa v Democratic Republic of Congo.</p> <p><b>Decisions adopted on Admissibility – 8</b></p> <p><b>Admissible - 6</b></p> <p>i. Communication 399/11: Minority Rights Group International and UNIPROBA v. Republic of Burundi;</p> <p>ii. Communication 697/18: Mr Kaptue Tagne &amp; Others v. Republic of Cameroon;</p> <p>iii. Communication 696/19: Jean-Marie Michel Mokoko v. Republic of Congo;</p> <p>iv. Communication 652/16: Franck Diongo Shamba v. Democratic Republic of Congo;</p> <p>v. Communication 566/15: Mrs. Chiggle v. Republic of Cameroon;</p> <p>vi. Communication 794/22: Itai Dzamara on behalf of herself and her husband Sheffra Dzamara v. Republic of Zimbabwe.</p> <p><b>Inadmissible - 2</b></p> <p>i. Communication 668/17: Peter Odiwuor Ngoge v. Republic of Kenya;</p>





# ACHPR

African Commission on  
Human and Peoples' Rights

Human Rights our  
Collective Responsibility

	<p>ii. Communication 758/21: Queen Ntombikayise Ambe v Republic South Africa.</p>
<b>81<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Session</b>	<p><b>Decisions adopted on Merits – 2</b></p> <p>i. Communication 747/21: Van- Heerden and two others v. Republic of South Africa;</p> <p>ii. Communication 582/15: X (Represented by Lawyers for Justice in Libya and REDRESS) v. Libya;</p> <p><b>Decisions adopted on Admissibility - 3</b></p> <p><b>Admissible - 2</b></p> <p>iii. Communication 713/19: Ndayisaba Ali Ahmed Buregeya (represented by IHRDA) v. Republic of Rwanda;</p> <p>iv. Communication 717/19: M. Pie Sinzinkayo v. Republic of Burundi;</p> <p><b>Inadmissible - 1</b></p> <p>v. Communication 774/21: Phillip Nkosikhona Simelane (represented by Mr. Shadrack Tebeile) v. Republic of South Africa;</p> <p><b>Withdrawal - 1</b></p> <p>Communication 642/16: Maison Shalom Burundi v. Republic of Burundi.</p>
<b>Communications seized (20)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Communication 832/24 : Ana Cristina Jakobsen v. Mauritius ;</li><li>2. Communication 833/24: Apôtre Joseph Kitwa Nsenga v. Democratic Republic of Congo;</li><li>3. Communication 834/24 : Manirakiza Eric (reprenté par les avocats Armel Niyo ;ngere, Jean Claude Ntiburumunsi et Divine Ntiranyuhura) v. Burundi ;</li><li>4. Communication 835/24 : (X) v. Benin ;</li><li>5. Communication 836/24 : Houngue Eric Noudehouenou Landry Angelo Adelakoun, Romaric Zinsou, Miguèle Houeto, Fréjus Attindoglo, et Conaïde Akouedenoudje v. Bénin</li><li>6. Communication 837/23 : Jean Joseph Mellie v. Seychelles ;</li><li>7. Communication 838/24: Houngue Eric Noudehouehou v. South Africa and 53 other States Parties of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights;</li><li>8. Communication 839/24: Kenyi Yasin Abdallah v. South Sudan;</li><li>9. Communication 840/24: Eiman Ali Bashir Elshafie (represented by the African Centre for Justice and Peace Studies (ACJPS) v. Sudan;</li><li>10. Communication 841/24: Nasim Onezime (represented by Begi's Law Offices and Chambers Advocates) v. Seychelles ;</li><li>11. Communication 842/24: Fatma Eldesouky Khatlab v. Egypt;</li><li>12. Communication N° 845/24 : Ebénézère Toussou v. Benin ;</li></ol>





# ACHPR

African Commission on  
Human and Peoples' Rights

Human Rights our  
Collective Responsibility

	<p>13. Communication 848/24 : Landry Angelo Adalakoun, Romaric Zinsou, Miguèle Houeto, Fréjus Attindoglo et Conaïde Akouedenoudje, v. Benin ;</p> <p>14. Communication 850/24: Maliza Said Soilihi v. Comoros;;</p> <p>15. Comunicação 851/24: Professor Sebastião da Silva Isata v. Angola;</p> <p>16. Communication 852/24 : Mme. Mboussou Ognanosso Danièle née Sassou Nguesso v. Congo ;</p> <p>17. Communication 853/24 : Landry Angelo Adalakoun, Romaric Zinsou, Miguèle Houeto, Fréjus Attindoglo, et Conaïde Akouedenoudje v. Benin ;</p> <p>18. Communication 854/24: Samuel Abuwe Ajiekha, alias known Samuel Wazizi v. Cameroon;</p> <p>19. Communication 855/24 : Arlette Diane Zogo veuve du feu Arsène Salomon Mbani Zogo alias Martinez Zogo v. Cameroun ;</p> <p>20. Communication 856/24 : Maliza Saïd Soilihi et autres c. Comoros.</p>
<b>Communications not seized (6)</b>	<p>1. Communication 813/23: Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma v. South Africa;</p> <p>2. Communication 829/23: Mthwakazi Republic Party v. Zimbabwe;</p> <p>3. Communication 830/23: Pastef v. Senegal;</p> <p>4. Communication 844/24: Edward Itani Mulaudzi v. South Africa;</p> <p>5. Communication 846/23: Biafra Republic Government in Exile (BRGIE) v. Nigeria;</p> <p>6. Communication 847/2024 : Madame Mboussou Ognanosso Danièle épouse Sassou Nguesso v. Congo.</p>

40. The above tables show that during the period under review, the Commission seized **twenty (20) Communications**, declared **sixteen (16)** admissible and **six (6)** inadmissible, struck two **(2)** off its list, with **one (1)** Communication withdrawn. The Commission also took **fourteen (14)** decisions on **Merits**.

## VII. APPLICATIONS FOR OBSERVER AND AFFILIATE STATUS

41. In accordance with **Resolution ACHPR/Res.572(LXXVII)2023 on the Criteria for Granting and Maintaining Observer Status to Non-Governmental Organizations working on Human and Peoples' Rights in Africa**, the Commission, during its 79<sup>th</sup> and 81<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Session, granted Observer status to the following **eighteen (18)** NGOs:

- i. Afrogiveness;
- ii. Association IBSAR;
- iii. Coalition Tunisienne Contre la Peine de Mort;
- iv. Danish Institute Against Torture (DIGNITY);
- v. Center for Human Rights and Democracy (CHRDA Cameroon);
- vi. Lawyers for Human Rights;
- vii. Hope Inspired Foundation for Women and Youths with Disabilities;
- viii. Rwanda Men's Resource Centre (RWAMREC);



# ACHPR

African Commission on  
Human and Peoples' Rights

Human Rights our  
Collective Responsibility

- ix. Women's Legal Aid Centre (WLAC);
- x. Friends of Angola;
- xi. Alliance of Women Advocating for Change (AWAC);
- xii. Inua Advocacy;
- xiii. Southern Africa Human Rights Defenders Network (SAHRDN or Southern Defenders);
- xiv. Association congolaise contre l'impunité et pour le développement (ACOCID);
- xv. Caritas Développement Bukavu;
- xvi. Groupe de Recherche-Action sur la Sécurité Humaine (GRASH);
- xvii. African International Christian Ministry (AICM); and
- xviii. Centre d'Actions pour le Développement.

42. This brings to **five hundred and seventy-nine (579)** the total number of NGOs with Observer status at the end of the reporting period.

43. In accordance with **Resolution CACDHP/Res.370 (LX) 2017 on the granting of Affiliate status to National Human Rights Institutions and specialised human rights institutions in Africa**, the Commission granted affiliate status to the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture of Mauritania and the National Gender and Equality Commission of Kenya, during the 79<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session. To date, the Commission has granted affiliate status to **thirty-eight (38)** NHRIs and specialised institutions.

44. During the 81<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Session, the Commission rejected and closed twenty-one (21) applications for observer status, of which seventeen (17) were for failure to submit additional files for consideration, and four (4) were from organizations not registered in a State party to the African Charter. These decisions by the Commission were taken in accordance with **Resolution ACHPR/Res.572 (LXXVII) 2023 on the Criteria for Granting and Maintaining Observer Status for Non-Governmental Organisations Working on Human and Peoples' Rights in Africa**.

## VIII. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMMISSION'S DECISIONS, REQUESTS FOR PROVISIONAL MEASURES, CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS AND URGENT APPEAL LETTERS

45. As can be observed below, the level of compliance by the States Parties with the Commission's decisions, requests for provisional measures and urgent appeal letters remains low:

### ➤ Implementing decisions on Communications:

46. During the period under review, the Commission received information in relation to implementation of the following final decisions on Communications, in accordance with Rule 125 of its Rules of Procedure (2020):

- i. Communication 473/14: The Family of the late Jackson Ndikuriyo v. Republic of Burundi; and



# ACHPR

African Commission on  
Human and Peoples' Rights

Human Rights our  
Collective Responsibility

ii. Communication 389/10: Mbiankeu Geneviève v. Republic of Cameroon.

47. The Commission encourages this practice and congratulates the governments of Cameroon and Burundi.

### ➤ Implementation of Letters of Concern and Urgent Appeals

48. During the reporting period, **fifty (50)** Letters of Concern and Urgent Appeal were sent to States Parties, concerning various allegations of human rights violations:

States	Date of Letter	Issue justifying an Urgent Appeal Letter	State Party's response
<b>Burkina Faso</b>	14 November 2023	Letter of urgent appeal following allegations of an attack on the village of Zaongo, in north-central Burkina Faso, on 2 November which resulted in the deaths of nearly one hundred civilians, including women and children.	No response received
<b>The Sudan</b>	28 December 2023	Joint letter of urgent appeal regarding the escalation of violence against women, in Khartoum.	No response received
<b>Tunisia</b>	16 January 2024	Joint urgent appeal letter concerning allegations of kidnapping, smuggling and trafficking in human beings involving sub-Saharan migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Tunisia.	Response received
<b>Guinea</b>	18 January 2024	Urgent appeal letter following reports that Colonel Pépé Célestin Bilivogui had been abducted by a group of gendarmes on 08 November 2023 and was being held incommunicado.	No response received
<b>Democratic Republic of Congo</b>	19 January 2024	Urgent letter of appeal following reports on violence and eviction of members of the Batwa indigenous population in the Kahuzi-Biega National Park.	No response received
<b>Senegal</b>	22 January 2024	Joint letter of urgent appeal regarding the prolonged closure of Cheikh Anta Diop University.	No response received
<b>Democratic Republic of Congo</b>	12 February 2024	Urgent letter of appeal requesting the President to maintain the moratorium on the death penalty,	No response received



# ACHPR

African Commission on  
Human and Peoples' Rights

Human Rights our  
Collective Responsibility

		lifted by the Council of Ministers on 09 February 2024.	
<b>Senegal</b>	12 February 2024	Joint letter of urgent appeal regarding reports of an internet shutdown in the Republic of Senegal.	No response received
<b>The Gambia</b>	16 February 2024	Joint letter of urgent appeal stressing the importance of addressing the looming debate on the ban against female genital mutilation (FGM) in response to reports received regarding a proposed Bill of the National Assembly seeking to lift the ban against FGM.	No response received
<b>Malawi</b>	26 February 2024	Letter of urgent appeal regarding escalating threats against Mr. Gregory Gondwe, an investigative journalist working in Malawi.	No response received
<b>The Sudan</b>	28 February 2024	Joint letter of appeal following reports indicating that since 04 February 2024 communication services had been severed across all regions of Sudan, following disruptions by three main internet operators at the hands of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF).	No response received
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	04 March 2024	Joint letter of urgent appeal concerning the alleged deaths of three girls resulting from female genital mutilation (FGM) and related complications.	No response received
<b>Tanzania</b>	12 March 2024	Letter of urgent appeal regarding reports of judicial harassment of Mr. Odero Charles Oderos, the Executive Director of Civic and Legal Aid Organization (CILAO)	No response received
<b>Libya</b>	03 April 2024	Letter of urgent appeal to the State of Libya following the discovery of a mass grave containing more than 65 bodies of migrants in south-west Libya.	No response received
<b>Egypt</b>	05 April 2024	Letter of Appeal concerning reports of death sentences handed down by the State Security Emergency High Court against eight individuals on 04 March 2024.	Response received.



# ACHPR

African Commission on  
Human and Peoples' Rights

Human Rights our  
Collective Responsibility

<b>Eswatini</b>	13 May 2024	Letter of urgent appeal regarding the judicial harassment of Mrs. Tanele Maseko, widow of Adv. Tulani Maseko.	No response received
<b>Egypt</b>	14 May 2024	Letter of urgent appeal on the alleged State-sponsored smear campaign and security threats against the Sinai Foundation for Human Rights and its Director, Mr. Ahmed Salem.	No response received
<b>Tunisia</b>	20 May 2024	Letter of appeal regarding the arrest and detention of human rights activists working to protect migrants in the Republic of Tunisia.	Response received
<b>Democratic Republic of Congo</b>	20 May 2024	Letter of urgent appeal regarding the murder of Salumu Miyaga, human rights defender and coordinator of the new Congolese civil society in the Luvua sector, Tanganyika province.	No response received
<b>Guinea Bissau</b>	24 May 2024	Joint letter of urgent appeal regarding reports of brutality committed by security forces, during the period after the local elections, following demonstrations called by the Popular Front on 18 May.	No response received
<b>Guinea</b>	29 May 2024	Joint letter of appeal regarding DecreeA/2024/686/MIC/CAB/SGG suspending the operation of private radio and television stations in the Republic of Guinea.	No response received
<b>The Gambia</b>	14 June 2024	Joint letter of appeal regarding the draft Cybercrime bill.	No response received
<b>Burkina Faso</b>	22 July 2024	Joint urgent appeal letter regarding the enforced disappearances of journalists Serge Oulon, Adama Bayala and Kalifara Séré and the suspension of two media outlets, L'Évènement and 7Infos.	No response received
<b>Guinea</b>	22 July 2024	Letter of urgent appeal relating to the enforced disappearance of activists Oumar Sylla and Mamadou Billo Bah.	No response received



# ACHPR

African Commission on  
Human and Peoples' Rights

Human Rights our  
Collective Responsibility

<b>Kenya</b>	23 July 2024	Joint letter of urgent appeal regarding attacks on journalists in Kenya.	No response received
<b>Kenya</b>	12 August	Joint urgent appeal letter regarding allegations of arbitrary executions and enforced disappearances of numerous people who took part in demonstrations or were suspected of planning them.	No response received
<b>Tanzania</b>	20 August 2024	Joint letter of appeal regarding reports forceful relocation of Maasai people from Endulen village in Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA), within the vicinity of the UNESCO World Heritage Site, where they have lived for generations.	No response received
<b>Kenya</b>	21 August	Joint urgent appeal on the alleged disappearances of three human rights defenders: Mr. Bob Michemi Njagi, Mr. Longton Jamil, and Aslam Longton.	No response received.
<b>Burkina Faso</b>	21 August 2024	Joint urgent letter of appeal allegations of the forced enlistment of magistrates in security operations in Burkina Faso.	No response received
<b>Somalia</b>	27 August 2024	Joint letter of appeal regarding specific provisions in the Official Information Bill (OIB) which appear to contravene international and regional human rights norms.	No response received
<b>Kenya</b>	02 September 2024	Joint letter of appeal alleged enforced disappearance of three human rights defenders.	No response received.
<b>Eswatini</b>	10 September 2024	Joint letter of urgent appeal issued in response to a recent decision of the Eswatini Supreme Court which challenged provisions of the Sedition and Subversive Activities Act of 1938 and the Suppression of Terrorism Act of 2008.	No response received
<b>Burkina Faso</b>	11 September 2024	Letter of urgent appeal following the massacre of hundreds of civilians in Barsalogho on August 24, 2024.	No response received





# ACHPR

African Commission on  
Human and Peoples' Rights

Human Rights our  
Collective Responsibility

<b>Uganda</b>	19 September 2024	Joint letter of urgent appeal regarding reports of the recurring attacks against environmental human rights defenders, who were subjected to abductions, enforced disappearances, torture and ill treatment, and incommunicado detention.	Response received
<b>Ethiopia</b>	19 September 2024	Letter of appeal regarding escalating threats against the Ethiopian Human Rights Council Organisation and increasing crackdown on Civil Society in Ethiopia.	No response received
<b>Tanzania</b>	19 September 2024	Letter of Appeal in response to reports received regarding arbitrary arrests, abduction of Opposition party members from the CHADEMA party, in addition to a number of journalists covering the protests.	No response received
<b>Ethiopia</b>	19 September 2024	Joint letter of urgent appeal regarding the escalating threats against the Ethiopian Human Rights Council Organisation (EHRCO) and increasing crackdown on Civil Society in Ethiopia.	No response received
<b>Burkina Faso</b>	24 September 2024	Joint letter of urgent appeal on the enforced disappearances of the following four journalists and columnists; Kalifara Séré, Serge Oulon, Adama Bayala and Alain Traoré.	No response received
<b>Democratic Republic of Congo</b>	30 September 2024	Situation of five (5) human rights defenders, former SICIA workers, detained in Goma Munzenze Central Prison.	No response received
<b>Cameroun</b>	03 October 2024	Joint letter of urgent appeal concerning the sanctioning of a number of media professionals and human rights defenders, via a Communiqué issued on 08 August 2024.	No response received
<b>Cameroun</b>	10 October 2024	Joint urgent appeal letter concerning the situation of human rights defenders and journalists in the Republic of Cameroon.	No response received





# ACHPR

African Commission on  
Human and Peoples' Rights

Human Rights our  
Collective Responsibility

<b>Côte d'Ivoire</b>	10 October 2024	Urgent appeal on threats and attacks against leaders and members of the LGBTQI+ Community in Côte d'Ivoire.	No response received
<b>Democratic Republic of Congo</b>	17 October 2024	Assassination, attempted assassination and violation of the rights of human rights defenders in the Democratic Republic of Congo.	No response received
<b>Côte d'Ivoire</b>	17 October 2024	Urgent appeal on measures restricting freedom of association and assembly contained in Ordinance N°2024-368 of June 12, 2024 relating to the organization of Civil Society in Côte d'Ivoire.	No response received
<b>Cameroun</b>	18 October 2024	Urgent appeal on the arrest and detention of LGBTQI+ Community activists in Douala, Cameroon.	No response received
<b>Mali</b>	18 October 2024	Urgent appeal on the arrest and detention of political leaders and restriction of freedom of expression and association in Mali.	No response received
<b>Togo</b>	18 October 2024	Urgent appeal on restriction of civic space in the Togolese Republic.	No response received
<b>Zambia</b>	20 October 2024	Urgent appeal on allegation on interference of the Executive into the independence of the judiciary and concerns about its politicization.	No response received
<b>Kenya</b>	31 October 2024	Urgent appeal letter concerning the repatriation of four Turkish refugees to Turkey.	No response received

## IX. LETTERS OF COMMENDATION

49. During the period under review, the following **fourteen\* (14)** letters of appreciation were sent to Heads of State and Government in respect of positive human rights developments in the relevant countries:

States	Date of letter	Issues on which the Letter of Appreciation/Commendation was based
<b>Botswana</b>	14 December 2023	Joint letter of commendation on the ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on



# ACHPR

African Commission on  
Human and Peoples' Rights

Human Rights our  
Collective Responsibility

		Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa
<b>Democratic Republic of Congo</b>	18 January 2024	Congratulatory letter to the President H.E Félix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo on his re-election.
<b>Liberia</b>	05 February 2024	Congratulatory letter to the President on his election as the President of the Republic of Liberia.
<b>Senegal</b>	11 April 2024	Letter of appreciation to the Government of their decision to renegotiate oil, gas, and mining contracts with foreign operators.
<b>The Gambia</b>	19 April 2024	Letter of Commendation to the President for his statement to religious leaders at the end of the holy month of Ramadan, urging them to preach peace and respect the laws of the Republic of The Gambia, as a secular State.
<b>The Gambia</b>	12 July 2024	Joint letter of commendation to the President of the Republic recognizing the Government's steadfast commitment to upholding the criminalization of FGM in The Gambia.
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	23 July 2024	Joint letter of commendation on enactment of the law prohibiting child marriage.
<b>Cabo Verde</b>	30 July 2024	Letter of Appreciation regarding the elimination of malaria in the country.
<b>The Gambia</b>	07 August 2024	Letter of Commendation following the national ratification of the Protocol on the Rights of Older Persons, and the Protocol on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa, by the National Assembly of the Republic of The Gambia.
<b>Egypt</b>	16 August 2024	Letter of commendation to the President following the release of 600 convicts pursuant to His Excellency's presidential pardon in terms of Article 155 of the Constitution.
<b>Namibia</b>	20 September 2024	Letter of commendation on becoming the first country in Africa, and the first high-burden country in the world, to reach a significant milestone on the path towards eliminating vertical mother-to-child transmission of HIV and viral Hepatitis B.
<b>Equatorial Guinea</b>	30 September 2024	Letter of Appreciation regarding the decree granting amnesty to Mr. Mangue and 19 other prisoners.
<b>Tanzania</b>	30 September 2024	Joint letter of commendation to the President in response to the steps taken by the Government to restore suspended social services, including health, water services and education, to the Ngorongoro Conservation



# ACHPR

African Commission on  
Human and Peoples' Rights

Human Rights our  
Collective Responsibility

		area, in addition to the initiative taken by the Government to direct the holding of local Government elections.
<b>Tunisia</b>	10 October 2024	Joint letter of congratulations to the President of the Republic of Tunisia, on his re-election.

## X. STATEMENTS AND PRESS RELEASES

50. During the reporting period, the Commission issued **sixty-five\* (65)** press releases on various human rights issues. These press releases can be consulted on the Commission's website: [www.achpr.org](http://www.achpr.org).

## XI. PROMOTION AND FACT-FINDING MISSIONS

51. The Commission undertook the following promotion missions during the reporting period:

- i. Promotion Mission to the Kingdom of Lesotho, 29 January 02 February 2024;
- ii. Promotion Mission to the Republic of Angola, 03 to 06 September 2024;
- iii. Promotion Mission to the Union of the Comoros, 16 to 20 September 2024; and
- iv. Promotion Mission to the Republic of Cabo Verde, 16 to 20 September 2024.

## HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION ON THE CONTINENT

52. This section is included in the activity report in accordance with Executive Council decision **EX.CL/Dec.639 (XVIII)** requesting the Commission to inform the policy-making organs of the human rights situation on the continent. The Commission's practice is to write the content of this section from specific elements put together during its interactions with States Parties, NHRIs enjoying Affiliate status and NGOs enjoying Observer status with the Commission during the regular Sessions of the Commission, supplemented by other information gathered as part of its monitoring of the human rights situation in individual States Parties during the intersession period.

### a) Positive developments

53. The Commission notes with satisfaction the following main positive developments in human rights during the reporting period:

#### Ratifications:

- i. The Protocol on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa has been ratified by 15 States and came into force on 06 November 2024, with Nigeria and Sao Tome and Principe being the latest States to ratify it.



# ACHPR

African Commission on  
Human and Peoples' Rights

Human Rights our  
Collective Responsibility

- ii. The Protocol on Persons with Disabilities, which came into force on 03 May 2024 following its 15<sup>th</sup> ratification by the Republic of Congo on 03 April 2024, was also ratified by the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Uganda, Malawi, and Nigeria on 25 October 2023, 11 October 2023, 20 December 2023, and 15 January 2024, respectively.
- iii. Ratification of the Protocol on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa by the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic on 25 October 2023, and by the Republic of Uganda on 07 October 2024.
- iv. The Maputo Protocol has now been ratified by 45 countries, with Botswana being the latest State ratify it.
- v. Sao Tome and Principe ratified the Kampala Convention in February 2024.
- vi. Ratification of the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness by São Tomé and Príncipe on 15 January 2024.
- vii. Cote d'Ivoire and South Africa ratified the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance on 06 June 2024 and 14 May 2024 respectively.
- viii. Adoption of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on Specific Aspects of the Right to Nationality and the Eradication of Statelessness in Africa by the African Union.

## **Legislation and general policies for the protection and promotion of human rights:**

- ix. The signing into law of a bill abolishing criminal defamation by South Africa's President on 03 April 2024.
- x. On 15 December 2023, Zambia's President signed its Access to Information Act into law.
- xi. Increased efforts towards adoption of data protection laws in Africa, including gazetting the Data Protection Act on 22 December 2023 by the Republic of Seychelles, the Malawi Data Protection Act which came into force on 02 February 2024, in addition to approval by the House of Peoples Representatives of Ethiopia of the Personal Data Protection Bill on 04 April 2024.
- xii. Adoption by Malawi Parliament, in December 2023 of Bill No. 23 of 2023: Persons with Disabilities, repealing the Disability Act of 2012 and the Handicapped Persons Act of 1971 which were less progressive regarding recognised principles and standards for the rights of persons with disabilities.
- xiii. Implementation of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act (2024) by Sierra Leone.
- xiv. Adoption of the National Transitional Justice Policy in April 2024, in addition to finalization of its implementation roadmap in Ethiopia.
- xv. Ghana's passage of the Affirmative Action (Gender Equality) Act in 2024, to ensure greater gender equality across political, social, and economic sectors.
- xvi. The Gambia's decision to uphold the ban on FGM, signalling a firm stance against harmful practices.

## **Death Penalty:**

- xvii. Adoption of a Resolution by the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) on 05 July 2024, which expressed its commitment to work with the ACHPR and other stakeholders, to facilitate adoption of the draft Protocol to the African Charter on the Abolition of the Death Penalty by the policy organs of the African Union.



**Prevention of Torture in Africa:**

- xviii. The launch of the Africa Network National Mechanisms for the Prevention of Torture, in Cape Town, South Africa, in June 2024.
- xix. On 31 July 2024, Togo's National Prevention Mechanism celebrated its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary, highlighting significant achievements and ongoing challenges such as prison overcrowding.

**Prisons:**

- xx. The release of prisoners by States Parties, including the release of 600 convicts by Egypt and the release of approximately 1,685 seriously ill inmates from the Makala Prison in the DRC.
- xxi. Initiative taken by Cape Verde to ensure that prisoners have access to adequate healthcare.
- xxii. A pioneering initiative in Cape Verde involving the establishment of banking services for inmates in Cape Verde, which empowers incarcerated individuals with financial management tools and facilitates their reintegration into society after release.

**Freedom of Expression:**

- xxiii. Increase in the number of private radio stations by almost 75% in The Gambia, with 39 FM stations in operation, according to data from the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA).

**Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons:**

- xxiv. Since June 2024, the Tunisian authorities have set up a search and rescue zone in the Mediterranean Sea, in order to increase the effectiveness of the State's intervention in providing a maritime search and rescue service for the benefit of all users of the sea within Tunisia's jurisdiction, including migrants, in an effort to address the consequences of the many shipwrecks of often dilapidated boats bound for Europe.
- xxv. The campaign for the voluntary return and reintegration of almost 5,000 migrants to their countries of origin, carried out since the beginning of 2024 by IOM Tunisia.

**Economic, social and cultural rights:**

- xxvi. The successful roll out of the four-dose malaria vaccine of RTSS, which was confirmed safe for use among use among children aged 17 months to 5 years, in Ghana, Malawi, Kenya, Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Benin, Liberia and Sierra Leone.
- xxvii. The commitment made by a number States to support the WHO in addressing regional and global health issues, including Botswana, Cape Verde, Gambia, and South Africa, demonstrating an encouraging effort towards improving health systems and ensuring the full realization of the right to health across Africa.
- xxviii. Development of *Tusome*, a program which supports literacy development throughout Kenya and fosters a reading culture among grades 1, 2, and 3 learners, including children with visual and hearing disabilities.



# ACHPR

African Commission on  
Human and Peoples' Rights

Human Rights our  
Collective Responsibility

- xxix. The new law in South Africa mandating one year of pre-primary education, ensuring equal access to education for all children by addressing language barriers and policy admission requirements, adopted with the aim of dismantling discriminatory factors in education.
- xxx. Impressive progress made by Cape Verde in strengthening its social protection network, which includes a comprehensive social security system providing essential support to the most vulnerable populations.

### **Women's Rights:**

- xxxi. Mobilization of emergency services in response to natural disasters in Cameroon and Mali including deploying obstetric care in affected regions, demonstrating progress in crisis management and emergency healthcare.
- xxxii. Adoption of a National Strategy to end child marriage (2024-2027) by Central African Republic, demonstrating commitment to addressing harmful practices.
- xxxiii. The appointment of the first female Prime Minister in the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Africa's appointment of Justice Mandisa Maya as the first female Chief Justice, demonstrating strides in political representation and gender equality.
- xxxiv. Eswatini's introduction of the 'dapivirine' ring for HIV prevention, as a means of empowering women to protect their health.
- xxxv. The commendable legislative efforts in Namibia to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV and Hepatitis B.

### **Human Rights Defenders:**

#### **Older persons:**

- xxxvi. Implementation of the Senior Citizen's Grant (SAGE) in 146 districts targeting older persons aged 80 years and above in Uganda, aimed at reducing intergenerational poverty and providing social protection and income security to them.

#### **Peace and Security:**

- xxxvii. The peace process for South Sudan being held in Kenya, involving the participation of various actors in this process in an effort to involve actors that are not signatories of the 2018 revitalized peace agreement.

### **b) Areas of Concern**

54. However, the Commission remains concerned about the following negative human rights developments during the reporting period:

#### **Ratification:**

- i. The low ratification rate of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Citizens to Social Protection and Social Security, which has, as at reporting date, only two signatories.
- ii. Ten Member States have not ratified the Maputo Protocol: Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Eritrea, Madagascar, Morocco, Niger, Somalia, and The Sudan.





**Death penalty:**

- iii. Lifting of the moratorium on executions in the DRC, as set out in a circular note issued by the Minister of Justice on 13 March 2024 instructing the relevant authorities to carry out the death penalty when it follows a judicial sentence passed in times of war, under a state of siege or emergency, during a police operation to maintain or re-establish public order, or during any other exceptional circumstance.
- iv. 170 death sentences were passed in the DRC, including 37 by the military court of Kinshasa-Gombé for criminal conspiracy, terrorism and the attempted coup d'état of 19 May 2024.

**Enforced disappearances:**

- v. Reported cases of enforced disappearance of human rights defenders.
- vi. The reported enforced disappearance of journalists in Burkina Faso, including Atiana Serge Oulon, Kalifara Séré, Adama Bayala and Alain Traoré who have been missing since June 2024.
- vii. In the Republic of Guinea, Mamadou Billo Bah and Foniké Menguè have not been seen for three months following their abduction by armed individuals.

**The Prevention of Torture:**

- viii. Many African States have not ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT) or established national preventive mechanisms to monitor places of detention.
- ix. Some States have not criminalized torture and other ill-treatment in accordance with the Convention against Torture.
- x. Torture remains pervasive, often employed as a tool of political repression, social control, and intimidation against the most marginalized.

**Prisons:**

- xi. The issue of prisons overcrowding, as it remains a serious challenge requiring immediate attention.
- xii. Poor prison facilities in many States parties, which are often outdated and inadequate to meet minimum standards of safety and dignity.
- xiii. The practice of detaining political opposition members for prolonged periods, as a means to silence dissenting voices.
- xiv. The excessive use of force used to suppress public demonstrations, ensuring adherence to human rights standards.
- xv. The offensive use of force during pre and post-electoral periods, as it is frequently applied as a tool for political control over opponents.

**Freedom of expression:**

- xvi. The persistence of challenges affecting press freedom, including impunity for physical violence or verbal threats directed at journalists and media houses, in addition to legal restrictions, such as criminal defamation, sedition and insult laws, which negatively impact freedom of expression and press freedom.





# ACHPR

African Commission on  
Human and Peoples' Rights

Human Rights our  
Collective Responsibility

- xvii. Journalists and media outlets in Guinea-Bissau continue to face harassment, intimidation, and threats, with some critical voices being silenced or censored, limiting space for independent reporting and public debate.

### **Economic, social and cultural rights:**

- xviii. The ill-treatment and discrimination of informal workers is a growing concern with reference to cross-border traders.
- xix. Several States are yet to attain the full realization of the right to education, especially where migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons are concerned.
- xx. The lack of access to quality education and the persistent gender gap in literacy rates are barriers to youth employment and economic growth.
- xxi. The right to health, including mental health, remains an area of concern as most States in Africa do not have adequate, accessible and affordable healthcare.
- xxii. Gender bias remains a persistent barrier to the realization of women's property rights, despite the provisions of the Maputo Protocol and the African Charter.
- xxiii. Youth unemployment remains a critical issue, with a high unemployment rate and many young Africans engaged in insecure, vulnerable work.
- xxiv. The ongoing Mpox outbreak, particularly in high-risk areas like the Democratic Republic of Congo, which poses a significant health concern, with refugees and internally displaced persons being particularly vulnerable.
- xxv. Between 22 July and 28 October 2024, Sudan reported over 28,000 cholera cases and 836 deaths across 11 states, while a concurrent dengue fever outbreak saw 4,544 cases and 12 deaths, with humanitarian organizations responding to the health crises through vaccination campaigns and emergency aid efforts amidst severe flooding and ongoing conflict.
- xxvi. Less than 30% of the population in several African countries has access to social protection benefits, exposing a large gap in social security coverage, leaving vulnerable populations at risk and exacerbating poverty and social exclusion.

### **Women's Rights:**

- xxvii. The ongoing conflict in Ethiopia's Amhara region has led to a significant rise in sexual violence, with over 200 cases of rape reported since July 2023, raising concerns about unreported incidents amid the ongoing instability.
- xxviii. Reports of the abduction and forced initiation of girls into the Sande Bush, in Sierra Leone, where FGM is allegedly practiced, raising serious concerns about the violation of girls' rights and the perpetuation of harmful cultural practices.
- xxix. The increasing reports of femicide cases in Kenya, including the killing of 14 women in January 2024, underscoring alarming rates of intimate partner violence and gender inequality.

### **Human Rights Defenders:**

- xxx. The persistence of legislative frameworks and ongoing legal restrictions that hinder the work of civil society associations and organizations, in addition to bureaucratic hurdles in the legal registration of human rights associations and NGOs in certain countries.



# ACHPR

African Commission on  
Human and Peoples' Rights

Human Rights our  
Collective Responsibility

- xxxi. The absence of specific laws and other legal mechanisms for the protection of human rights defenders in most countries.
- xxxii. The dissolution of opposition associations and political parties in Mali.
- xxxiii. Forced recruitment of civil society figures into the anti-jihadist fight in Burkina Faso.
- xxxiv. Criminalization of human rights defenders, which has resulted in arbitrary arrests, constant harassment, unfounded criminal sanctions, excessive delays in criminal procedures, stigmatization and prolonged detentions.
- xxxv. Increased repression against environmental rights defenders, migrant rights defenders, and those working on issues related to sexual minorities and gender identity.
- xxxvi. The prohibition of demonstrations, particularly for opposition political parties and other dissenting voices, especially during electoral periods.
- xxxvii. The politicization of civil society organizations and the work of human rights defenders.
- xxxviii. The increase of online and communication surveillance of human rights defenders, journalists, among others, which is being utilized by security agencies in breach of data protection laws and regulations.

### **Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons:**

- xxxix. The funding of humanitarian responses and aid, for refugees, asylum seekers and other displaced people, continues to suffer from restrictions due to limited funding for aid and assistance programs.
- xl. The increase in climate-related forced internal displacement.
- xli. The concerning situation of many African migrant workers, in particular domestic workers from Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Sierra Leone, who are stranded after being abandoned by their employers, often without passports, and have not yet been evacuated following the latest military escalation in Lebanon.
- xl.ii. The continued refoulement and collective expulsions of migrants by a number of State Parties.
- xl.iii. The numerous exit bans issued against former officials of former President Macky Sall's government in Senegal.

### **Extractive Industries and the Environment:**

- xliv. The interface between extraction of minerals and conflicts in Africa, as exemplified by the proliferation of the illicit extraction of gold which has become a major source of financing of the ongoing war between the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF).
- xl. The discovery and extraction of the rich resource endowments of the Cabo Delgado province of Mozambique, including the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) from what is believed to be Africa's largest gas reserve, has been accompanied by the eruption of a terrorist insurgency.
- xlvi. The DH Mining graphite project in Nipepe, Mozambique, has highlighted significant issues in the resettlement of local communities, particularly in terms of transparency and housing conditions for the 125 displaced families.

### **Peace and security:**



# ACHPR

African Commission on  
Human and Peoples' Rights

Human Rights our  
Collective Responsibility

- xlvi. The severe impact of the ongoing armed conflict, widespread atrocities and grave violations against civilians in Sudan, in addition to the dire humanitarian situation caused by the warring parties' disregard for the laws of war and deliberate obstruction of life-saving humanitarian aid.
- xlvi. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by the conflict in Sudan, with sexual violence being used as a tactic of war, with a marked increase in gender-based violence, including rape, sexual slavery, and trafficking being used as weapons of war.
- xlix. Over 10 million people have been displaced since the outbreak of the conflict in Sudan, in what has become one of the largest displacements in human history.
- l. Armed groups in Mozambique, including ISIS-affiliated Al-Shabab, have recruited child soldiers into combat, in violation of international humanitarian law and human rights, putting children in extreme danger and leading to long-term trauma.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

55. In view of the foregoing, the Commission makes the following recommendations:

### a) To States Parties:

- i. Sign, ratify and domesticate the Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Citizens to Social Protection and Social Security, the Protocols on Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities, the Protocol on Right to Nationality and Statelessness, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT), the 1989 ILO Convention on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (the ILO Convention 169), in addition to other relevant regional and international human rights treaties.
- ii. Ratify and domesticate the Maputo Protocol by the concerned ten States which have not done so.
- iii. Adopt and implement all soft law documents adopted by the Commission.
- iv. Observe a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, in accordance with **Resolution ACHPR/Res.42(XXVI)99** where the death penalty still exists, suspend the execution of prisoners sentenced to death and commute their sentences to lesser penalties, and support efforts to adopt the draft Protocol to the African Charter on the Abolition of the Death Penalty.
- v. Revise national legislation to protect individuals from enforced disappearances, torture and other ill-treatment by prohibiting secret detention, prolonged isolation and criminalizing the use of secret or unauthorized detention centres, in accordance with the Robben Island Guidelines, the Convention against Torture (UNCAT) and OPCAT.
- vi. Prioritize accountability for abuses committed by security forces, including arbitrary detentions and excessive use of force, establish independent oversight mechanisms, facilitate human rights training for security personnel, and ensure that victims have access to legal recourse.
- vii. Take measures to prevent the misuse of broad-scope laws such as anti-terrorism legislation, emergency laws and other State security laws to conduct



# ACHPR

African Commission on  
Human and Peoples' Rights

Human Rights our  
Collective Responsibility

arbitrary arrest, searches and detention, in violation of international and regional standards.

- viii. Implement effective measures to reduce prison overcrowding by adopting national laws that incorporate the Principles on Decriminalization of Minor Offenses adopted by the Commission in 2018.
- ix. Ensure that law enforcement and public security forces incorporate training materials, both initial and ongoing, that reflect aspects of the Guidelines on the Policing of Assemblies and the Study on the Use of Force, as adopted by the Commission, emphasizing the protection and respect of human rights.
- x. Implement effective measures to prevent the use of detentions as a means to silence opposition and other civil society actors.
- xi. Repeal existing laws and refrain from adopting legislation which restricts freedom of expression and freedom of the press.
- xii. Ensure a safe environment for journalists and activists.
- xiii. Ensure that refugees enjoy all their human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights and specific freedoms within the framework of national laws.
- xiv. Accelerate the operationalization of the African Humanitarian Agency by equipping it with substantial funds and effective means of action so it can adequately address various humanitarian situations in Africa.
- xv. Ensure that their legislative frameworks promote availability and access to HIV testing, treatment and general healthcare, in addition to addressing stigmatization and discrimination against people living with HIV.
- xvi. Ensure access to education for all, at every level of the education system.
- xvii. Take measures and put in place access to water, sanitation and other basic health care necessities to the public, as conditions for safeguarding health and life.
- xviii. Ensure all National Development Plans, including monitoring and evaluation mechanisms of such plans, are human rights driven and take into account their obligations under the African Charter, Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.
- xix. Refrain from adopting restricting laws aimed at limiting civic space and the legitimate activities of human rights defenders in promoting and protecting human rights.
- xx. Address and prevent instances of sexual violence occurring in conflict affected areas, in addition to ensuring the accountability of those responsible for sexual violence and provide sufficient support and assistance to survivors.
- xxi. Take measures, such as investigation and prosecution, in response to the reports of abduction and forced initiation of girls, in order to address harmful cultural practices.
- xxii. Implement robust child protection laws and programs that offer educational and vocational opportunities for at-risk youth.

## **b) To the PRC:**

- i. Urgently provide the necessary resources for the Joint Fact-finding Mission of the Commission and the AU Peace and Security Council into the human rights situation in Sudan, in accordance with the **Peace and Security Council press**



# ACHPR

African Commission on  
Human and Peoples' Rights

Human Rights our  
Collective Responsibility

## **statement PSC/PR/BR and Peace and Security Council Final Communiqué PSC/HoSG/COMM.,**

- ii. Encourage the Government of Sudan, and neighbouring States, to cooperate with the Commission and authorize the fact-finding mission urgently.

## **XII. ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE COMMISSION**

### **a) Staffing**

56. The African Commission's Secretariat recently onboarded several staff members, including an Executive Secretary, a Finance and Administration Officer, and a Translator/Interpreter. Additionally, the recruitment process for a Deputy Executive Secretary is nearing completion. Through collaboration with the Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa and technical assistance from the Open Society Foundation, seven short-term legal experts were provided to address specific programmatic and administrative needs. Some roles are still under recruitment, and one youth volunteer has been enlisted to support the Finance Unit. The Commission has also received support from some States parties through the deployment of highly professional seconded legal experts and these are currently from Algeria, Egypt, Botswana and Tanzania.

57. **AU EX.CL Council Decisions EX.CL/Dec.995(XXXII) (2018), EX.CL/Dec. 1080(XXXVI) (2020) and EX.CL/Dec. 11(XLIV) (2024)** all call for adequate human resources, entailing filling vacant posts and a review of the current structure. However, many Units in the Secretariat either do not have staff at all or are one-person Units. The Secretariat therefore has an acute staff shortage which affects its daily work.

58. The current structure of the Commission's Secretariat was last updated and approved in 2009. In line with **Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.996(XXXII)** of January 2018, the Secretariat submitted a revised structure to AU organs in February 2024, which proposes a staff complement of one hundred and fifty-six (156) positions, instead of the forty-seven (47) positions which were approved in 2009.

## **XIII. IMPLEMENTATION OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DECISIONS**

### **a) Joint Retreat between the Commission and the PRC**

59. Following **Executive Council Decisions EX.CL/Dec.995 (2018) and EX.CL/Dec.1045 (2019)**, the Commission organized a Joint Retreat from 05 to 07 December 2023, in Dakar, Senegal, with the PRC Sub-Committee on Human Rights, Democracy, and Governance to enhance collaboration between the Commission, Policy Organs and Member States and facilitate a coordinated and strengthened approach towards the protection and promotion of human and peoples' rights.. Representatives of the PRC aSub-Committee on General Supervision and Coordination of Budgetary, Financial and Administrative Matters, and the Sub-Committee on Structural Reforms, also participated in the Retreat.





## **b) Pre-session State Forum**

60. The Commission organized the inaugural Pre-Session Forum of Member States parties to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, in Banjul, The Gambia, from 15 to 16 October 2024, ahead of the 81<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Session of the Commission, in accordance with **EX.CL/1045(XXXIV)** and **EX.CL/1065(XXXV)**. The Forum was in response to a request by States parties and was organised towards establishing and institutionalizing in conjunction with the PRC Subcommittee on Human Rights, Democracy and Governance, a dedicated and formalized platform for States Parties to interact on the state of human rights promotion and protection on the continent, ahead of the Ordinary Sessions of the ACHPR.

## **c) Building of the Commission's headquarters**

61. The process for constructing the Commission's headquarters in The Gambia is ongoing, in line with **Executive Council Decision 1045**. A foundation-laying ceremony took place at the designated site during the 75<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session in October 2022, and the design has been finalized by engineers from both The Gambian government and the AU Commission. However, construction has not yet commenced. The Commission has duly engaged the Government on the need for additional office space and facilities for its Secretariat and has received assurance from the Host Government of continued support for the Commission's mandate.
62. In the interim, the Host Government has proposed an alternative building with more office space to house the Secretariat temporarily. A team of experts from the AUC assessed the proposed site in March 2024 and confirmed, subject to some proposed renovations, that it could serve as a temporary solution until the permanent headquarters are ready. Financial commitment from The Gambia will be necessary to finalize and equip the interim office. The status of the permanent headquarters project will remain a regular topic in the Commission's activity reports to the Policy Organs.

## **XIV. Challenges**

63. Despite progress in filling critical roles, the Secretariat faces budgetary constraints, hindering its ability to fill all approved regular positions. The vacancy rate remains high at 36%, with forty-eight active staff members, including regular staff, seconded personnel, fellows, and volunteers. Some positions, such as those of the Human Resources Assistant, Documentalist and Senior Driver, are in the process of being recruited.
64. This shortage affects the Commission's operations and staff well-being, drawing audit attention due to associated risks, like inadequate duty segregation. Several AU Executive Council Decisions, such as **EX.CL/Dec. 995 (2018)**, **EX.CL/Dec. 1080 (2020)**, and **EX.CL/Dec. 11 (2024)**, have underscored the need for a complete review of the Commission's staffing structure and directed the PRC to



# ACHPR

African Commission on  
Human and Peoples' Rights

Human Rights our  
Collective Responsibility

expedite budget provision to fill the 12 vacant positions and as well consider the structure revisions.

65. In addition, the Secretariat's lack of a permanent headquarters impacts its access to adequate office and meeting facilities, driving up operational costs for Sessions and other meetings.
66. Furthermore, budget constraints persist, with only about 50.2% of the Commission's approved program budget ceiling for 2025 estimated at about \$580,000, currently available and committed to by Member States for funding, while the Commission was required to source the remaining part from development partners. Consequently, the Commission is expected to rely on partner funding to cover nearly half of its financial needs. While the AUC advised resubmitting budget requests to address this shortfall, particularly for key projects, in response to which the ACHPR made requisite submissions, there has been no response to date regarding the additional funding requests.
67. Furthermore, since the COVID-19 pandemic, the budget for the Commission's statutory sessions has not seen significant improvement, leaving it without the necessary funds to hold in-person sessions. Only with an approved supplementary budget was the Commission able to convene its 81st Ordinary Session, which would otherwise have been impossible. This challenge is further intensified by the lack of offers from States Parties to host the Commission's sessions.

## **XV. DATES OF THE 82<sup>nd</sup> AND 83<sup>rd</sup> ORDINARY SESSIONS OF THE COMMISSION**

68. The dates of the 82<sup>nd</sup> and 83<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Sessions of the Commission will be 25 February to 11 March 2025, and 02 to 22 May 2025 respectively.



**DRAFT**  
**DECISION ON THE ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE AFRICAN COMMISSION  
ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS (ACHPR)**

**The Executive Council,**

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the combined Fifty-sixth (56<sup>th</sup>) and Fifty-seventh (57<sup>th</sup>) Activity Reports of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR);
2. **EXPRESSES** its appreciation for the efforts made by the ACHPR during the period under review to promote and protect human rights on the continent;
3. **WELCOMES** the celebration of Africa Human Rights Day, during which the ACHPR organized a Joint Colloquium focused on advancing economic, social, and cultural rights, focusing on the African Union (AU) theme for 2024 to "Educate an African fit for the 21st Century;"
4. **APPLAUDS** the ACHPR for organizing the first Joint Forum of Special Mechanisms in Dakar, under the theme "Advancing the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in Africa: Strengthening Commitments, Overcoming Challenges, and Reinforcing Opportunities," which provided a platform for collaborative initiatives tackling cross-cutting human rights issues;
5. **CONGRATULATES** the ACHPR for hosting the inaugural Pre-Session Forum of States Parties to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, with the aim of facilitating regular dialogue and collaboration between the ACHPR and the PRC in line with the directives from **EX.CL/1045(XXXIV)** and **EX.CL/1065(XXXV)**;
6. **CONGRATULATES** Member States for the entry into force of two important protocols, the **Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** and the **Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons**, and **ENCOURAGES** States Parties to endeavour to achieve universal ratification;
7. **LAUDS** the adoption of the **Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Specific Aspects of the Right to Nationality and the Eradication of Statelessness in Africa** by the African Union, in addition to the initial signatures of the **Protocol to African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Citizens to Social Protection and Social Security**;
8. **REITERATES** its request to Member States that have not yet ratified other various African Union human rights instruments to take all necessary measures to do so;
9. **COMMENDS** those States Parties to the African Charter that have fulfilled their reporting obligations and **ENCOURAGES** those which have never submitted reports, as well as those with more than three outstanding periodic reports, to submit them in accordance with Article 62 of the African Charter, Article 26 of the **Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa**, and **Article 14** of the **African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa**;

10. **CALLS ON** States Parties to comply with the decisions rendered by the ACHPR on the Communications involving them, as well as the recommendations issued pursuant to Promotion Missions and Periodic Reports review;
11. **REQUESTS** the necessary resources for the Joint Fact-finding Mission of the ACHPR and the African Union Commission (AUC) into the human rights situation in Sudan, mandated by the AU Peace and Security Council and **ENCOURAGES** the Government of Sudan, and neighbouring States, to cooperate with the ACHPR and authorize the fact-finding mission;
12. **TAKES NOTE** of the budgetary difficulties encountered by the ACHPR in the implementation of some aspects of its mandates and **REQUESTS** the PRC to consider the necessary budgetary support to the ACHPR to ensure implementation of the critical aspects of its mandate in line with the due process;
13. **ENCOURAGES** the ACHPR to improve cooperation and collaboration with State Parties and the AUC, for enhanced protection of human rights in Africa; and
14. **AUTHORIZES** the publication of the 56<sup>th</sup> and 57<sup>th</sup> combined activity reports of the ACHPR, considering the contributions and observations made by the States Parties.