

Application for Support to participate in the Forum of NGOs and the public session of the 60th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights (African Commission)

Background

Concerned with the increasing gap between human rights principles and practices on the African continent, the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS), the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), and the ICJ-Kenya Section successfully proposed for a joint European Union funded intervention focusing on African human rights systems. The intervention is focused on **consolidating civil society's role in facilitating the transition from human rights standards into human rights practice through Africa-wide interventions**. The interventions will focus on enhancing participation and use of the African Commission and related mechanisms including the Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the African Court on Human and Peoples Rights for human rights protection in Africa, moving from standards to practice.

The aforementioned organisations do hereby intend to support the participation and attendance to the NGO Forum and African Commission public session of at least 30 human rights defenders, women activists, youths, media practitioners, minority activists, individuals working on sexual orientation and gender identity rights.

The African Commission was established by the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, which came into force on the 21st October 1986. The African Commission has its headquarters in Banjul, The Gambia. The 60th Session of the African Commission will be held in Niamey Niger from 8-22 May 2017.

The NGO Forum will be meeting from 4-6 May 2017 in Niamey, Niger, with the focus on ***Engaging young people, especially women in human rights and democracy in Africa***. The main objective of the NGOs Forum is to foster closer collaboration among NGOs and with the African Commission, for promoting and protecting human rights in Africa.

Applications Criteria

The organisations are calling for applications from African individuals, human rights defenders, and civil society organizations **that have not been able to engage with the African Commission due to financial barriers or lack of knowledge** and wish to attend the 60th Ordinary Session of African Commission in order to:

- Present before the NGO Forum on human rights situation in their country or region;
- Participate in panel discussion on human rights in their country, region, or organise a side event;

- Following up on application of observer status before the African Commission (attach evidence)
- Filing/submitting a complaint/communication (attach evidence)
- File a shadow report or attend a country state report review process (attach evidence of shadow report or indicate whether country is under review)

Criteria for Eligibility

The applications will be considered from **first-time attendees or applicants who further demonstrate the following:**

- If from an individual, one has to demonstrate commitment and local track record of human rights advocacy in your country or region (including individuals at risk, HRDs)
- If an institutional representation, demonstrate the role of that organisation, as an NGO, a network of NGOs, recognised, or registered and operating in African countries;
- An institutional application should also have observer status or demonstrate that application is under way or will be submitted during this 60th Session,
- For organisations requiring support with submission of observer status this should be stated;

Priority will be given to first time attendees being women HRDs, women organisations, female youths, youths, persons with disabilities, natural resource, environmental rights advocates, journalists, refugee advocacy groups, sexual orientation and gender identity activists. For country and NGOs applications from the following will be prioritized, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, South Sudan, Sudan, Somalia, Cape Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Mozambique, Angola, Lesotho, Swaziland, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea Bissau

Application Materials

- A motivation letter (1 page (in English, Portuguese or French)
 - Should state history of work of individual or NGO
 - Objectives for attendance or reasons to attend as stated
 - Intended outputs (e.g statement, side event, shadow report)
- Evidence of nationality (passport or certificate of registration of NGO or proof of existence)

The application should be sent to ICJ constance.mukarati@icj.org, ACDHRS admin@acdhrs.org by **21 April 2017, 1600 Central Eastern Time**