


AFRICAN UNION		UNION AFRICAINE
الاتحاد الأفريقي African Commission on Human & Peoples' Rights		UNIÃO AFRICANA Commission Africaine des Droits de l'Homme & des Peuples
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## Final Communiqué of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

Banjul, The Gambia

24 October to 13 November 2018

1. The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (the Commission) held its 63<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Session in Banjul, The Gambia, from 24 October to 13 November 2018.
2. The Commission celebrated the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) on this occasion.
3. The following Members of the Commission participated in the Session:
  - Honourable Commissioner **Soyata Maiga**, Chairperson;
  - Honourable Commissioner **Lawrence Murugu Mute**, Vice-Chairperson;
  - Honourable Commissioner **Yeung Kam John Yeung Sik**;
  - Honourable Commissioner **Kayitesi Zainabo Sylvie**;
  - Honourable Commissioner **Lucy Asuagbor**;
  - Honourable Commissioner **Maya Sahli-Fadel**;
  - Honourable Commissioner **Jamesina Essie L. King**;
  - Honourable Commissioner **Solomon Ayele Dersso**;
  - Honourable Commissioner **Hatem Essaïem**;
  - Honourable Commissioner **Maria Teresa Manuela**; and
  - Honourable Commissioner **Remy Ngoy Lumbu**.
4. The opening ceremony was graced by the presence of **H. E. Mr Ousainou Darboe**, Vice President of the Republic of The Gambia, who declared the 63<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Session open.
5. Mrs. Hannah Forster, speaking on behalf of the participants of the NGO Forum, highlighted some of the activities carried out during the Forum, including the 37<sup>th</sup> African Human Rights Book Fair from 20 to 22 October 2018, celebration of African Human Rights Day on 21 October 2018, and commemoration of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UDHR as well as the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (the Maputo Protocol). She also indicated that the Forum held discussions on preventing corruption within the framework of the African Union (AU) theme for 2018 "winning the fight against corruption".
6. Mr Bongani Majola, speaking on behalf of the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI), commended the work of the Commission in continuing to uphold a human rights culture in Africa. He cited armed conflict, terrorism, corruption, migration and human trafficking as challenges which hinder the realisation of human rights targets. Mr Majola mentioned some of the challenges faced by African National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) in the independent exercise of their mandates, including budget cuts, irregular

