



FORUM ON THE PARTICIPATION OF NGOS IN THE 67TH ORDINARY SESSION
OF THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS AND
9-11 NOVEMBER, 2020
ZOOM WEBINAR

**THEME: POST COVID19: REBUILDING A JUST AND PEACEFUL SOCIETY
IN AFRICA BASED ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND GOOD GOVERNANCE**

CONCEPT NOTE

The world is still struggling with the uncertainty caused by the Coronavirus (COVID19) since it emerged in late December 2019. Although some States in Africa are gradually beginning to relax measures that had been put in place (include opening of air space, land borders and seaports); Africa, like the rest of the world continues to record new cases, deaths and recoveries.

As a consequence of the drastic measures imposed, some civil society organizations documented and raised alarm on the socio-economic and political situation that the continent would face post COVID19 to have a common and agreed strategy that could assist African States in implementing relevant policies to address both foreseen and unforeseen challenges.

The Forum on the participation of NGOs in the 67th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights will take place virtually from 9-11 November, 2020 on the theme **'Post COVID19: Rebuilding a just and peaceful society in Africa based on human rights and good governance'**

The general objective of the NGOs Forum is to consolidate collaboration between and among NGOs to enhance partnership with the African human rights mechanisms for the Africa we want as stipulated in the African Union Agenda 2063.

The specific objectives of this NGO Forum is to adopt strategies for the implementation of the African Commission's resolution on **'Human and Peoples' Rights as central pillar of successful response to COVID-19 and recovery from its socio-political impacts – ACHPR/Res. 449 (LXVI) 2020'** amongst others which were adopted during the 66th

Ordinary Session as an essential tool for the promotion and protection of human rights, good governance, peace and development in post COVID19 Africa.

Furthermore, the forum will pay particular attention to the declaration by the African Union Peace and Security Council's flagship project of Agenda 2063 which is a manifestation of the AU's determination to achieve the goal of a conflict-free Africa, to make peace a reality for all our people and to rid the continent of wars, civil conflicts, human rights violations, humanitarian disasters and violent conflicts, and to prevent genocide: **'Silencing the Guns in Africa By 2020 in Africa'**. It is important to note that this year despite its numerous challenges brought by the COVID19 Pandemic, marks the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security as well as the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Conference on Women.

The general content of the *Forum* will cover three (3) main thematic areas namely:

1) Status of Human Rights and Democracy in Africa (update from sub-regional Focal Points on the general situation of human rights in Africa with a focus on emerging trends and strategies for post COVID19 engagement)

2) Special Interest Groups Discussions

1	Enforcement of COVID19 measures in Africa
2	Peace and Security in Africa (role of women and youths in Silencing the guns in Africa)
3	Freedom of Association, Assembly, Expression and civic space in Africa
4	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Africa (with a focus on health)
5	Women, vulnerable and most at-risk groups (Gender based violence and conflicts in the context of COVID19)

3) Networking for Human Rights in Africa (identification and adoption of strategies, best practices for implementation of post COVID19 initiatives for contribution to peace, security and development in Africa)

Language: The deliberations of the Forum would be in English and French with available simultaneous interpretation facilities.

Participants: Representatives from African civil society organizations, international NGOs from Africa and beyond working on democracy, rule of law, governance, human rights, peace and security, etc.

Expected Outcomes:

- Adopted strategies for the implementation of adopted resolutions (NGOs Forum/African Commission) in post COVID19 Africa
- NGOs Statement at the official opening of the 67th Ordinary Session (highlighting deliberations of the NGOs Forum)
- Adoption of Recommendations and Resolutions to be forwarded to the African Commission for its consideration during the 67th Ordinary Session
- Report of the NGOs Forum

The Forum on the Participation of NGOs in the Ordinary Sessions of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights also known as the 'NGOs Forum' is an advocacy platform coordinated by the African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies to promote advocacy, lobbying and networking among and between human rights NGOs, for the promotion and protection of human rights in Africa.

The NGOs Forum shares updates on the human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Africa by the African and international NGOs community with a view of identifying responses as well as adopting strategies towards improving the situation on the continent.

Submission of draft resolutions and recommendations: Partners are requested to forward soft copies (English and French) of draft resolutions and recommendations (no later than 6th November, 2020) to admin@acdhrs.org / library@acdhrs.org for review prior to presentation and adoption by plenary. The ACDHRS is not obliged to accept and review documents submitted after the above-stated deadline.