



**RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED AT THE
FORUM ON THE PARTICIPATION OF NGOs IN THE 67TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE
AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS**

9-11 NOVEMBER, 2020- ZOOM WEBINAR

We, the participants of the Forum on NGO Participation in the 67th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), held virtually in the form of a Zoom Webinar from 9–11 November 2020, due to the current global coronavirus pandemic (Covid19), on the theme “**Post COVID19: rebuilding a just and peaceful society in Africa based on human rights and governance**”, and adopted the following thematic recommendations to the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights for consideration during its 67th Ordinary Session, to also be held virtually from 13th November to 3rd December, 2020.

TREC : 001/11/2020 - Enforcement of Covid19 measures in Africa

The NGOs Forum recommends to the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights to:

1. ensure the implementation of its Resolution – ACHPR/Res.449 (LXVI) 2020 on Human and Peoples’ Rights as central pillar of successful response to Covid19 and recovery from its socio-political impacts adopted at the virtual 66th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights held in July/August, 2020.

The NGOs Forum further recommends to the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights to call on African Union Member States:

2. to review state of emergency regulations, in line with respect for human rights.
3. to uphold their national, regional and international/global human rights instruments to prevent excessive use of force as a preventive mechanism to human rights violations.
4. to ensure that prisoners receive proper healthcare especially those on death penalties, in addition to having contacts with lawyers and for Member States to observe the moratorium on the death penalty.

5. to ensure that Covid19 containment measures, including those declared under state of emergency or disaster, are subject to regular review and parliamentary oversight to confirm that they are and remain time-bound, lawful, necessary, proportionate and non-discriminatory.

TREC: 002/11/2020 - Peace and Security (Silencing the Guns in Africa and ending atrocities in Africa)

The NGOs Forum recommends to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights:

1. encourage CSOs to document all the violations committed during armed conflict to help prosecute perpetrators in the post-conflict period and documentation put at the disposal of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights to help in their protection mandate.

The NGOs Forum further recommends to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights to recommend to the African Union Member States:

2. to include women in reconstruction processes for post-conflict societies and involve them in building durable solutions.
3. to maintain support for transitions around the continent with the aim to:
 - Enhance the capacities of existing mechanisms in the AU e.g. the DPA's unit on Transitional Justice that has provided assistance to States such as the Gambia and South Sudan; the Chair of the ACHPR serves as the Commission's focal point on transitional justice in Africa and has begun to engage States on the same.
 - Ensure transitional justice and reform agendas are considered as essential elements and be included in the stimulus packages and recovery roadmaps being developed for States in transitions and advocated for by the AU among donors and the international community e.g. Sudan
 - Utilise former Heads of State and other good offices to advance the peaceful resolution of conflicts and transitional justice goals e.g. peace negotiations, the establishment of mechanisms such as truth commissions and broader reforms
4. to look beyond the COVID-19 emergency phase and implement a recovery phase that is focused on transforming Africa's economies towards social equity; delivery of basic services to the people and in particular health, education and sanitation; the pursuit of sustainable development; and securing social protection and social safety nets for the most vulnerable in society as envisaged in the African Union's Agenda 2063.

5. and non-State actors to maintain focus on the agenda of Silencing the Guns in Africa with the next phase of the AU Master Roadmap on Silencing the Guns dealing effectively with the root causes of conflict, most particularly, tackling economic and social disparities and ending impunity.

TREC : 003/11/2020 - Freedom of Association, Expression and Civic Space in Africa (Strengthening of the protection post COVID19)

The NGOs Forum recommends to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights:

1. to develop standardized reporting format to allow civil society organizations to report to African Commission on restrictions or challenges they have faced during Covid19, relating to freedom of expression, association and assembly. to reform laws in line with the African Commission's Guidelines on Freedom of Association and Assembly and other relevant instruments and best practices.
2. to renew the mandate of the support group on Freedom of Association and Assembly to address challenges arising from Covid19 response and the impact on Freedom of Association and Assembly, civic participation in electoral processes as well as to broaden focus on the linkage with the economic and social rights.
3. to enhance engagement and collaboration with the African Commission and the United Nations mechanisms to ensure a collective and coherent response in the post Covid19 recovery phase, including but not limited to consultation with CSOs.

The NGOs Forum further recommends to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights to call on African Union Member States:

4. to repeal and reform fake news, hate speech and misinformation laws that impose disproportionate restrictions on individual freedoms of expression.

TREC : 004/11/2020 - Economic and Social Rights

The NGOs Forum recommends to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights:

1. to closely monitor and thoroughly address the national and regional human rights impacts of extractive projects developing across the continent, in view of ensuring full respect, protection and fulfilment of the rights to land and to a healthy environment, of guaranteeing redress for past abuses and prevention of further negative impacts.
2. to ensure that domestically, regionally and internationally protected areas, including natural reserves and wetlands, as well watercourses, are protected from the negative environmental impacts of extractive industries.
3. to monitor private sector's involvement in education

The NGOs Forum further recommends to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights to call on African Union Member States:

4. to put in place better measures to ensure effective social service delivery
5. to adopt measures in favor of refugees and internally displaced person, especially and other vulnerable people

TREC: 005/11/2020 Women, vulnerable and most at-risk groups

The NGOs Forum recommends to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights to urge African Union Member States:

1. to ensure that social support and social protection scheme are in place in their respective countries
2. to improve on health infrastructure in terms of both quality and quantity as well as training of more health personnel and to ensure accountability in the management of Covid19 funds.
3. to ensure protection of vulnerable groups through the domestication and the implementation of the various human rights instruments on the continent, in addition to the Optional Protocol on the Rights of the Child, Optional Protocol on the Rights of Women and the Maputo Protocol.

Done virtually on Zoom – 11th November, 2020