



THEMATIC RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED AT THE NGOs FORUM PRECEDING THE
73rd ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN
AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS
17TH - 18TH OCTOBER, 2022 - PHYSICAL

TREC/001/10/22: RECOMMENDATION ON THE ADDIS ABABA ROADMAP

We, the participants of the Forum on the Participation of NGOs in the 73rd Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) are:

Recognizing and celebrating with the human rights community, 10 years of the joint agreement by the regional and international human rights systems;

Applauds the joint thematic work and collaboration between the UN Special Procedures and the ACHPR, which has strengthened both systems and has witnessed the issuance of joint statements; press releases; carrying out of joint missions; organizations of joint activities; development and adoption of general comment, among others, thereby adding value to the existing interaction and cooperation ;

Congratulates especially the joint Working Group composed of the UN Special Procedures and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights for the milestones achieved during the decade long implementation of the follow up recommendations of the Addis Ababa Roadmap which has benefitted many rights holders at both levels;

Noting that systematic exchange of information, experiences and expertise relevant to the promotion and protection of human rights within their mandates have yielded much knowledge about the two systems and strengthened their resolve to continue their cooperation ;

We the participants of the NGOs Forum, hereby recommend to the African Commission

on Human and Peoples' Rights:

Noting that whereas the UN Special Procedures have 59 Special Procedure experts, the ACHPR has only 15 mechanisms distributed among 11 Commissioners, which is grossly inadequate;

Recognizing the need to further strengthen the collaboration and synergies in the follow up process, The NGO hereby recommends that

1. More sensitization of the Roadmap should be carried out to ensure visibility of this landmark agreement and its attendant achievements
2. There should be more engagement on the other themes that are yet to be included with the area of collaboration
3. There should be consistent monitoring evaluation of progress
4. There should be involvement of other stakeholders of both parties to further enrich the union
5. ACHPR considers the example of the HRC special procedures of using external expertise to augment its coverage of other themes and other processes
6. Consider the documentation and compilation of success stories and impact made as a result of this partnership

TREC/002/10/22: RECOMMENDATION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA

We, the participants of the Forum on the Participation of NGOs in the 73rd Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR);

Hereby recommend to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights to:

1. Work with relevant AU organs in mainstreaming human rights in the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement and in this regard call on international partners to provide the necessary support to States, National Human Rights Institutions, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders
2. Ensure that States explicitly recognise the role of women in trade in Africa and the impact of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement on women.
3. Request States to ensure broad consultation and active, free, informed and meaningful participation of marginalised populations and groups in the negotiating, drafting and implementation processes of the AfCFTA.
4. Request States to ensure disaggregated data collection with a view to developing targeted trade and investment liberalisation policies to ensure that the benefits of trade and investment policies are equally shared among diverse sectors of society.

Done at Banjul, The Gambia

TREC/003/10/22: RECOMMENDATION ON INTERNET SHUT DOWN: *Unpacking the incidence of Internet shutdowns in Africa*

We, the participants of the Forum on the Participation of NGOs in the 73rd Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR);

Hereby urge the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights to:

1. Recognize and respect that universal, equitable, affordable and meaningful access to the internet is necessary for the realization of human rights by adopting legal, policy and other measures to promote access to the internet and amend laws that unjustifiably restrict access to the internet.
2. Desist from unnecessarily implementing internet shutdowns and any other arbitrary actions that limit access to, and use of the internet and restore all disrupted digital networks where such disruptions have been ordered. Where limitation measures that disrupt access to the internet and social media are inevitable, they should be narrowly applied and should be prescribed by the law; serve a legitimate aim and be necessary and proportionate means to achieve a stated aim in a democratic society.
3. Create, as the duty bearer, a conducive environment for business entities to operate in a manner that respects human rights.

The NGOs Forum calls on:

NGOs and others stakeholders to monitor and document the occurrence of internet shutdowns including their impact on human rights and development; raise awareness of the shutdowns and continuously advocate for an open and secure internet.

The Private Sector, telecommunications companies and internet service providers to consider that their response to shut down requests, should take the relevant legal measures to avoid internet shutdowns and whenever they receive Internet Shutdown requests from States, the companies should insist on human rights due diligence before such measures are taken to mitigate their impact on human rights, ensuring transparency.

Done at Banjul, The Gambia

TREC/004/10/22: RECOMMENDATION ON WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS ON PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

We, the participants of the Forum on the Participation of NGOs in the 73rd Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR);

Hereby recommend to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights to:

Call for the establishment of a mechanism or Committee to consult, conceptualize, and establish Africa's agenda for reparations for the trade and trafficking in enslaved Africans, colonialism and colonial crimes, and racial segregation.

Call upon states to honor their commitments under the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, the Programme of Activities for the Implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent and the AU Diaspora Programme of Action, to encourage and support the adoption and implementation, in different diaspora countries, of policies that will facilitate the elimination of racism and the promotion of equality of all races.

Urge Civil societies to commit to document and report on human rights cases concerning people of African descent and Africans in the diaspora (or AU sixth region) especially of migrants in the Middle East and Gulf states.

Done at Banjul, The Gambia

