



**-- THEMATIC RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE NGOs FORUM
PRECEDING THE**

**85TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON
HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS**

17TH -19TH OCTOBER 2025

**TRES/001/10/25: RESOLUTION ON THE USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN
SUDAN**

We, the participants at the Forum on the Participation of NGOs in the 85th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights held in Banjul, The Gambia 17th – 19th October 2025 resolve as follows:

Guided by the purposes and principles of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and other regional and international human rights instruments to which Sudan is a state party, notably the Universal Bill of Human Rights, and that Sudan is legally bound to fully and effectively implement the provisions of these instruments, and respect and promote the human and peoples' rights set therein without discrimination;

Highly appreciating efforts of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (African Commission) to address the situation in Sudan and recalling, in this regard, previous missions conducted by the Commission to Sudan in 2004, 2009 and 2015 as well as its numerous resolutions on the situation in the country;

Fully aware that Sudan is a state party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction, and as such, Sudan is under binding obligations to refrain from developing, producing, possessing, transferring or using chemical weapons;

Gravely concerned by the allegations made by the United States and certain reports concerning the use of chemical weapons in Sudan, and in this respect we take note of the Press Release No. 25/74 issued by the Official Spokesperson of Sudan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 10th July 2025, which expressed the military authorities' firm stance on the Chemical Weapons Convention and that Sudan categorically and fundamentally rejects the use of chemical weapons and remains steadfast in its commitment to its international

obligations in this regard;

We, the participants at the Forum on the Participation of NGOs in the 85th Ordinary Session of the African Commission held in Banjul from 17th to 19th October 2025, call upon the African Commission to adopt a resolution on the situation of human and peoples' rights in the Sudan, in which it shall:

1. Welcome Sudan's commitment to address the accusations about the use of chemical weapons with seriousness and transparency, giving them the attention consistent with its legal and ethical responsibilities as stated in their Press Release No 25/74 of 10th July 2025.
2. Take note of the measures taken by Sudan to address these accusations, notably the formation of a national committee comprising representatives from relevant national institutions which has been tasked with investigating this matter.
3. Demand that Sudan cooperates fully with state parties to the Chemical Weapon Convention as well as regional and international fact-finding mechanisms, and in this respect allows the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to deploy technical teams in the country and ensure that any investigation is conducted in a thorough, transparent, independent and timely manner.

Done in Banjul, on 19th October 2025

**TRES/002/10/25: RÉSOLUTION PORTANT SUR LA PRESERVATION DE LA
LIBERTE D'EXPRESSION ET LA PROMOTION DE L'ESPACE CIVIQUE**

Nous, les participants au Forum sur la Participation des ONG à la 85e Session Ordinaire de la Commission Africaine des Droits de l'Homme et des Peuples (CADHP) tenue à Banjul, en Gambie, du 17 au 19 octobre 2025, décidons ce qui suit :

Réaffirmant l'article 19 de la Déclaration Universelle des Droits de l'Homme qui garantit le droit à la liberté d'opinion et d'expression à tout individu ;

Réaffirmant l'article 9 alinéa 2 de la Charte Africaine des Droits de l'Homme et des Peuples qui garantit la liberté d'expression ;

Conscient que la liberté d'expression constitue un pilier fondamental de la démocratie, de la transparence et de l'engagement ; Préoccupé par la recrudescence des restrictions arbitraires, des censures, de la surveillance numérique excessive, des arrestations des journalistes et d'activistes et de la criminalisation des opinions politiques dans plusieurs nations africaines;

Soulignant que l'espace civique dans lequel les citoyens peuvent s'exprimer, est un pilier fondamental d'une société démocratique ;

Encourageant les Etats à trouver un équilibre entre la sécurité publique et la protection des droits fondamentaux ;

Le forum des ONGs :

Réitère l'importance de protéger la liberté d'expression, d'association et de réunion pacifique;

Dénonce toute forme de répression ou de violence à l'encontre des acteurs de la société civile, des défenseurs des droits humains, des journalistes;

Appelle à la mise en place de mécanismes efficaces en vue de garantir la protection de ces acteurs ;

Encourage les Etats à adopter ou à renforcer des législations visant à protéger la liberté d'expression et à assurer un espace civique exempt de toute pression abusive;

Recommande aux partenaires financiers de fournir un soutien financier et technique aux organisations de la société civile engagées dans la défense des droits fondamentaux, la participation citoyenne et la démocratie ;

Invite les Etats à réguler l'espace numérique afin de protéger les libertés et de lutter contre la désinformation.

RÉSOLUTION SUR LE COURAGE ET LA RÉSILIENCE DE LA SOCIÉTÉ CIVILE DANS

LES ZONES DE CONFLIT EN AFRIQUE

Remarquant la persistance des conflits armés, crises politiques, violences communautaires et situations d'instabilité dans plusieurs régions du continent africain ;

Reconnaissant le rôle essentiel que jouent les défenseurs et défenseuses des droits humains, journalistes, acteurs communautaires et organisations locales dans la prévention des conflits et la promotion des droits humains ;

Considérant les menaces, intimidations, enlèvements, détentions arbitraires et assassinats dont sont victimes ces acteurs ;

Reconnaissant la nécessité de promouvoir, de protéger et de soutenir ces femmes et hommes engagés ;

Le Forum des ONG :

Rend hommage au courage, à la détermination et à la résilience de la société civile africaine œuvrant dans les zones de conflit ;

Condamne fermement toutes les formes d'attaques, d'intimidations et de harcèlements à l'encontre des défenseurs des droits humains ;

Appelle les États membres de l'Union Africaine à adopter et mettre en œuvre des cadres juridiques et institutionnels de protection des défenseurs des droits humains ;

Invite la CADHP à renforcer les mécanismes de suivi et d'intervention d'urgence en faveur des acteurs menacés dans les contextes de conflit ;

Encourage les partenaires techniques et financiers à mettre en place des programmes d'appui sécuritaire, psychosocial et institutionnel destinés aux OSC opérant dans ces environnements à haut risque.

Fait à Banjul, le 19 octobre 2025 Le Forum.

TRES/003/10/25: RESOLUTION ON THE NEED TO MAINTAIN THE

ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY IN THE FACE OF SECURITY RISKS

We, the participants at the Forum on the Participation of NGOs in the 85th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights held in Banjul, The Gambia 17th – 19th October 2025 resolve as follows:

Recalling its mandate to promote and protect human and peoples' rights in Africa, pursuant to Article 45 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (the African Charter);

Recalling Article 4 of the African Charter, which states that "Human beings are inviolable. Every human being shall be entitled to respect for his life and the integrity of his person. No one may be arbitrarily deprived of this right." and Article 5 stating that "Every individual shall have the right to the respect of the dignity inherent in a human being and to the recognition of his legal status. All forms of exploitation and degradation of man particularly slavery, slave trade, torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment and treatment shall be prohibited."

Considering Resolutions ACHPR/Res.42(XXVI)99, ACHPR/Res.136 (XXXXIV)08, ACHPR/Res. 375 (LX) 2017, ACHPR/ Res.614 (LXXXI) 2024 urging, among other things, States Parties to the African Charter to consider a moratorium on the death penalty and to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty;

Considering further Resolution ACHPR/Res. 416 (LXIV) 2019 on the right to life urging States Parties to the African Charter that have established a moratorium on executions to take further concrete steps towards the complete abolition of the death penalty in law;

Considering finally Resolution ACHPR/Res. 483 (XXXIII) 2021 on the need for better protection of women sentenced to death in Africa, which observes that most of the crimes for which women are sentenced reflect gender inequalities and urges States Parties to the African Charter to provide gender specific health services to women on death row;

Understanding that, according to Resolution ACHPR/Res.544 (LXXIII) 2022, the death penalty inevitably causes physical harm and psychological suffering amounting to torture or ill-treatment of those sentenced to execution; Bearing in mind General Observation No. 3 on the African Charter concerning the right to life (Article 4), Section D, paragraph 23, which stipulates: "Those States which have abolished the death penalty in law shall not reintroduce it, nor facilitate executions in retentionist States through refoulement, extradition, deportation, or other means including the provision of support or assistance that could lead to a death sentence. Those States with moratoria on the death penalty must take steps to formalise abolition in law, allowing no further executions. Beyond the cessation of executions, a comprehensive moratorium on the death penalty would also encompass sentencing, whereby prosecutors would refrain from seeking the death penalty or judges would choose not to impose it..";

Recalling that the death penalty is tolerated by international law and standards only to

the extent that it can be imposed only for the most serious crimes¹ and applied in a manner that causes the least possible suffering² ; Recalling also the ten resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly, adopted in 2007, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020, 2022 and 2024, inviting all States that still maintain the death penalty to, inter alia, observe a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty;

Noting with satisfaction the continental and global trend towards the abolition of the death penalty and the fact that 28 States Parties to the African Charter have abolished the death penalty in law³ ;

Noting that only 184 of the 54 States Parties to the African Charter have ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty;

Deploring the fact that at least 18 African States⁵ imposed death sentences in 2024 and that 2,6 of them carried out executions;

Considering that the death penalty has no proven deterrent effect, that its application is irreversible and that it constitutes a serious violation of the right to life and the right to human dignity proclaimed in Articles 4 and 5 of the African Charter;

Reaffirming its commitment to promoting the right to life and human dignity as fundamental rights, and to encouraging States Parties to abolish the death penalty and maintain the abolition of the death penalty;

Considering the fundamental importance of security, in accordance with Articles 23 and 29 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, as well as Aspiration 4 of Agenda 2063, which aspires to "an Africa living in peace and security";

Considering also that Agenda 2063 encourages the use of mechanisms that promote a dialogue centred approach to conflict prevention and resolution, and the establishment of a culture of peace and tolerance among children and young people in Africa through education for peace;

Noting that the death penalty cannot address security concerns and compromises real security by threatening human dignity and disproportionately affecting marginalised groups, thereby reinforcing social and economic inequalities;

The Commission:

1. Urges States Parties to the African Charter that still maintain the death penalty to:

- Adopt and implement an official moratorium on executions;
- Commute the death sentences of all persons currently on death row, including those convicted of offences that do not meet the standard of "most serious

crimes," particularly crimes that do not involve the intentional killing of a human life;

- Abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty;
- Implement policies and legislative reforms that prevent the use of the death penalty, torture and other inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;
- Increase transparency by making data and information on the number of people on death row publicly available, broken down by age and the offences for which they were convicted, in order to further support research and evidence-based policies and practices.
- Refer to the African Union Peace and Security Council to examine the transitional justice practices mentioned to address inter- and intra-state security issues.

2. Urges States Parties to the African Charter that have abolished the death penalty to:

- To ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty; To commit firmly to abolition;
- Implement policies and legislative reforms that prevent the return of the death penalty, torture and other inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

3. Urges States Parties that have established a moratorium on executions to take further concrete steps towards the complete abolition of the death penalty in law and to confirm their commitment by ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

4. Calls upon States parties to:

- Adopt security solutions based on peaceful dialogue and transitional justice to address the root causes of insecurity, rather than resorting to punitive measures to respond to conflicts.
- Maintain the progress made in abolishing the death penalty in order to avoid a return to its practice.
- Return to the transitional justice practices mentioned in Agenda 2063 to manage security issues within national borders.
- Refer to the diplomatic channels established by the African Union to manage inter-state and intra-state conflicts.
- Ensure the safety and security of convicted persons in detention, in particular by recruiting and training female prison staff to supervise women, and by prohibiting the prolonged use of solitary confinement and punitive denial of visits, in accordance with, inter alia, the Bangkok Rules.
- Include in their periodic reports information on the measures they are taking to

abolish the death penalty in their countries; and

- Support the adoption by the African Union of the draft Additional Protocol to the African Charter on the abolition of the death penalty in Africa, adopted by the Commission in 2015.

Done in Banjul, on 19th October 2025

**TRES/004/10/25: RESOLUTION ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN
THE SAHEL**

We, the participants at the Forum on the Participation of NGOs in the 85th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights held in Banjul, The Gambia 17th – 19th October 2025 resolve as follows:

Reaffirming the importance of protecting fundamental freedoms and international humanitarian law for the restoration of the rule of law and lasting peace in the Sahel;

Recalling the obligations of **the Sahel countries (Mali, Burkina Faso, Chad, Niger and Mauritania)** under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (hereinafter the African Charter), the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance and other regional and international human rights instruments duly ratified by these States;

Recalling Articles 2, 6 and 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), emphasising respect for fundamental rights, including the freedom to hold

opinions and express them freely by all persons, and prohibiting arbitrary arrest and detention and promoting the release of persons accused pending trial;

Recalling the provisions of the African Charter guaranteeing the right to life, liberty and security of the person, the right to freedom of expression and access to information, the right to freedom of association, and the right to freedom of assembly;

Recalling the provisions of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance which strongly condemn coups d'état and changes of government by undemocratic means;

Recalling the principles set out in Resolution 213 (CCXIII) 12 of the ACHPR on unconstitutional changes of government, which condemns *"attempts to establish autocratic regimes and unconstitutional changes of government on the continent, acts which it considers to be a serious threat to stability, peace, security, development and the protection of human rights"*;

Recalling [Resolution 564](#) (LXXVI) 2023 of the ACHPR in which the ACHPR expressed its concern at the resurgence of unconstitutional changes of government in Chad, Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger;

Recalling the 1991 Constitution of Burkina Faso, the July 2023 Constitution of Mali, the 1991 Constitution of Mauritania revised in 2017, the March 2025 Charter for the Refoundation of Niger, and the 2023 Constitution of Chad revised in October 2025, which guarantee fundamental rights;

Deeply concerned by the continuing deterioration of the human rights situation in the Sahel countries, marked, on the one hand, by recurrent violations of international humanitarian law and, on the other hand, by violent repression of human rights defenders and other dissenting voices, particularly in **Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Chad**;

Condemning the refusal of the regimes in power in **Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger** to organise elections, despite this being a crucial step for the return to democrac in these countries;

Particularly concerned by the restrictions imposed on [civic and democratic space](#) in Burkina Faso, Niger and Mali, and the resulting violations of the freedoms of opinion, expression, demonstration and the press, characterised in particular by acts of intimidation, judicial harassment, arbitrary arrests and detentions, as well as other forms of threats and pressure exerted on individuals expressing opinions critical of the transitional authorities;

Condemning the adoption of restrictive laws, increased surveillance of civic activities,

and the dissolution of political parties and associations as obstacles to the activities of civil society, the political opposition, and the media;

Condemning in particular the continued arbitrary detention of Nigerien human rights defender [Moussa Tchangari](#), who faces the possible loss of his nationality and the death penalty;

Condemning the [arbitrary detention](#) at the end of July 2025 and the ongoing detention and trial since 29 September of Malian opposition figure Moussa Mara for expressing [solidarity](#) with political prisoners, and the [sentencing](#) on 9 August of Chadian opposition figure Succès Masra to 20 years in prison following a political trial;

Condemning the increase in cases of enforced disappearances and forced requisitions in Burkina Faso, recently illustrated by the abduction and arbitrary detention of [Maître Ini Benjamine Esther Doli](#), a lawyer and human rights defender, since 31 August 2025. The abduction of Ousséni Ilboudo, editorial director of [L'Observateur Paalga](#), on 13 October, as well as six other people, mainly journalists, lawyers and magistrates, between 9 and 13 October, are symptomatic of this harmful situation. **Recalling** that between May and October 2025, at least eleven Burkinabe human rights defenders who had been kidnapped, disappeared or sent to the front lines were released, with the most recent releases on 6 October involving Rasmane Zinaba and Bassirou Badjo of Balai Citoyen;

Deploring in particular the continuing restrictions on the right to information and freedom of the press, manifested by media control by the authorities, the systematic practice of self-censorship by journalists and the media, and the suspension of international media in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Chad by the authorities of those countries;

Condemning in particular the [illegal suspension](#) by the Conseil supérieur de la communication, the media regulatory body in Burkina Faso, on 1 August 2025, of the broadcasting licence of the private radio station OMEGA, one of the most popular stations;

Strongly condemning the [arbitrary dissolution](#) of five trade unions in the justice sector in Niger on 7 August 2025, followed on 14 and 15 August by the dismissal of two senior magistrates from the Autonomous Union of Magistrates of Niger (SAMAN) who had criticised these dissolutions;

Condemning also the assassination of Sidi Barka, presidential advisor to civil society in Ménaka, by the Islamic State in the Sahel (EIS) on 20 August 2025, and the enforced disappearance of Malian activist El Bechir Thiam, who was abducted on 8 May 2025;

Denouncing the attacks against human rights defenders against the backdrop of the hunt for migrants in Mauritania, where three activists from the IRA Association were arbitrarily arrested in March 2025 and are still in detention following their denunciation of the arbitrary arrests of West African migrants;

Dismayed by the deterioration of the security situation in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger caused by the resurgence of armed jihadist groups, since May 2025, as well as by the "security-first" strategy of the authorities in these countries, which relegates to the background the search for solutions to the root causes of the conflict, such as impunity, extreme poverty, marginalisation and injustice suffered by civilian populations;

Strongly condemning the [abuses and human rights violations](#) against civilian populations that may constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity perpetrated by all parties to the conflict, including jihadist groups, national armed forces, militias, self-defence groups and paramilitary partners;

Particularly concerned by the prevailing impunity of the perpetrators of these serious crimes in Mali and Burkina Faso, where proceedings relating to international crimes have made little progress or have stalled, while victims continue to demand truth and justice, fearing reprisals in the absence of adequate protection measures;

The NGO Forum preceding the 85th Public Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights call on the ACHPR to:

- **Call on the Burkinabe, Malian and Nigerien** authorities to return definitively to constitutional governance by relaunching democratic processes based on the reopening of civic space and the organisation of free, credible, transparent and peaceful elections;
- **Call on the United Nations and the African Union** to urge the authorities of the Sahel countries and the groups that support them to immediately cease acts of intimidation and judicial harassment, attacks, threats and acts of reprisal against human rights defenders and their families, and to systematically and publicly condemn violations of the rights of human rights defenders;
- **Call on the authorities of the four countries mentioned** to immediately and unconditionally release all human rights defenders and political leaders who are arbitrarily detained, and to drop the charges against them;
- **Call on the national authorities of these countries** to guarantee respect for internationally recognised fundamental rights, such as the right to a fair trial and the rights to freedom of association, expression, assembly and the press, as recognised in particular by the International Covenant on Civil and

Political Rights and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights;

- **Urge** the State of **Burkina Faso** to repeal the decree on requisitions and to stop its discriminatory application targeting human rights defenders, as well as to release defenders, including journalists, who have been abducted and sent to the front line;
- **Call** on the **Malian authorities** to cease the abductions and enforced disappearances carried out by the National Intelligence Agency and to end the systematic criminalisation of dissenting voices under the pretext of "undermining the credibility of the State";
- **Urge** the **Nigerien State** to repeal Ordinance No. 2024-43 of 27 August 2024 establishing the deprivation of nationality, including against persons who have exercised their right to freedom of expression and their right to information;
- **Encourage** the **State of Chad** to adopt a law on the protection of human rights defenders in order to guarantee the fundamental rights and freedoms of human rights defenders.

Done in Banjul, on 19th October 2025

TRES/005/10/25: RÉOLUTION SUR LA PROMOTION DE L'ÉDUCATION
AUX DROITS HUMAINS EN AFRIQUE

Nous, les participants au Forum sur la Participation des ONG à la 85e Session Ordinaire de la Commission Africaine des Droits de l'Homme et des Peuples (CADHP) tenue à Banjul, en Gambie, du 17 au 19 octobre 2025, décidons ce qui suit :

Rappelant son mandat de promotion et de protection des droits de l'homme et des peuples en Afrique, conformément à l'article 45 de la Charte africaine des droits de l'homme et des peuples (la Charte africaine) ;

Considérant les articles 25 et 26 de la Charte africaine, qui imposent aux États parties l'obligation de promouvoir et d'assurer, par l'enseignement, l'éducation et la diffusion, le respect des droits et des libertés reconnus et garantis par la Charte ;

Considérant également l'article 17 de la Charte africaine, qui garantit le droit à

l'éducation et reconnaît le rôle fondamental de l'enseignement dans le développement des peuples et la consolidation des valeurs africaines de dignité, de solidarité et de tolérance ;

Tenant compte du Plan d'action mondial des Nations Unies pour l'éducation aux droits humains (Programme mondial des Nations Unies pour l'éducation aux droits de l'homme, 2005–2025), adopté par l'Assemblée générale des Nations Unies, qui appelle les États et les institutions régionales à intégrer l'éducation aux droits humains à tous les niveaux de l'enseignement ;

Rappelant la Déclaration de Kigali de 2003 sur les droits de l'homme en Afrique et les résolutions subséquentes de la Commission africaine appelant au renforcement des capacités nationales et régionales en matière de culture des droits humains ;

Reconnaissant que l'éducation aux droits humains constitue un levier essentiel pour la promotion d'une citoyenneté active, la consolidation de l'État de droit et la prévention des violations des droits fondamentaux ;

Préoccupée par le faible niveau d'intégration des droits humains dans les systèmes éducatifs nationaux sur le continent, le manque de ressources pédagogiques adaptées aux contextes africains, ainsi que l'insuffisante formation des enseignants et acteurs publics à la culture des droits humains ;

Soulignant que la jeunesse africaine, les femmes et les filles, les personnes handicapées, les populations rurales et les groupes marginalisés doivent être au cœur de toute politique d'éducation aux droits humains pour une mise en œuvre inclusive et transformative ;

Rappelant en outre que l'article 13 du Protocole à la Charte africaine relatif aux droits des femmes en Afrique (Protocole de Maputo) engage les États à éliminer toute discrimination à l'égard des femmes dans l'éducation et à promouvoir la sensibilisation aux droits humains et à l'égalité des sexes ;

Consciente que la réalisation des Objectifs de développement durable (ODD), notamment l'ODD 4 (Éducation de qualité) et l'ODD 16 (Paix, justice et institutions efficaces), ne peut être atteinte sans un renforcement systématique de l'éducation

aux droits humains ;

Notant les bonnes pratiques initiées par plusieurs États africains, institutions nationales des droits de l'homme, universités et organisations de la société civile dans le développement de curricula et de programmes de formation aux droits humains ;

Réaffirmant l'engagement de la Commission à promouvoir une culture panafricaine de respect des droits humains, fondée sur la dignité, la justice sociale, l'égalité et la solidarité ;

Le Forum des ONG demande à la Commission d'adopter une résolution:

- i. Appelant les États parties à la Charte africaine à élaborer, adopter et mettre en œuvre des politiques nationales d'éducation aux droits humains ;
- ii. Priant instamment les États parties d'assurer la formation systématique des enseignants, des forces de sécurité, des agents publics, des magistrats et des responsables locaux en matière de droits humains, de non-discrimination et de gouvernance démocratique ;
- iii. Encourageant les États à collaborer avec les institutions nationales des droits de l'homme, les organisations de la société civile et les communautés locales pour adapter les contenus éducatifs aux réalités culturelles et linguistiques africaines, tout en respectant les normes internationales des droits humains ;
- iv. Invitant les États parties, en partenariat avec la Commission, le Comité africain d'experts sur les droits et le bien-être de l'enfant, la Commission de l'Union africaine et les partenaires techniques et financiers, à promouvoir la production et la diffusion de supports pédagogiques en langues africaines sur les droits humains ;
- v. Soulignant l'importance de l'éducation aux droits humains dans les contextes de conflit et de transition, et appelle les États concernés à intégrer des programmes spécifiques visant la réconciliation, la tolérance et la culture de la paix ;

- vi. Décidant d'élaborer, en collaboration avec les acteurs concernés, des lignes directrices africaines sur l'éducation aux droits humains, définissant les standards minimaux de contenu, de méthodologie et d'évaluation applicables dans les systèmes éducatifs des États parties ;
- vii. Encourageant les universités africaines, les cliniques juridiques, les centres de recherche et les écoles de formation judiciaire à renforcer la recherche et la production de savoirs africains en matière d'éducation et de pédagogie des droits humains ;
- viii. Invitant les partenaires de l'Union africaine, y compris les agences des Nations Unies, à soutenir techniquement et financièrement la mise en œuvre des politiques d'éducation aux droits humains en Afrique ;
- ix. Décidant de confier au Comité pour la promotion et la protection des droits humains en Afrique le suivi de la présente résolution, y compris l'élaboration d'un rapport sur l'état de mise en œuvre de l'éducation aux droits humains sur le continent à présenter lors de la 86^e session ordinaire de la Commission.

Fait à Banjul, le 19 octobre 2025 Le Forum

**TRES/006/10/25: RESOLUTION ON ACCELERATING THE ELIMINATION OF
FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION IN AFRICA**

We, the participants at the Forum on the Participation of NGOs in the 85th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights held in Banjul, The Gambia 17th – 19th October 2025 resolve as follows:

Recalling the African Commission's mandate to promote and protect human and peoples' rights in Africa under Article 45 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (the African Charter);

Reaffirming Article 5 of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol), which prohibits all forms of harmful practices against women, including female genital mutilation;

Recalling Resolution ACHPR/Res.275(LV)2014 on Protection against Violence and other Human Rights Violations, and General Comment No. 1 on Article 14(1)(d) and (e) of the Maputo Protocol;

Acknowledging the progress made by some African states in enacting legislation criminalizing FGM, including Nigeria's Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act 2015 and similar laws in 33 African countries;

Deeply concerned that despite legal frameworks, FGM continues to affect over 200 million women and girls globally, with 144 million in Africa, representing 68% of global cases;

Noting with alarm that cultural resistance, weak enforcement mechanisms, and cross-border practices undermine national efforts to eliminate FGM;

Recognizing successful community-driven interventions, including alternative rites of passage, religious leader engagement, and survivor empowerment programs that have reduced FGM prevalence by up to 40% in targeted communities;

Concerned about the medicalization of FGM and the emergence of "vacation cutting" where girls are taken to countries with weaker enforcement for the procedure;

Calls upon the African Commission to:

1. Develop comprehensive guidelines on implementing Article 5 of the Maputo Protocol, including best practices for community engagement and survivor support;
2. Establish a Special Rapporteur on Harmful Traditional Practices to monitor state compliance and provide technical assistance;
3. Conduct promotional missions to high-prevalence countries to assess implementation of anti-FGM measures and provide recommendations;
4. Urge African Union Member States to:
 - Strengthen legal frameworks by harmonizing anti-FGM legislation with regional standards and ensuring adequate penalties for perpetrators, including medical practitioners;
 - Enhance cross-border cooperation through bilateral agreements and joint monitoring mechanisms to prevent "vacation cutting" and ensure consistent enforcement;
 - Invest in community-based prevention programs that engage traditional and religious leaders, provide alternative livelihoods for traditional cutters, and support survivor rehabilitation services;
 - Integrate FGM prevention into national health, education, and social protection systems with dedicated budget allocations;
 - Strengthen data collection and monitoring systems to track prevalence, identify emerging trends, and measure program effectiveness;

Calls upon Civil Society Organizations to:

1. Strengthen advocacy networks across borders and enhance documentation of FGM violations for strategic litigation;
2. Develop innovative approaches including digital platforms, peer education, and economic empowerment programs for at-risk communities;

Done in Banjul, on 19th October 2025

TRES/007/10/25: RESOLUTION ON THE AFRICAN UNION THE YEAR 2025

**THEME: JUSTICE FOR AFRICANS AND PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT
THROUGH REPARATIONS**

We, the participants at the Forum on the Participation of NGOs in the 85th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights held in Banjul, The Gambia 17th – 19th October 2025 resolve as follows:

Commending the African Union (AU) States for following their forefathers' bold steps addressing colonisation, discrimination, apartheid, refugees, environmental protection.

Inspired by all the human rights conventions the AU adopted to advance peace, justice, health, economic development frameworks for protection of all peoples in the continent including the vulnerable groups, women, youth, children, elderly, persons with disabilities, migrants as dispensable for implementation of development and integration agenda

Salute the AU State for reaffirming their commitment to addressing historical and ongoing injustices faced by Africans and people of African descent. In line with the declaration of 2025 as the Year of Justice for Africans and People of African Descent through reparations,

Acknowledges the profound impact of slavery, colonialism, and racism on people of African descent. These historical injustices have left deep scars and continue to influence contemporary socio-economic and political realities.

Recognises, that people of African descent, including recent migrants, face discrimination and violations of their rights. The AU stands firm against practices that perpetuate these injustices by encouraging accelerated efforts to address past and present injustices, ensuring a future where such practices are not repeated.

In line with this initiative, recalling the outcomes of significant historical gatherings,

such as the United Nations Conference on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance. One of the most pivotal outcomes is the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA 2001), which acknowledges people of African descent as victims of slavery, the transatlantic slave trade, and colonialism. These historical injustices have left enduring consequences that continue to affect these communities today.

Committing to building cohesion and cooperation among the peoples of Africa is a cornerstone of the AU's vision. The battle against apartheid was a monumental struggle that required immense courage and unity among African nations. The AU States played a pivotal role in the global fight against this oppressive system, showcasing the strength and resolve of African solidarity. Their success in overcoming apartheid stands as a testament to the power of collective action in the pursuit of justice.

Encouraged, by the pursuit of collective identity, unity, solidarity to transcend regional integration, in addressing the challenges of the past and shaping a brighter future for the continent.

In this context, the AU's emphasis on reparations is a call to action for the international community. Encourages a collective effort to rectify historical wrongs and foster a future where justice and equality are realities for all people of African descent. This move aims to not only address past grievances but also to pave the way for a more equitable and inclusive future.

By recognizing these historical and contemporary issues, the AU's initiative seeks to inspire global cooperation and concerted efforts to bring about meaningful change, ensuring that the rights and dignity of Africans and people of African descent are upheld and respected worldwide.

Continue, standing together as the highest intergovernmental body condemning the continuing racial discrimination and violent practices perpetrated by law enforcement agencies across the world targeting Africans and people of African descent as they vigorously raised the continent banner against the racism conduct that led to the death of George Floyd on 25 May 2020 Minnesota, and the deaths of other people of African descent, and also condemns the structural racism in the criminal justice system in some countries

Recalling the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials and the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials

Supporting, as end of a significant period approaches, the United Nations declaration of the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024) and crucial the opportunity to evaluate progress made and the ongoing challenges in achieving it objective promoting respect, protection, and fulfilment of all human rights and

fundamental freedoms for people of African descent.

Inspired, by some positive developments including the legal reforms in several countries aimed at combating racial discrimination and promoting equality.

Development initiatives aim to address socio-economic disparities faced by people of African descent, such as economic empowerment through efforts supporting support entrepreneurship and economic opportunities for African-descendant communities through grants, training, and access to capital.

Health and Well-being Initiatives: Programs focused on improving healthcare access and outcomes for people of African descent have been launched, addressing disparities in health services and outcomes.

Advancing Reparations Discussions: Conversations around reparations for descendants of enslaved Africans have gained momentum. Some governments and institutions have acknowledged historical injustices and are considering or have already implemented reparatory measures.

Concerning challenges, despite the advancements, significant challenges remain. These include persistent racial discrimination, socio-economic inequalities, and underrepresentation in political and decision-making processes, including arbitrary arrest and unlawful detention. Over and above these is the persistent threats to democracy, human rights, freedom of association, assembly and expression, migration influx and the increasing traumatic scenes on the Mediterranean Ocean Sea, continuous financial dependence from the West and Northern Countries for running core AU flagship programmes, corruption, black on black violence, increasing discrimination migrants face and violations of their rights. The geopolitical challenges, the new concept of third country deportation which exacerbates these challenges, undermining the dignity and rights of individuals.

Calling the African Commission to do the following:

1. Urge AU States work toward strengthen international cooperation in enhancing collaboration between countries and international bodies as essential for addressing systemic issues and effective implementation of policies.
2. Alignment of this AU Theme, with Sustainable Development Goal, AU Agenda 20263, together with other economic development, cultural diversity, cohesion, unity and regional integration, ensuring sustainable and inclusive development for Africans and people of African descent to help guide future efforts to ensure justice, recognition, and development for people of African descent worldwide.
3. AU strongly condemn the Third Country Deportation Concept as draconian and atrocious deal contradicting the AU 2063 and its African solidarity core values

and justice which include ending slavery, colonialism, racism, apartheid, and crimes against humanity.

4. Urge AU to remain steadfast in its mission to uphold the rights and dignity of Africans and people of African descent. By condemning and terminating unjust practices such as the third country deportation concept, the AU reinforces its commitment to a world free from slavery, colonialism, and racial discrimination.
5. AU to call States that have entered into third country deportation deals to terminate these agreements immediately. Such deals not only breach the principles of human rights but also violate the spirit of Agenda 2063, as well as the
6. Encouraging States to look into their manuals and guidelines used for training law enforcement officers with a view to identifying the proportionality of measures in the handling of suspects and other persons in custody, with respect to the treatment of Africans and people of African descent,

Done in Banjul, on 19th October 2025

**TRES/008/10/25 RESOLUTION ON STRENGTHENING THE RECOGNITION
OF ECOCIDE AS AN INTERNATIONAL CRIME IN AFRICA**

We, the participants at the Forum on the Participation of NGOs in the 85th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights held in Banjul, The Gambia 17th – 19th October 2025 resolve as follows:

Recall the statement of the NGO Forum to the 75th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) to recognize ECOCIDE as a crime against humanity and the resolution of the ACHPR recognizing ECOCIDE as a crime against humanity;

Recall the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) Resolution 491 on Climate Change and Forced Displacement in Africa;

Recognize that Africa is the most vulnerable continent to climate change impacts as it bears the brunt of environmental destruction despite having the least contribution to global warming and having the lowest emissions;

Acknowledge the African Union Agenda 2063, African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022-2032) and the African Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI), African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) and the African Union Green Recovery Action Plan 2021-2027 on AU strategy and plans on climate change adaptation and mitigation;

Further acknowledge the leadership of African States at the twentieth session of AMCEN (Nairobi, July 2025), under the chairmanship of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and with the support of Burundi and the Republic of Congo, in identifying the consideration of ecocide law as a continental priority for 2025–2027;
Welcome the consensus definition of "ecocide" proposed by the Independent Expert Panel in June 2021, namely: *"unlawful or wanton acts committed with knowledge that there is a substantial likelihood of severe and either widespread or long-term damage to the environment being caused by those acts"*;

Commend The Government of Vanautu, Fiji and Samoa for formally requesting for the amendment of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court to consider ECOCIDE acts that destroy the worlds ecosystems as an international crime and be listed under the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court.

Noting with Appreciation the recent Advisory Opinions of the International Court of Justice (2025) clarifying States' obligations to reduce emissions and protect ecosystems, and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights' affirmation of States' duty to prevent mass destruction of nature as *jus cogens*, a peremptory norm;

Further Note the International Union for Conservation of Nature's vote to adopt Motion 061 Recognizing the crime of Ecocide to protect nature;

In consideration of deliberations at the Special Interest Group on Safeguarding People and the Planet; Addressing Human Rights, Environmental Justice and Ecocide in Africa of the NGO Forum, We

Propose a harmonized African Commission framework on Environmental crime in Africa and a unified legislative framework on the criminalization of widespread environmental crime and/or crimes comparative to 'Ecocide'; and

The NGO Forum preceding the 85th Public Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights call on the ACHPR to:

Propose the development of a harmonized African Commission framework on Environmental crime, and the establishment of a unified legislative framework for the criminalization of widespread or severe environmental harm, including acts comparable to 'Ecocide'; and encourages Member States to incorporate the crime of Ecocide, or its equivalent, into their domestic legislation in alignment with this framework;

Further propose an ACHPR working group on environmental crime and reparations in Africa;

Recognize ECOCIDE as an international crime and urge State Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court to support its amendment;

Further call on Member States to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) to consider strengthening national and regional legal frameworks addressing severe and widespread environmental harm, including, where appropriate, the incorporation of provisions addressing acts amounting to "ecocide";

Done in Banjul, The Gambia 19th October 2025

**TRES/009/10/25 RESOLUTION ON SAFEGUARDING CIVIC AND POLITICAL
SPACE AND DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**

We, the participants at the Forum on the Participation of NGOs in the 85th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights held in Banjul, The Gambia 17th – 19th October 2025 resolve as follows:

Reaffirming the essential importance of free, transparent, inclusive and fair elections for consolidating democracy and promoting sustainable development;

Recalling the commitments made by African States under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

Recalling the provisions of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance, which promote the values and principles of democracy, good governance and human rights;

Recalling that freedom of expression is a fundamental right, enshrined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and reaffirmed in Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; and that it is closely linked to freedom of peaceful assembly, enshrined in Article 20 of the Declaration and Article 21 of the Covenant, particularly in relation to demonstrations, pickets, marches, rallies and parades;

Expressing their deep concern at the increasing number of violations of civil and political rights, in particular the growing restrictions on freedom of expression, assembly and association, especially before, during and after elections;

Alarmed by the widespread repression of independent and dissenting voices, acts of intimidation against human rights defenders, arbitrary arrests, the use of the criminal justice system and independent constitutional commissions and bodies as a weapon against dissenting voices, and the enforced disappearances of journalists, political opponents and members of civil society organisations;

Concerned about the increasing restrictions on civic and democratic space, freedom of expression and freedom of demonstration in the run-up to several general elections, particularly in a tense political context a few weeks before the October 2025 presidential election in Côte d'Ivoire, the December 2025 elections in Guinea, the April 2026 elections in Benin and the June 2026 elections in Ethiopia;

Concerned by the adoption of the bill ratifying Ordinance No. 2024-368 of 12 June 2024 on the organisation of civil society in Côte d'Ivoire, which increases the authorities' control over civil society organisations under the guise of combating terrorism and money laundering, providing for particularly severe penalties such as imprisonment, heavy fines and the dissolution of organisations deemed non-compliant;

Concerned about the climate of [widespread repression](#) targeting all forms of dissent in the public sphere in Togo, illustrated by the systematic banning of peaceful demonstrations and the numerous [arbitrary arrests](#) that followed the crackdown on demonstrations in

June 2025, after the [constitutional coup](#) perpetrated in March 2024 by the regime of Faure Gnassingbé, granting the latter power for life;

Deeply concerned by the continuing deterioration of the civil and political rights situation in **Benin**, characterised by violence, arbitrary arrests and illegal detentions targeting political opponents, trade union leaders and peaceful demonstrators, particularly in the context of elections and social mobilisation, and aggravated by restrictive legislation reflecting a growing desire to control civic space and limit the freedom of action and expression of associations, journalists and engaged citizens;

Noting the persistent impunity enjoyed by the perpetrators of these violations and **alarmed** by the increased censorship and systematic surveillance of the media and digital platforms, resulting in the suspension of newspapers, independent news sites and social media accounts critical of the authorities in many sub-Saharan African countries;

Concerned about the [situation](#) of political opponent Lassy Mbouity following his abduction and detention in May 2025, during which he was reportedly subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, and about the intensification of repressive practices against dissenting voices in the run-up to the presidential election in **the Republic of the Congo**;

Deeply concerned by the increasing repression, including at the judicial level, against [human rights defenders](#), including environmental defenders, and the low level of awareness among voters in **Uganda** in the run-up to the general elections in January 2026;

Concerned about the [worrying resurgence](#) of political intolerance and repression, manifested in abductions, enforced disappearances, [cases of torture](#) and targeted violence against opposition figures and civil society, as illustrated in particular by the cases of Agather Atuhaire and Boniface Mwangi in **Tanzania**, following the 2024 local elections and in the run-up to the October 2025 general elections;

Concerned about the climate of fear and intimidation prevailing in **Burundi**, fuelled by persistent violations, including abductions and enforced disappearances, summary executions, acts of torture, arbitrary arrests and detentions committed with impunity, as well as restrictions on fundamental rights and freedoms, in particular freedom of expression, in the current electoral context;

Concerned about post-election [police violence](#) that left several people dead and injured in October 2024 in **Mozambique**, and recalling the need for [justice, truth and reparation](#) for the victims of this post-election violence;

Concerned about the [ongoing attacks on civic space](#) in **Zimbabwe**, including the recent adoption of [the Private Voluntary Organisations \(PVO\) Act](#);

Concerned about the irregularities observed during the elections in Tanzania, Burundi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, and noting the need to strengthen electoral transparency and integrity, as well as respect for civic participation in democratic processes before, during and after elections;

Dismayed by numerous cases of enforced disappearances and arbitrary detentions in **Guinea**, including those of Oumar Sylla, known as Foniké Mengué, and Mamadou Billo Bah, FNDC leaders who were arrested in July 2024 and remain missing more than a year after their night-time abduction by special forces; Habib Marouane Camara, an investigative journalist, abducted on 3 December 2024, with no news to date; and Abdoul Sacko, spokesperson for the Forces Sociales de Guinée, abducted on the night of 18-19 February 2025 and found seriously injured near a military camp in Forécariah, currently being treated abroad; and former Bar President Mohamed Traoré, who was also abducted on the night of 20 to 21 June 2025 and tortured for publicly criticising the military regime in power;

Denouncing the growing trend of repression against civil society and human rights defenders in **Kenya**, illustrated by the expulsion in July 2025 of Martin Mavenjina, senior legal adviser to the Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC) on transitional justice, without due process, and by the excessive and often lethal use of force during demonstrations against corruption. **Reiterating their condemnation** of police brutality during the crackdown on youth protests in 2024 and 2025, which resulted in more than 1,400 illegal arrests, more than 150 deaths and 89 enforced disappearances. Alarmed by the fact that, despite repeated calls from civil society and international actors for accountability, investigations remain at a standstill and impunity persists;

Concerned about the rise of repression in East Africa, including in the electoral context, where opposition political leaders are accused of treason (in Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, the DRC and South Sudan), and by the transnational nature of repression in the region;

Seriously concerned about the escalating [repression of civil society](#) in **Ethiopia**, including the arbitrary suspension of independent human rights organisations on vague and extra-legal grounds by the Agency for Civil Society Organisations (ACSO), in violation of national procedural safeguards under Proclamation No. 1113/2019 and regional and international principles. **Alarmed** by the broader pattern of intimidation, surveillance and forced exile of human rights defenders; "Particularly concerned about the upcoming elections scheduled for June 2026, in a context of ongoing tensions and instability in the regions of Tigray, Amhara and Oromia, against a backdrop of increased restrictions on civic space with the new draft proclamation on CSOs;

The NGO Forum preceding the 85th Public Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (the African Commission), meeting held from 17 to 19 October 2025 in Banjul, The Gambia;

Call on African States to:

- Guarantee an open, inclusive and secure civic space that allows for free expression, independent civil society action and citizen engagement, including and especially during election periods;
- Fully respect, protect and promote the civil and political rights of all, ensuring equitable access to political participation, freedom of opinion and expression, and the freedoms of peaceful assembly and association;
- Ensure that electoral processes take place in a peaceful, transparent, fair and truly participatory climate, including political parties, independent candidates, civil society organisations and all citizens;
- Put an immediate end to repression and human rights violations committed in the context of protests or elections;
- Ensure the effective protection of human rights defenders, journalists, election observers, political activists and members of civil society against all forms of threat, intimidation, harassment, arbitrary arrest or violence;
- Ensure that any regulation of digital and social media during elections strictly complies with international standards on freedom of expression and is not used in any way to limit public debate or hinder the transparency of the electoral process;
- Publicly denounce serious human rights violations committed during electoral processes, open investigations and prosecute perpetrators, including within the defence and security forces and the state apparatus;

Call on the African Union and technical and financial partners:

- **Strengthen** early warning and rapid response mechanisms in response to restrictions on civic and political space;
- **Support** independent citizen monitoring of electoral processes and actions to strengthen democratic governance;
- Publicly **denounce** any serious violations of civil and political rights;
- **Express** concern about the prolonged terms of office of presidents in power in certain African countries and call for a review of constitutional term limits and the promotion of democratic transitions, in accordance with existing regional and international instruments.

Done in Banjul, The Gambia 19th October 2025

**TRES/10/10/25 RESOLUTION ON GRAVE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN
SOUTHERN AFRICA (ANGOLA AND ZIMBABWE)**

We, the participants at the Forum on the Participation of NGOs in the 85th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights held in Banjul, The Gambia 17th – 19th October 2025 resolve as follows:

Recalling the ACHPR's mandate to protect and promote human and peoples' rights in Africa, in accordance with Article 45 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (African Charter);

Recalling further Article 1 of the African Charter, which calls on Member States to adopt legislative and other measures to implement the rights and freedoms guaranteed by the African Charter;

Taking into account the provisions of the Declaration on the Principles of Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa, the Guidelines on Freedom of

Association and Assembly in Africa, the Guidelines on Policing by Law Enforcement Officials at Assemblies in Africa, and General Comment No. 37 of the United Nations Human Rights Committee on Freedom of Association and Peaceful Assembly;

Considering the ACHPR Resolutions on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders in Africa (ACHPR/Res.376(LX)2017), Prohibition of the Use of Excessive Force by Law Enforcement Officials in African States (ACHPR/Res. 474 (EXT.OS/ XXXI) 2021), Safety of Journalists and Media Professionals in Africa, Recourse to Mass and Illegal Surveillance of Specific Communications and its Impact on Human Rights in Africa (ACHPR/Res.573 (LXXVII) 2023), Need to protect civic space, freedom of association and assembly in Africa (ACHPR/Res.569 (LXXVII) 2023) and Internet shutdowns and elections in Africa - ACHPR.Res.580 (LXXVIII)2024;

Emphasising Angola and Zimbabwe's obligations under regional and international human rights law, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the African Charter;

Emphasising, in particular, Angola and Zimbabwe's obligation to respect, protect and fulfil the rights set out in the African Charter, including the rights to life (Article 4), dignity (Article 5), liberty (Article 6), a fair trial (Article 7), expression and access to information (Article 9), association (Article 10) and assembly (Article 11);

Emphasising further Angola and Zimbabwe's obligation to respect, protect and fulfil the right to privacy as set out in Article 17 of the ICCPR and Principles 40 and 41 of the Declaration on the Principles of Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa;

Deeply disheartened by the continued failure of the GoZ to ratify the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) and its Optional Protocol (OPCAT), and its resulting failure to comply with regional and international human rights obligations concerning the absolute prohibition of torture which has manifested through the abduction, torture, and ill-treatment of human rights defenders (HRDs) and activists

by state agents operating with impunity and under the protection of state institutions;

And further concerned by the governments of Angola and Zimbabwe's failure to accede to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, to which it is a signatory;

Recalling the rights protected by the Constitution of Angola, including the rights to life (Article 30), dignity (Article 31), liberty and security of the person (Article 36), privacy (Article 32), expression (Article 40), freedom of the media and access to information (Article 44), association (Article 48), peaceful assembly, demonstration, picketing and petitioning (Article 47), fair trial (Article 67), rights of detained persons (Article 63) and persons in custody or imprisoned (Article 64).

Concerned about the serious human rights violations against demonstrators in Angola following the wave of demonstrations that began with the July 2025 law on vandalism, including the unnecessary and excessive use of force by security agents, ill-treatment, illegal surveillance, abductions, enforced disappearances and killings;

Alarmed by the repression of peaceful demonstrations during the protests in Angola by security forces in Luanda on 12 and 19 July;

Concerned about the internet shutdown that occurred during the protests on 28, 29, and 30 July 2025 in Angola, which severely restricted access to information and public communication, violating the rights to freedom of expression and access to information enshrined in Article 40 and 44 of the Constitution of the Republic of Angola, and Article 9 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights;

Disturbed by the Angolan government's threats to shut down non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that do not comply with the NGO Law and the recent enactment of the Private Voluntary Organisations (Amendment) Act of 2025 by the government of Zimbabwe, despite the recommendation by the African Commission to free civic space in the country.

We, the participants of the Forum on NGO Participation in the 85th Ordinary

Session of the African Commission, held in Banjul, Gambia, from 17 to 19 October 2025, urge the Commission to adopt a resolution on human rights violations in Angola and Zimbabwe, which:

- Condemn the unnecessary and excessive use of force by the police against unarmed protesters in Angola, as well as the kidnappings and attempted kidnappings of digital activists, human rights defenders and journalists;
- Guarantee the protection of journalists in Zimbabwe and drop all charges against Blessed Mhlanga and Faith Zaba, who are facing prosecution for exercising their right to free expression in the course of discharging their duties as journalists.
- Call on the government of Zimbabwe to repeal the Private Voluntary Organisation (Amendment) Act of 2025.
- Ensures an enabling environment for CSOs to carry out their critical watchdog role by not hindering their operations and autonomy.
- Condemns further the threats of arbitrary closure and criminal sanctions against NGOs in Angola that allegedly received financial support to organise protests, in violation of their right to a fair trial;
- Calls on the Angolan Government to investigate and prosecute the perpetrators swiftly, to grant reparations, and to immediately release political prisoners resulting from these demonstrations;
- Further urges the Government of Angola to refrain from interrupting access to the Internet and to open debate on the socio-political aspects of the country in accordance with Article 52 of the Constitution of the Republic of Angola;
- Encourages the Governments of Angola and Zimbabwe to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance;
- Encourages the Government of Angola to implement the National Law on Medical Examiners to allow independent investigations into violations

committed especially by state officials;

- Further encourages the Government of Angola to uphold the rights to freedom of association and peaceful assembly, not only in law but also through the application of the law by state agents.
- Urge the government of Zimbabwe to fully comply with its obligations under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, particularly the right to dignity and the prohibition of torture and all forms of cruel, inhuman, or degrading punishment and treatment.

Done in Banjul, The Gambia 19th October 2025

TRES/11/10/25 RESOLUTION ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THE SAHEL

We, the participants at the Forum on the Participation of NGOs in the 85th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights held in Banjul, The Gambia 17th – 19th October 2025 resolve as follows:

Reaffirming the importance of protecting fundamental freedoms and international humanitarian law for the restoration of the rule of law and lasting peace in the Sahel;

Recalling the obligations of **the Sahel countries (Mali, Burkina Faso, Chad, Niger and Mauritania)** under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (hereinafter the African Charter), the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance and other regional and international human rights instruments duly ratified by these States;

Recalling Articles 2, 6 and 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), emphasising respect for fundamental rights, including the freedom to hold opinions and express them freely by all persons, and prohibiting arbitrary arrest and detention and promoting the release of persons accused pending trial;

Recalling the provisions of the African Charter guaranteeing the right to life, liberty and security of the person, the right to freedom of expression and access to

information, the right to freedom of association, and the right to freedom of assembly;

Recalling the provisions of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance which strongly condemn coups d'état and changes of government by undemocratic means;

Recalling the principles set out in Resolution 213 (CCXIII) 12 of the ACHPR on unconstitutional changes of government, which condemns *"attempts to establish autocratic regimes and unconstitutional changes of government on the continent, acts which it considers to be a serious threat to stability, peace, security, development and the protection of human rights"*;

Recalling [Resolution 564](#) (LXXVI) 2023 of the ACHPR in which the ACHPR expressed its concern at the resurgence of unconstitutional changes of government in Chad, Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger;

Recalling the 1991 Constitution of Burkina Faso, the July 2023 Constitution of Mali, the 1991 Constitution of Mauritania revised in 2017, the March 2025 Charter for the Refoundation of Niger, and the 2023 Constitution of Chad revised in October 2025, which guarantee fundamental rights;

Deeply concerned by the continuing deterioration of the human rights situation in the Sahel countries, marked, on the one hand, by recurrent violations of international humanitarian law and, on the other hand, by violent repression of human rights defenders and other dissenting voices, particularly in **Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Chad**;

Condemning the refusal of the regimes in power in **Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger** to organise elections, despite this being a crucial step for the return to democracy in these countries;

Particularly concerned by the restrictions imposed on [civic and democratic space](#) in Burkina Faso, Niger and Mali, and the resulting violations of the freedoms of opinion, expression, demonstration and the press, characterised in particular by acts of intimidation, judicial harassment, arbitrary arrests and detentions, as well as other forms of threats and pressure exerted on individuals expressing opinions

critical of the transitional authorities;

Condemning the adoption of restrictive laws, increased surveillance of civic activities, and the dissolution of political parties and associations as obstacles to the activities of civil society, the political opposition, and the media;

Condemning in particular the continued arbitrary detention of Nigerien human rights defender [Moussa Tchangari](#), who faces the possible loss of his nationality and the death penalty;

Condemning the [arbitrary detention](#) at the end of July 2025 and the ongoing detention and trial since 29 September of Malian opposition figure Moussa Mara for expressing [solidarity](#) with political prisoners, and the [sentencing](#) on 9 August of Chadian opposition figure Succès Masra to 20 years in prison following a political trial;

Condemning the increase in cases of enforced disappearances and forced requisitions in Burkina Faso, recently illustrated by the abduction and arbitrary detention of [Maître Ini Benjamine Esther Doli](#), a lawyer and human rights defender, since 31 August 2025. The abduction of Ousséni Ilboudo, editorial director of [L'Observateur Paalga](#), on 13 October, as well as six other people, mainly journalists, lawyers and magistrates, between 9 and 13 October, are symptomatic of this harmful situation. **Recalling** that between May and October 2025, at least eleven Burkinabe human rights defenders who had been kidnapped, disappeared or sent to the front lines were released, with the most recent releases on 6 October involving Rasmane Zinaba and Bassirou Badjo of Balai Citoyen;

Deploring in particular the continuing restrictions on the right to information and freedom of the press, manifested by media control by the authorities, the systematic practice of self-censorship by journalists and the media, and the suspension of international media in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Chad by the authorities of those countries;

Condemning in particular the [illegal suspension](#) by the Conseil supérieur de la communication, the media regulatory body in Burkina Faso, on 1 August 2025, of the broadcasting licence of the private radio station OMEGA, one of the most popular stations;

Strongly condemning the [arbitrary dissolution](#) of five trade unions in the justice sector in Niger on 7 August 2025, followed on 14 and 15 August by the dismissal of two senior magistrates from the Autonomous Union of Magistrates of Niger (SAMAN) who had criticised these dissolutions;

Condemning also the assassination of Sidi Barka, presidential advisor to civil society in Ménaka, by the Islamic State in the Sahel (EIS) on 20 August 2025, and the enforced disappearance of Malian activist El Bechir Thiam, who was abducted on 8 May 2025;

Denouncing the attacks against human rights defenders against the backdrop of the hunt for migrants in Mauritania, where three activists from the IRA Association were arbitrarily arrested in March 2025 and are still in detention following their denunciation of the arbitrary arrests of West African migrants;

Dismayed by the deterioration of the security situation in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger caused by the resurgence of armed jihadist groups, since May 2025, as well as by the "security-first" strategy of the authorities in these countries, which relegates to the background the search for solutions to the root causes of the conflict, such as impunity, extreme poverty, marginalisation and injustice suffered by civilian populations;

Strongly condemning the [abuses and human rights violations](#) against civilian populations that may constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity perpetrated by all parties to the conflict, including jihadist groups, national armed forces, militias, self-defence groups and paramilitary partners;

Particularly concerned by the prevailing impunity of the perpetrators of these serious crimes in Mali and Burkina Faso, where proceedings relating to international crimes have made little progress or have stalled, while victims continue to demand truth and justice, fearing reprisals in the absence of adequate protection measures;

The NGO Forum preceding the 85th Public Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (the African Commission), meeting held from 17 to 19 October 2025 in Banjul, The Gambia;

Call on the **Burkinabe, Malian and Nigerien** authorities to return definitively to constitutional governance by relaunching democratic processes based on the reopening of civic space and the organisation of free, credible, transparent and peaceful elections;

Call on the United Nations and the African Union to urge the authorities of the Sahel countries and the groups that support them to immediately cease acts of intimidation and judicial harassment, attacks, threats and acts of reprisal against human rights defenders and their families, and to systematically and publicly condemn violations of the rights of human rights defenders;

Call on the authorities of the countries mentioned to immediately and unconditionally release all human rights defenders and political leaders who are arbitrarily detained, and to drop the charges against them;

Call on the national authorities of these countries to guarantee respect for internationally recognised fundamental rights, such as the right to a fair trial and the rights to freedom of association, expression, assembly and the press, as recognised in particular by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights;

Urge the State of **Burkina Faso** to repeal the decree on requisitions and to stop its discriminatory application targeting human rights defenders, as well as to release defenders, including journalists, who have been abducted and sent to the front line;

Call on the **Malian authorities** to cease the abductions and enforced disappearances carried out by the National Intelligence Agency and to end the systematic criminalisation of dissenting voices under the pretext of "undermining the credibility of the State";

Urge the States of **Niger, Chad and Burkina Faso** to repeal all legal measures establishing the deprivation of nationality, including against persons who have exercised their right to freedom of expression and their right to information;

Encourage the States of **Chad and Mauritania** to adopt a law on the protection of human rights defenders in order to guarantee the fundamental rights and freedoms of human rights defenders.

Done in Banjul, The Gambia 19th October 2025

TRES/12 /10/25 RÉOLUTION SUR L'ESCLAVAGE

Nous, les participants au Forum sur la Participation des ONG à la 85e Session Ordinaire de la Commission Africaine des Droits de l'Homme et des Peuples (CADHP) tenue à Banjul, en Gambie, du 17 au 19 octobre 2025, décidons ce qui suit :

Considérant la persistance de pratiques esclavagistes constamment dénoncées par des organisations des droits de l'Homme au Niger et en Mauritanie.

Considérant les nombreuses et graves séquelles de l'esclavage (exclusion, ignorance, pauvreté) ;

Considérant la criminalisation de l'esclavage consacrée par les lois des deux pays ;

Considérant les nombreuses plaintes sans suite, portant sur des cas d'esclavage, déposées auprès de la justice par les associations de droits de l'Homme ;

Indigné par la persistance de pratiques esclavagistes dans ces deux pays ;

Le Forum sur la participation des ONGs à la 85ème Session ordinaire de la Commission Africaine des Droits de l'Homme demande à la Commission de:

- Dénoncer la complicité de l'administration avec les esclavagistes et l'impunité dont bénéficient ces derniers ;
- Exiger l'application avec rigueur des lois criminalisant l'esclavage ;
- Exprimer sa vive indignation à propos de la promotion à de hautes fonctions

administratives de personnes connues pour leur comportement esclavagiste et réclame leur destitution ;

- Réclamer des États membres l'élaboration de programmes conséquents pour lutter contre les séquelles de l'esclavage, prévoyant au besoin une discrimination positive au profit des couches concernées ;
- Exhorter les oulémas de la Mauritanie et du Niger à davantage s'impliquer dans la lutte contre l'esclavage ;
- Appeller, enfin, l'Union Africaine à engager une lutte résolue pour l'éradication de l'esclavage en Afrique et particulièrement en Mauritanie et au Niger.

Fait à Banjul, le 19 octobre 2025 Le Forum