

**INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITY REPORT PRESENTED BY  
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*Presented at the 44th Ordinary Session of the  
African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights ,  
held in Abuja, Nigeria from 10-24 November 2008*

## INTRODUCTION

1. The present intersessional report gives an account of the activities carried out under paragraph 3 of Article 87 of the rules of procedure of the African Commission which requires that at every session, all members of the Commission are expected to present a written report on the different activities, particularly on countries visited and the organizations contacted. These activities were undertaken after the 43rd session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights held in Manzini, Swaziland from 7 to 21 May 2008. We present a report of our activities in our capacity as a member of the Commission and Chairperson of the Working Group on Death Penalty.

### ***AS A MEMBER OF THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS.***

2. The activities carried out are as follows :

On 6 and 13 June 2008, during the training organized by the National Commission on Human Rights of Rwanda for teachers who teach human rights in secondary schools, we made presentations to teachers in the North and South provinces on international human rights protection mechanisms in our capacity as a regional human rights protection Commission. To ensure that teachers provide better explanation to the students on African human rights instruments, a book containing these instruments prepared by the Rwandan National Commission was distributed to all the teachers who teach human rights-related lessons.

On 5 September 2008, I took part in a Human Rights Conference in Africa : Challenges and Opportunities in the New Millennium, held in Kigali under the auspices of the KONRAD ADENAUER Foundation; and we made a presentation on « The African Commission and the Human Rights Protection Mechanism in Africa. The participants included judges, representatives of national human rights institutions, NGOs, etc.....

3. Within the framework of the promotion of the African Charter on democracy, elections and good governance, we indicated that the said Charter be ratified by Rwanda through a communication to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation in October 2008.
4. On 8 September 2008, at a meeting with the Minister of Justice and Keeper of the Seals and the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, we discussed again the need to ratify the African Charter on democracy, elections and good governance.
5. On 9 and 10 October 2008, during the human rights protection week organized for prisoners and on 21 August 2008, during visits to prisons to mark the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we had the opportunity to carry out promotion on the Robben Island Guidelines relating to treatment of prisoners through speeches made before State authorities, prison staff, representatives of UN agencies, representatives of NGOs, some representatives from embassies as well as prisoners present at the function.
6. On 21 October 2008, during events marking the African Human Rights Day in Nairobi, Kenya, we made a Statement to the gathering on behalf of the Chairperson of the African Commission. Present at the function were the President of the United Nations Human Rights Council, representatives of Diplomatic and Consular Corps, representatives from the UNHCHR, National Human Rights institutions and NGOs which attended the meeting of the International Committee of National institutions (ICC).
7. From 21 to 29 July 2008, I attended the 5th Extraordinary session of the Africa Commission held in the Gambia. The meeting examined mainly communications and draft rules of procedure of the Commission.

**ACTIVITIES UNDER SPECIAL MECHANISM – AS  
CHAIRPERSON OF THE WORKING GROUP ON DEATH  
PENALTY.**

8. From 8 to 9 November 2008, on the sidelines of the 44th session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights , we had a meeting with the working group on death penalty ; the Chairman of the Working Group and two resource persons were in attendance :*Professor Carlson Anyangwe, Professor Iya Philip, members of the working group*

8. The work done has been incorporated in the Working Group report in the annexe. The main issues examined by the Working Group were as following issues :

The concept paper on death penalty in Africa will be presented to the Commission prior to the next ordinary session before it is finalized ;

- The draft resolution urging member States to comply with the Moratorium on death penalty which is being forwarded to the Commission for adoption ( is in the annex). The working group is of the view that it is high time to renew the appeal contained in Resolution ACHPR/Res 42 (XXVI) urging member States to deploy all efforts for the the abolition of the death penalty.. . . Since the adoption of this Resolution in 1999, the number of countries that apply the death penalty has reduced considerably and one should take advantage of the position of the international community on the issue of death penalty contained in the United Nations Resolution adopted in 2007 inviting the member States to look at the Moratorium on the application of the death penalty.
- The concept paper of the International conference on death penalty scheduled for Kigali in September 2009 ; ;
- The activities proposed by the Working Group for 2009 are as follows :