

AFRICAN UNION		UNION AFRICAINE
الاتحاد الأفريقي African Commission on Human & Peoples' Rights		UNIÃO AFRICANA Commission Africaine des Droits de l'Homme & des Peuples
No. 31 Bijilo Annex Lay-out, Kombo North District, Western Region, P. O. Box 673, Banjul, The Gambia ,Tel: (220) 441 05 05/441 05 06, Fax: (220) 441 05 04 E-mail: au-banjul@africa-union.org ; Web www.achpr.org		

Final Communiqué of the 23rd Extraordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

Banjul, Republic of The Gambia

13-22 February 2018

1. The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (Commission) held its 23rd Extraordinary Session from 13 to 22 February 2018 in Banjul, Republic of The Gambia.
2. The Session was chaired by **Honourable Commissioner Soyata Maïga**, Chairperson of the Commission, assisted by **Honourable Commissioner Lawrence Murugu Mute**, Vice-Chairperson of the Commission.
3. The Session was attended by the following members of the Commission:
 - i. Honourable Commissioner **Soyata Maïga**, Chairperson;
 - ii. Honourable Commissioner **Lawrence Murugu Mute**, Vice-Chairperson;
 - iii. Honourable Commissioner **Kayitesi Zainabo Sylvie**;
 - iv. Honourable Commissioner **Maya Sahli-Fadel**;
 - v. Honourable Commissioner **Jamesina Essie L. King**;
 - vi. Honourable Commissioner **Solomon Ayele Derso**;
 - vii. Honourable Commissioner **Hatem Essaiem**;
 - viii. Honourable Commissioner **Rémy Ngoy Lumbu**;
 - ix. Honourable Commissioner **Maria Teresa Manuela**.
4. Honourable Commissioners **Yeung Kam John Sik Yuen** and **Lucy Asuagbor** were absent with apologies.
5. Following the adoption of the Session agenda, the Chairperson of the Commission, Honourable Commissioner Soyata Maïga, presented the report on the meetings of the Policy Organs held during the African Union Summit from 22 to 29 January 2018 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
6. The Commission discussed the preparations for its 62nd Ordinary Session to be held from 25 April to 9 May 2018 in Nouakchott, Islamic Republic of Mauritania.
7. The Commission also discussed the organization of a retreat between the Commission and the Permanent Representatives' Committee (PRC).
8. It also considered proposals of secondments from Member States, and requested the Secretariat to develop an internal policy document on secondments.
9. The Commission further considered draft amendments to its Rules of Procedure.
10. The Commission considered and adopted the following documents:

- i. Report on Audit of Communications;
- ii. Concept Note on the Organization of a Retreat between the Commission and the PRC;
- iii. Report of the First Regional Seminar on the Implementation of Decisions of the Commission held in Dakar, Senegal, and the Minutes of the Evaluation Meeting;
- iv. Report of the Advisory Committee on Budget and Staff Matters;
- v. Report of the Secretariat on Follow-up Actions of the 61st Ordinary Session of the Commission;
- vi. 2018 Annual Work Plan; and
- vii. Guidelines on the Format of Promotion and Protection Missions of the Commission.

11. The Commission also considered and deferred the adoption of the following documents:

- i. Paper on Financial Compensation of Victims for Damages Suffered as Part of the Communications Procedure;
- ii. Paper on the Internship Policy at the Secretariat of the Commission; and
- iii. Guidelines on the Adoption of Resolutions.

12. The Commission considered and adopted concluding observations on the periodic reports of the following States parties:

- i. Republic of Niger;
- ii. Republic of Côte d'Ivoire; and
- iii. Islamic Republic of Mauritania.

13. The Commission considered and adopted the report of the promotion mission undertaken in the Republic of The Gambia.

14. The Commission held discussions with the African Union Commission (AUC) team on the study on Policy Coherence between the AUC and AU Organs and decided to send its written observations in April 2018.

15. During the Session, the Commission considered **forty-six (46)** Communications, including:

- i. **Twenty-six (26)** Communications on Seizure: the Commission was seized of **eighteen (18) Communications**, including granting **two (2)** requests for Provisional Measures, and dismissed **eight (8) Communications**;

- ii. **Three (3)** Communications on Admissibility: the Commission declared **two (2)** Communications inadmissible and it deferred its decision on **one (1)**;
- iii. **Thirteen (13)** Communications for Strike-out: the Commission struck-out all;
- iv. The Commission reviewed its decision on the referral of **two (2)** Communications to the Court;
- v. The Commission also provided guidance on **two (2)** Communications.

16. The Commission adopted the following resolutions:

- i. Resolution on the Human Rights Situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo;
- ii. Resolution on the Human Rights Situation in the Republic of Cameroon; and
- iii. Resolution on the Continued Violations of the Rights of the Sengwer Community of Kenya.

17. The Commission expresses its sincere gratitude to the Government and people of the Republic of The Gambia for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to its members during the 23rd Extraordinary Session.

Done in Banjul, Republic of The Gambia, on 22 February 2018