
57th ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES’ RIGHTS

4th – 18th November 2015

Banjul, The Gambia
I. **Introduction**

1. This Report is presented on the occasion of the 57th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (the Commission). It outlines my intersession activity as Commissioner, Chairperson of the Working Group on the Rights of Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities in Africa. The period covered is from the 56th Ordinary Session held in Banjul, The Gambia (21 April - 7 May 2015) to this present Session. It should be noted that for reasons beyond my control, I could not participate in the 18th Extraordinary Session (29 July - 7 August 2015, Nairobi, Kenya) as well as in missions to countries where the Commission undertook visits during the intersession. These include the missions to Sudan, Djibouti and Senegal, etc.

II. **Activities in my capacity as Commissioner Rapporteur on specific countries/Report of the Promotion Mission to the Republic of Seychelles, 6-10 April 2015**

2. My last intersession activity report mentioned the promotion mission I conducted to the Republic of Seychelles in my capacity as Commissioner Rapporteur for this country. The mission took place from 6 to 10 April 2015.

3. The report of the promotion mission to the Republic of Seychelles has been finalised during the intersession and will be tabled before the Commission for consideration at the present session. The next step after the report is adopted by the Commission is to request the Republic of Seychelles to submit its observations on the said report in order for the Commission to include these and publish the final report of the mission.
III. Activities as Chairperson the Working Group on the Rights of Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities in Africa

A. Drafting of the two Protocols to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights relative to the Rights of Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities in Africa

4. Currently, the Working Group has finalised Draft III of the Protocol on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa to be tabled before the Commission during this present Session. The outcome of the consideration of the draft will provide useful guidelines to the Working Group regarding the future orientation of the draft Protocol.

5. In fact, if the Commission decides to adopt the Draft as it is, this will be the end of the process within the Working Group as the document will be forwarded to the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa for it to go through the normal treaty-making mechanism of the Union.

6. However, in the case the Commission deems that more work should be done on the draft document; the Working Group will consult with the relevant stakeholders and revise the Draft to include observations made by the Commission. Thereafter, it will be resubmitted to the Commission for adoption and then transmitted to the treaty-making process of the African Union.

B. Creating a solid network of CSOs/NGOs focusing on the Rights of Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities

7. The Working Group has worked more on bringing together all relevant stakeholders among CSOs/NGOs that deal with the rights of persons with disabilities and older persons in Africa.

8. This work has started earning encouraging results as there is an increasing number of requests from CSOs/NGOs willing to collaborate with the Working Group and contribute to its activities.
9. Moreover, I am glad to state that the Working Group has been able to start an embryonic network of the said CSOs/NGOs which will surely grow considering the positive dynamism observed within this network. The very first meeting held on 21 April 2015 between CSOs/NGOs and the Working Group at the margin of the 56th Ordinary Session—chaired by my colleague Commissioner Mute in his capacity as member of the Working Group and acting chairperson of the Working Group in my absence, was critical in initiating the network.

10. This is an opportunity for me to invite more stakeholders to join the network and to thank and encourage those who are already on board.

C. Strengthening of the collaboration between the mandate of the Working Group on the Rights of Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities in Africa and its counterparts within the system of the United Nations

11. During the intersession, the Working Group intensified its collaboration with its counterparts within the system of United Nations.

12. For instance, the Working Group was solicited by the United Nations’ Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by Older Persons, in order to contribute to a study it is conducting on the human rights implications of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA). Though the Working Group was not able to provide the information sought by the Independent Expert because it was not available at the time, it used the opportunity of that direct request of collaboration to link up the teams for future foreseeable joint ventures. It is my view that this is a great step in the necessary collaboration between our respective special mandates.

13. Inspired by the above experience, the Working Group has been aiming at establishing similar channels of communication between the counterparts within the United Nations who deal with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; namely the Independent Expert on the Enjoyment of Human Rights of Persons with Albinism, and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
D. Monitoring of the situation of Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities in Africa

14. The Working Group monitors developments relative to its mandate and this guides its activities and actions where necessary. The visible outcome of the said monitoring is when the Working Group issues statements or press releases which are published on the website of the Commission.

15. In this vein, the Working Group reacted on and is still monitoring the violence against persons with albinism in East Africa. Thus, sometime this year, a joint press release\(^1\) was issued on the matter in collaboration with the Chairperson of the Working Group on Death Penalty, Extra-Judicial, Summary and Arbitrary Killings in Africa. This press release called on the immediate stop to the violence against persons with albinism and their killings. It also urged governments in East Africa and elsewhere in Africa to take measures for preventing and combatting this phenomenon.

16. The Working Group also celebrates international days dedicated to the rights of older persons and persons with disabilities in Africa and globally.

17. During the intersession, a statement\(^2\) was issued on the 1\(^{st}\) October 2015 by the Working Group at the occasion of the celebration of the 25\(^{th}\) International Day of Older Persons.

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\(^1\) The joint press release is available at http://www.achpr.org/press/2015/03/d251/.