
60th ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES’ RIGHTS

8th to 22nd May 2017

Niamey, Niger
I. Introduction

1. This Report is presented on the occasion of the 60th 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 59th Ordinary Session held in Banjul, the Republic of The Gambia (21st October to 4th November 2016) to the present Session.

II. Activities in my capacity as Commissioner

A. Participation to the 59th Ordinary Session

2. I participated in the 59th Ordinary Session of the Commission which took place from 21st October to 04 November 2016 in Banjul, The Gambia.

3. During the said Session, the Working Group that I chair had an activity in line with the celebrations of the African Year of Human Rights with a special focus on women’s rights.

4. The theme of the activity was “Showcase of the strives and challenges to uphold human rights of older women and women with disabilities in Africa”.

5. I am happy that various partners, including those from The Gambia (host country of the Commission) took part in the activity which enabled discussions on what is being done on the continent regarding rights of women with disabilities and older women, as well as the challenges faced in this work to enforce the human rights of these vulnerable groups.

6. The recommendations and the good practices gathered from this activity undoubtedly inspire the future undertakings of the Working Group and other stakeholders.

7. This is an opportunity to express my appreciations to all partners and stakeholders who participated in the said activity.
B. Participation to the 28th Summit of the African Union

8. I had the honour to be nominated by the Commission to join its delegation which usually takes part in the activities of the Summits of the African Union.


C. Efforts to secure an authorisation for a promotion mission to Madagascar

10. As Commissioner Rapporteur responsible for the promotion and protection of human and peoples’ rights in Madagascar, I have been engaging the diplomatic representation of this country in Mauritius in order to obtain from the authorities of Madagascar an authorisation to conduct a promotion mission.

11. The officials contacted have been very receptive and have forwarded the request to relevant authorities of Madagascar and hopefully this would yield the expected result.

12. My intention is to initiate the same process with the other countries I am in charge of and with a special focus on the ones that have never been visited by the Commission for a promotion mission and/or which have not had a very active collaboration with the Commission.

13. The promotion missions, if agreed to by the State Parties, will establish the necessary collaboration between the Commission and these countries so that both may achieve their common obligations and mandate which is the effective promotion and protection of human and peoples’ rights.

14. I would therefore appeal to the distinguished delegates of Madagascar, Sao Tome, and Ghana to take back to their governments this request for authorisation to conduct promotion missions to their countries.

III. Participation to the 21st Extra-Ordinary Session

15. I participated in the 21st Extra-Ordinary Session of the Commission which took place from the 23rd February to the 4th March 2017 in Banjul, The Gambia.
16. In addition to the numerous classic deliberations of the Commission which are normally engaged into at such type of meetings, I would particularly stress the importance of activities and deliberations undertaken and carried out with the new Government of The Gambia and the very fruitful engagements that the Commission had with the authorities including a courtesy call to H. E Adama Barrow President of The Gambia and the meeting with the Foreign affairs Minister of The Gambia.

IV. Activities as Chairperson the Working Group on the Rights of Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities in Africa


18. I could not attend the said meeting due to reasons beyond my control. However, I was ably represented by my colleague Commissioner Jamesina Essie L. King who is a member of the Working Group. She presented my speech (welcoming remarks) on the occasion of this meeting.

19. The document was finally validated and at 2nd Meeting of the Specialised Technical Committee on Social Development, Labour and Employment and the Specialised Technical Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs, which took place from 24 to the 28 April 2017 in Algiers, Algeria, it was considered and a decision was taken to forward it to the Specialised Technical Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs.

20. As I did in my last report, I wish to express my appreciation to all stakeholders for all of their efforts and encourage them to keep the momentum until the effective
adoption of this very important Protocol by the General Assembly of Heads of States and Government of the African Union.

A. Development of the Protocol on the Rights of Citizens to Social Protection and Social Security

21. The Additional Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Citizens to Social Protection and Social Security which the African Union Commission (AUC) mandated the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR) to develop, is being prepared and the two Experts working on the first draft have already produced a working document on which I already made my observations and inputs.

22. Plans are to review a first draft of the Protocol sometime after this 60th Ordinary Session, at a joint meeting of the two Working Groups of the Commission which were designated to undertake this assignment.

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

12. This important aspect of the work of the Working Group has been somehow ineffective during the intersession and prior discussions with some stakeholders have stagnated and it would be of great importance to reactivate the various projects and collaboration avenues which were in the pipeline.

C. Monitoring of the situation of Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities in Africa

13. The Working Group has not been able so far to monitors developments relative to its mandate and to present a report stemming from such monitoring. It has not been possible to do so as envisioned in its 2017 activity plan due to reasons beyond its control.
14. The Working Group would like to reiterate its call to interested stakeholders and partners to assist the Working Group in coming up with such a report in the future intersession activity reports.

15. Nonetheless, during the intersession, on the occasion of the 3rd December 2016, the Working Group celebrated the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. On this occasion, a statement\(^1\) was issued and published on the website of the Commission.

\(^1\) [http://www.achpr.org/press/2016/12/d336/]