Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) granted Observer Status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights

INVITATION TO THE 61ST ORDINARY SESSION AND 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AFRICAN COMMISSION

I have the honour to invite all Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) granted Observer Status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights to the 61st Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (the African Commission) and to the 30th Anniversary of the Operationalization of the Commission. The Session will take place at the Headquarters of the Commission in Banjul, The Gambia, from 1 to 15 November 2017, while the commemorative activities will be spread over the first-four (4) days of the 61st Ordinary Session.

The Commemorative activities will include, among other things, a Gala Dinner during which an award will be presented to H.E. Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara, former President of the Republic of The Gambia. The award will be in recognition of his immense contribution to the African Human Rights System, particularly through facilitation of the preparation and adoption of the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights. Awards will also be given in recognition of the efforts of State Parties, National Human Rights Institutions and Non-governmental Organizations that have made significant contributions to the promotion and protection of human and peoples’ rights in Africa.

More information on these and other commemorative activities will be provided on the website of the African Commission (www.achpr.org) as the details of the celebrations are concretized and finalised.

As usual, NGOs are expected to bear the travel and accommodation expenses relating to the participation of their representative(s).
The Preliminary Registration Form which is hereto attached is also available on the website of the ACHPR: it should be completed and returned to the Secretariat by **14 October 2017**, at the latest.

Participants coming from countries outside the ECOWAS zone are advised to **obtain visas before travelling to The Gambia**. In that regard, arrangements are being made for participants coming from countries in which the Republic of The Gambia does not have diplomatic representation, to be issued visas upon arrival at the Airport, or at other points of entry, upon the presentation of this letter of invitation.

The Information Note and the Draft Agenda of the Public Session will be uploaded on the website of the African Commission in due course.

**Participants are exhorted to take the necessary vaccinations, and to travel with their vaccination cards.**

NGOs wishing to speak on any of the Agenda Items are advised to inform the Secretariat of the Commission in advance. This is a strict pre-requisite for being granted permission to speak during the Sessions. Please kindly note that only NGOs with Observer Status will be allowed to take the floor before the Commission.

Kind Regards.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Dr. Mary Maboreke
Secretary to the Commission

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