INTER-SESSION ACTIVITY REPORT

OF

Commissioner Yeung Kam John Yeung Sik Yuen

Commissioner
&
Chairperson of the Working Group on the Rights of Older Persons and People with Disabilities in Africa

(May to October 2019)

Presented during the 65th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights

Banjul, The Gambia
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INTRODUCTION

1. This Report is presented in accordance with Rules 23(3) and 72 of the Rules of Procedure of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (the Commission), and covers activities undertaken during the intersession period between May and October 2019.

2. The Report outlines my intersession activities as a Member of the Commission and as the Chairperson of the Working Group on the Rights of Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities in Africa (the Working Group).

3. The Report is structured in two Parts:

   ➢ Part I covers intersession activities in my capacity as a Commissioner and Chairperson of the Working Group;

   ➢ Part II includes the General Conclusion.
Part I: Intersession Activities

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


4. From 05 to 06 July 2019, I convened and participated in the continental Ratification Seminar on the Ratification of the Protocol on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa and the Protocol on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa for the Member States of the African Union, which was held in Kigali, Rwanda.

5. The purpose of the Seminar was to raise awareness on the existence of the two Protocols, and the urgent need for their entry into force through ratification by a minimum of fifteen (15) State Parties, as required for each.

6. It is worth recalling that the Protocol on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa was adopted by the African Union at the 26th African Union Summit, which was held from 21 to 31 January 2016 in Addis Ababa. Additionally, the Protocol on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa was adopted by the African Union during the 30th Summit, which was held in Addis Ababa from 22 to 29 January 2018.

7. The Consultation targeted the States Parties to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights, with the eventual participation of the following thirty-two (32) States namely: Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Gabon, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia,
Zambia and Zimbabwe. I extend my sincere gratitude to these States Parties for their constructive and informative participation in the Regional Consultation.¹

8. In addition to my participation, Honourable Commissioner Zainabo Sylvie Kayitesi was in attendance, in addition to other experts of the Working Group or partners of the Commission.

9. The following recommendations, which can be accessed on the Commission’s website, were adopted at the Regional Consultation:²

**Recommendations:**

(i) States Parties to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights:

(ii) National Human Rights Institutions (INDHs):
  to encourage their States to become parties to both Protocols; and

(iii) Civil Society Organizations and other actors:
  to continue and strengthen their advocacy efforts aimed at the ratification of the two Protocols by all States.

10. I wish to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Rwanda for agreeing to host this important meeting and for all the

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¹ [https://www.achpr.org/pressrelease/detail?id=426](https://www.achpr.org/pressrelease/detail?id=426)
facilities and resources made available to the Commission and the participants for the effective and smooth conduct of the meeting.

- **Activities undertaken as a Member of the Commission**

**b. The 26th Extra-Ordinary Session of the Commission**

11. From **16 to 30 July 2019**, I participated in the Commission’s 26th Extra-Ordinary Session, which was held in Banjul, The Gambia. The Session was convened to deal with Communications and other urgent and outstanding matters from previous Sessions.

12. During the Extra-Ordinary Session, the Commission considered twenty (20) Communications and considered and took decisions on a number of relevant documents. Furthermore, I took the opportunity to brief the Commission on the outcome of the Consultation on ratification of the two (2) Protocols.

**Part II: CONCLUSION**

13. It has been an immense honour and privilege for me to serve as a Member of the Commission and as the Chairperson of the Working Group on the Rights of Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities in Africa.

14. I wish to thank the Commissioners, State Parties, National Human Rights Institutions, Civil Society Organizations and all the partners who supported my mandate. I also wish to thank the Members of Secretariat for the assistance which was provided to the mandate.

15. I thank you.