INTER-SESSION ACTIVITY REPORT

HONOURABLE COMMISSIONER MARIA TERESA MANUELA

As

i. A Member of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights;

ii. The Special Rapporteur on Prisons, Conditions Of Detention and Policing In Africa;

iii. Member of the Working Group on Communication;

iv. Member of the Committee for the Protection of the Rights of People Living with HIV (LHIV) And People at Risk, Vulnerable and affected by HIV.

67th Ordinary Session
13 November to 3 December 2020
Zoom Webinar
TABLE OF CONTENT

1. Introduction

2. Activities undertaken during the Inter-Sessional Period as:
   
   i. Member of the Commission
   ii. Special Rapporteur on Prisons, Conditions of Detention and Policing in Africa
   iii. Member of the Working Group on Communications; and
   iv. Member of the Committee for the Protection of the Rights of People Living with HIV (LHIV) And People at Risk, Vulnerable and affected by HIV

3. Prisons and COVID-19
   Police and COVID-19

4. Challenges

5. Recommendations and Conclusions
SECTION I - INTRODUCTION

1. This Report is submitted pursuant to Rules 23 (3) and 72 of the Rules of Procedure of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (the Commission), and covers the activities undertaken during the inter-session period between the 66th and present 67th Ordinary Sessions.

2. The Report covers activities I undertook in my capacity as a Member of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (the Commission), the Special Rapporteur on Prisons, Conditions of Detention and Policing in Africa (the Special Rapporteur), Member of the Working Group on Communications and Member of the Committee for the Protection of the Rights of People Living with HIV (PLHIV) and People at Risk, Vulnerable and affected by HIV.

3. The Report is divided into five (5) parts; the Introduction; Inter-sessional Activities; Prisons and COVID 19; Challenges faced with the implementation of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur; Recommendations and Conclusions.
SECTION II – INTER-SESSION ACTIVITIES

I. ACTIVITIES AS A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION

Meeting of the Resolutions Committee

4. On 18 August and 2 September 2020 respectively, I participated in the meeting of the Committee on Resolutions held virtually, to consider outstanding resolutions from the 66th Ordinary Session of the Commission.

Workshop on Transitional Justice and Human Rights in Africa

5. On 30 September 2020, I participated in the Workshop on Transitional Justice and Human and Peoples’ Rights in Africa, held virtually via zoom webinar and organized by the Commission, with the technical support of IHRDA and financial support of the MacArthur Foundation.

6. The Workshop served as an opportunity for Members of the Commission to engage with the content of the Transitional Justice Study and AU Transitional Justice Policy and matters related to Transitional Justice on the continent, in order to discuss the various ways in which the mechanisms and tools of the Commission can be applied to address human rights concerns in the context of Transitional Justice.

7. The Workshop also provided a greater understanding among all Members of the Commission of the principles of Transitional Justice, the need for a uniquely African approach to Transitional Justice and areas of cooperation with other international/regional human rights institutions and Transitional Justice Mechanisms.

29th Extra-Ordinary Session

8. From 2 to 5 October 2020, I attended the 29th Extra-Ordinary Session of the Commission held virtually via Zoom Webinar, to examine outstanding and urgent issues, such as Communications and urgent human rights issues on the continent.

21st October (African Human Rights Day)

9. On 21 October 2020, as a member of the Commission, I participated in the African Human Rights Day celebrations. In this activity, the importance of the day was highlighted for all African peoples to contribute actively to the
respect and promotion of their rights. It has been recognized that with the pandemic in Africa, despite falling short of WHO projections, the existing vast social gaps were brought to light and responses were not entirely appropriate. However, the States shared some good practices to shorten the gap on the path to human rights protection.

NGO Forum

10. From 9 to 11 November 2020, I participated in the NGO Forum on the margins of the 67th Ordinary Session of the Commission, held virtually via Zoom Webinar. The theme of the Forum was ‘Post Covid 19: Rebuilding a just and peaceful society in Africa based on human rights and good governance’. The objective of the Forum was to consolidate collaboration between and among NGOs to enhance partnership with the African human rights mechanisms for the Africa we want as stipulate din AU Agenda 2063. However, in this forum, there was no translation into Portuguese, which means that a fringe of the African population whose official language is Portuguese (Angola, Cabo Verde, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique and São Tomé and Príncipe) were not heard on the topics discussed.

II. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN AS THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON PRISONS, CONDITIONS OF DETENTION AND POLICING IN AFRICA

A/ MEETINGS


11. From 14 to 16 September 2020, in collaboration with my partners, the Members of the Regional Campaign to Decriminalize Petty Offences in Africa, we organized a Virtual Regional Conference on Decriminalization of Petty Offences in Africa.

12. The Conference was organized to provide a continental platform for a broad-based discussion and review of measures adopted to contain public emergencies and crisis, such as the novel coronavirus (COVID-19); analyze policing policies and practices adopted in response to such emergencies; and determine whether there are any linkages between these measures, their enforcement and the rights and welfare of those experiencing social marginality and other forms of social-economic disadvantage.

13. Additionally, the Conference aimed to identify regional best efforts and practices on responding to pandemics that are right-based in nature and
promote the targeted mainstreaming of such efforts into other existing commitments to address public emergencies.

14. During the conference, I also introduced the Simplified Version of the Principles on the Decriminalization of Petty Offences in Africa, which was developed together with my partners APCOF. It was anticipated that the Simplified Version of the Principles would be launched during the 66th Ordinary Session of the Commission, however this was deferred due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Simplified Version of the Principles was officially launched at the present Session of the Commission.

**Future Law Virtual Summit 2020**

15. From 16 to 20 October 2020, I participated in the Future Law Summit 2020, which took place virtually via Zoom Webinar. The Law Summit was organized by Future Law Virtual Tech Rob, represented Alexia Anastasia, Lesley Anne Macfarlane e Goodfrey Ayeranga.

16. During the Summit, I was a part of the panel discussion on ‘COVID-19 and the Prisoners’ Rights in Africa’. The objective of the panel was to underscore the Impact of COVID-19 on Prisoner’s rights in Africa and whether now is the time that the African continent needs a binding regional human rights instrument that not only specifically guarantees the prisoners rights but also places a mandatory obligation on member states to respect, protect and promote prisoners rights in their respective states as well as creating a conducive environment for the proper enjoyment of their rights to health, food, among others.

17. The summit had as speakers leading academics on rights of prisoners and juvenile justice, CSOs actively engaged in advocacy related work on prisoners’ rights in Africa, Lawyers, students with interest in Criminal Justice reform and government institutions and officers doing work related to prisoners.

18. The discussions allowed the engagement of more scholars and stakeholders on prisoners' rights, in order to trigger a comprehensive discussion on whether the binding regional instrument is needed.
B/ LETTERS OF URGENT APPEAL & PRESS STATEMENT

Joint Letter of Urgent Appeal to the Democratic Republic of Congo

19. On 30 September 2020, in my capacity as the Special Rapporteur on Prisons, Conditions of Detention and Policing in Africa, together with the Commissioner Rapporteur on the Human Rights Situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo; Hon. Commissioner Marie Louise Abomo; we sent a Joint Letter of Urgent Appeal to His Excellency Mr. Félix Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo, concerning the situation in Buina Central Prison, in particular the shortage of food and poor nutrition, which lead to the death of two (2) inmates and four (4) other inmates who were in critical condition.

20. The Commission is yet to receive a response from the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Joint Letter of Urgent Appeal to the Republic of Mozambique

21. On 30 September 2020, in my capacity as the Commissioner Rapporteur on the Human Rights Situation in the Republic of Mozambique, together with the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa; Hon. Commissioner Jamesina E.L. King; we sent a Joint Letter of Appeal to His Excellency Mr. Filipe Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique, regarding the violations of freedom of expression in Mozambique including, an attack which was perpetrated on the offices of a newspaper house called Canal de Moçambique, on 23 August 2020, in Maputo City.

22. The Commission is yet to receive a response from the Government of the Republic of Mozambique.

Joint Letter of Urgent Appeal to the Republic of Burundi

23. On 2 November 2020, in my capacity as the Special Rapporteur on Prisons, Conditions of Detention and Policing in Africa, together the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa; Hon. Commissioner Jamesina E.L. King; we sent a Joint Letter of Appeal to His Excellency Mr. Evariste Ndayishimiye, President of the Republic of Burundi, regarding the Arrest and Detention of Honourable Fabien Banciryanino, an independent Member of Parliament, who was arrested on 2 October 2020, in Burundi.

24. The Commission is yet to receive a response from the Government of the Republic of Burundi.
Joint Letter of Appeal to the Republic of Mozambique

25. **On 2 November 2020**, in my capacity as the Commissioner Rapporteur on the Human Rights Situation in the Republic of Mozambique, together with the Chairperson of the Working Group on Death Penalty, Extra-Judicial, Summary or Arbitrary Killings and Enforced Disappearances in Africa, Hon Commissioner Ndiamé Gaye and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa, Hon. Commissioner Zainabo Sylvie Kayitesi, regarding reports of an extrajudicial execution of an unidentified woman in September 2020, by Mozambican forces, on the R698 road in a site near the town of Awasse in the province of Cabo Delgado during the large scale operation launched by the state to dislodge the insurgents from Awasse and Diaca.

26. The Commission is yet to receive a response from the Government of the Republic of Mozambique.

Press Statement on Excessive Use of Force by the Police in the Federal Republic of Nigeria

27. On 14 October 2020, as the Special Rapporteur on Prisons, Conditions of Detention and Policing in Africa, together with the Country Rapporteur on the Human Rights Situation in the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Hon. Commissioner Solomon Ayele Dersso, we issued a statement following the expression of public outrage about the human rights violations by the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) of the Nigerian Police Force and call for its dissolution.

28. We expressed concern about reports of excessive use of force by police in some regions of Nigeria against people participating in the protest against SARS, which has, to the regret of the Commission, claimed the lives of at least 8 people.

29. We called on the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, to immediately halt the use by police of live ammunition in responses to the ongoing protests and ensure that that policing of these assemblies is undertaken in compliance with the principles of minimum use of force as a last resort measure to avert imminent danger to life, as well as necessity, precaution and proportionality.

30. We further called on the government to take measures for the establishment of an independent police oversight, investigation and accountability mechanism, applicable to all police and security structures at both Federal and State levels; and Initiate comprehensive reform to address the serious gaps in the policies, laws, regulations and guidelines regulating the conduct of law enforcement institutions, amongst others.
Press Statement on Unlawful Killings by Security Forces in Federal Republic of Nigeria


32. We expressed deep concern about the alarming reports of excessive use of lethal force against protesters in Nigeria and the resultant loss of lives and injuries. We further expressed shock about the widely reported human rights violations perpetrated in the context of the use by Nigerian military of live ammunition against protesters in the Lekki Toll Gate area of Lagos on 20 October 2020, resulting in the regrettable and unnecessary killing of an unknown number of people and bodily injury to others.

33. We reiterated our strong condemnation of these killings and the acts of excessive use of force, endangering various rights guaranteed in the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights (African Charter) including the rights to life, bodily integrity, freedom of assembly and the right to peaceful protests. The Commission also condemns in the strongest terms the prevention by the military of access by emergency medical personnel who sought to provide medical assistance and rescue those who sustained injuries during the operation by the military unit.

34. We made various recommendations to the Government of Nigeria and further reiterated our readiness to accompany Nigeria in its effort to ensure compliance with the standards of the African Charter by its law enforcement institutions.

Press Statement on the Socio-Political Situation in the Republic of Guinea Conakry

35. On 26 October 2020, as the Special Rapporteur on Prisons, Conditions of Detention and Policing in Africa, together with the Country Rapporteur on the Human Rights Situation in the Republic of Guinea Conakry, Hon. Commissioner Ndiame Gaye, we issued a statement on the socio political situation in Guinea Conakry following the presidential elections of 18 October 2020.

36. We expressed our deep concern on the post electoral violence and the resulting deterioration of the human rights situation in Guinea. We condemned the clashes between the supporters of the candidate of the Union
of Democratic Forces, Mr. Cellou Dalein Diallo and the police in Conakry and in the province, which resulted in loss of human lives, injuries and destruction of both private and public property.

37. We called on all stakeholders to exercise restraint and engage in a dialogue, in order to peacefully resolve the crisis and ensure respect for human rights. The Rapporteurs urge the security forces to respect, in particular, the right to life and physical integrity guaranteed by the African Charter and other relevant instruments and to avoid any use of lethal force in the maintenance of public order.

38. We also call on the Guinean authorities to guarantee the peace, security and physical and psychological integrity of the populations, and urged the African Union, ECOWAS and the international community, to continue providing support to the Guinean people with a view to ending the ongoing post-election violence.

III. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN AS A MEMBER OF THE WORKING GROUP ON COMMUNICATIONS

Meeting of the Working Group on Communications

39. On 21 August, 28 August and 8 September 2020 respectively, as a Member of the Working Group on Communications, I participation in the Meeting of the Working Group on Communications, organized to considered outstanding Communication from the 66th Ordinary Session of the Commission and other related matters.

IV. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN AS A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV (PHLIV) AND PEOPLE AT RISK, VULNERABLE AND AFFECTED BY HIV

Meeting of the Working Group on PHLIV

40. On 20 October 2020, as a Member of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of People Living with HIV and People at Risk, Vulnerable and Affected by HIV, I participated in the Meeting of the Committee ,which was organized to allow the newly appointed Chairperson of the Committee, Hon. Commissioner Alexia Gertrude Amesbury, the new Members of the Committee and Legal Assistants, to meet with the Expert Members, to discuss future projects, especially since the National Dialogue and other activities planned for 2020 could not hold on account of COVID-19.
41. During the meeting, a review was made of what was accomplished from the previous work plan and the constraints caused by the pandemic that did not allow the implementation of the work plan. Therefore, it was established that the Committee's program should be redrafted, adapting it to the current reality. The Committee recommended that this review should be discussed at the next session with the engagement of all Committee members.

SECTION III: PRISONS & COVID 19

42. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted systemic problems in Africa’s prisons. Prisons and places of detention are becoming Covid-19 infected zones due to overcrowding and unsanitary conditions. Movement in and out of prison facilities is common and self-isolation remain impossible. One of the best ways to protect prisoners is to reduce overcrowding in prisons, which some countries have already started doing. Reducing prison admissions will allow the total prison population to drop very quickly and increasing cleanliness and hygiene in prisons is paramount to prevent the entry or limit the spread of the virus. People deprived of their liberty exhibiting symptoms of Covid-19 or who have tested positive should be monitored and treated in line with the WHO guidelines and recommendations.

43. Prisons and other places of detention must therefore be part of national Covid-19 plans. Consequently, a standard healthcare and safety measures should be the priority for inmates that remain in prison to ensure the maximum possible protection against the spread of Covid-19. Prison staff who are a critical workforce in the fight against Covid-19, should also be provided with proper information, protective gears, equipment and support.

44. It is also necessary to look beyond COVID-19 and pose questions about long-term solutions. People should not find themselves unnecessarily in prisons. Governments should ensure reforms in law, policy and practice and review cases of people in pre-trial detention in particular, vulnerable groups such as older persons and persons with disabilities; pregnant women and those with children; persons sentenced for minor and non-violent offences; those sentenced for petty offences and most importantly, those with underlying medical conditions.

45. The criminal codes of many African states still contain petty offences, sometimes inherited from the colonial era and no longer in line with the new reality. Placing people in custody for petty offences is not only disproportionate, it places their health at risk and holds significant adverse socioeconomic consequences. These offences need to be decriminalized. Prison overcrowding can to a certain measure be addressed by using non-custodial sentencing options, such as community service, fine or parole. There
are only a few African states where these measures are used on a significant scale.

46. I therefore take this opportunity to remind all States to respect the human rights of persons deprived of their liberty in accordance with Article 6 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, while inviting them to adhere to and comply with the World Health Organization's Interim Guidelines on the Preparation, Prevention and Control of Covid-19 for prisons and other places of detention. States are also urged to make use of the Commission’s Guidelines on Conditions of Arrest, Police Custody and Pre-Trial Detention in Africa and the Principle on Decriminalization of Petty offences in Africa, adopted by the Commission and facilitate its dissemination.

SECTION IV - POLICE AND COVID-19

47. The Covid-19 pandemic has compelled States Parties to take measures restricting some fundamental rights and freedoms. Given that they were not expected to be voluntarily complied with, there was a need to engage the public forces of law and order to impose the use of their legal powers.

48. The Special Rapporteur is particularly concerned about publicly reported incidents of extrajudicial killings, torture, abuse of authority, arbitrary arrest and detention of civilians by the police and other law enforcement officials in some African States, in the context of the implementation of national regulations to contain the spread of COVID-19, under the heading “Stay at Home”.

49. The Special Rapporteur would like to remind States that, despite the declared State of Emergency, there are international human rights principles that guide the use of force and firearms, with emphasis on the principles of legality, necessity, proportionality and accountability. Thus, States must ensure that the response of Law Enforcement and Public Security Forces to States of Emergency during the COVID-19 pandemic, is consistent with these principles and do not endanger human life.

50. In the same vein, States are also reminded that the right to life, protection against torture, cruel and degrading treatment are absolute and irrevocable rights, even in a State of Emergency.

51. The Special Rapporteur calls on everyone to respect and scrupulously follow the lockdown regulations issued by Governments of all African States, in order to avoid unnecessary confrontations with the Police and other Law Enforcement Officials.
52. Governments are also urged to ensure that law enforcement officials receive strict guidelines for operations in emergency situations and that allegations of violations be investigated and the perpetrators brought to justice as soon as possible. The Special Rapporteur calls on Governments to ensure that Law Enforcement Officials are given strict guidelines for operations in emergency situations.

53. Finally, the Special Rapporteur also calls on all Governments, the Commission’s partners and Civil Society Organizations, to help minimize the consequences of the State of Emergency declared in several African countries, by raising awareness and monitoring its compliance, in order to prevent the uncontrollable spread of COVID-19 on the African continent.

SECTION V: CHALLENGES

A/ Challenges Encountered in the Execution of my Mandate

54. The following are challenges encountered in the implementation of my mandate as a Member of the Commission and as the Special Rapporteur on Prisons, Conditions of Detention and Policing in Africa:

   i. the failure to recruit a Portuguese-speaking Legal Officer to date and after 3 years, by the Human Resources Department of the African Union Commission (AUC), to assist in the implementation of my mandate, as is the case with the other Commissioners who have Legal Officers assisting them in their respective working languages;

   ii. failure to translate most of the working documents of the Commission in Portuguese, during Sessions and other statutory meetings, as is done with other languages such as French and English;

   iii. the lack of translation of the key documents and legal instruments of the Commission into Portuguese, which is one of the official working languages of the AU; and

   iv. The need to recruit Portuguese speaking interpreters/translators for the Commission, as there are none currently and to avoid the delays that arise in the translation of working documents.

   v. Continue to engage with more government and civil society actors committed to issues related to Prisons, Conditions of Detention and Police Action in Africa, to cooperate with the Commission, lending their expertise and contributing to a better understanding of the situations reported above at the continental level.
B/ Challenges faced in the area of Prisons and Conditions of Detention in Africa & Policing and Human Rights in Africa

55. In addition to the cited above on prisons and Covid-19, and to avoid repetition, all the challenges highlighted in my previous activity reports remain unchanged.

56. The challenges faced in the area of policing and human rights also remain unchanged as in previous reports, as very few activities were carried out to bring about a huge shift.

57. However, virtual regional trainings have been planned to allow for greater territorial coverage; and trainings will include the police and prisons officers, parliamentarians and judges, in order to narrow the gaps between national laws governing policing and the regional and international human rights principles and standards applicable in the area of policing, taking into account the new reality of the Pandemic.

58. Pursue the efforts to continue the Study designed by Commission regarding, the excessive use of force; and initiate another on the current state of prisons since 1996, when the Mechanism was created.

SECTION VI: RECOMMENDATIONS & CONCLUSIONS

A/ RECOMMENDATIONS ON PRISONS AND CONDITIONS OF DETENTION IN AFRICA

State Parties

59. State Parties are urged to:

   i. in partnership with the Commission, initiate a review of the status of prisons in Africa since the establishment of the Mechanism in 1996;
   ii. dedicate funding to prisons and other places of detention, renovate and build new prisons in line with the Revised Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Mandela Rules) to improve the standard/conditions of detention, taking into consideration the post-pandemic period;
   iii. adhere to and comply with the World Health Organization's Interim Guidelines on the Preparation, Prevention and Control of COVID-19 for prisons and other places of detention;
   iv. develop and provide human rights training to Prison Officials;
v. establish or designate Independent National Bodies mandated to undertake regular visits to Prisons and grant requests for prison visits from Civil Society Organizations and other stakeholders;

vi. conduct independent and timely investigations into any death in custody, and bring the perpetrators to justice;

vii. grant authorization for promotion missions and prison visits requested by the Special Rapporteur to Member States;

viii. include adequate information and statistical data on Prisons and other places of detention in State Reports submitted under Article 62 of the African Charter;

ix. implement the recommendations and decisions of the Commission in particular in Concluding Observations, Urgent Appeals, Resolutions and Communications, and

x. implement the following instruments adopted by the Commission in taking measures to ensure the respect for the dignity of persons deprived of their liberty:

a) Guidelines on the Conditions of Arrest, Police Custody and pre-trial detention in Africa (the Luanda Guidelines);

b) Principles on Decriminalization of Petty Offences in Africa

c) Guidelines and Measures for the Prohibition and Prevention of Torture, Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in Africa (The Robben Island Guidelines);

d) Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Fair Trial and Legal Assistance in Africa;

e) The Ouagadougou Declaration and Plan of Action on Accelerating Prisons and Penal Reforms in Africa; and

f) Principles on the Decriminalization of Petty Offences in Africa (Ouagadougou Declaration)

Civil Society Organizations and National Human Rights Institutions

60. Civil Society Organizations and National Human Rights Institutions are urged to:

i. continue to monitor conditions of prisons and places of detention in Africa and make recommendations;

ii. conduct regular visits to prisons and other places of detention to ensure the respect of the rights and dignity of detainees;

iii. submit shadow reports on State Periodic Reports submitted under Article 62 of the African Charter in relation to prisons and conditions of detention in States Parties; and

iv. encourage other organizations that work with prisoners rights to join their efforts with those of the Commission, for a better protection.
Donors and Partners:

i. continue to provide financial and technical assistance to the Mechanism to carry-out the necessary research and gather information that will serve as a basis for the development of appropriate activities for better criminal justice systems in Africa.

B/ RECOMMENDATIONS ON POLICING AND HUMAN RIGHTS

State Parties:

61. State Parties are urged to:

i. refrain from excessive use of force and subsequent violations of the human rights of individuals and take appropriate measures to put an end to such acts of abuse of authority by the Police and other Security Forces against civilians;

ii. undertake the necessary law reviews and amendments to existing legislations;

iii. develop sufficient initial and in-service human rights training programmes for Police Officers and integrate aspects of law enforcement in a state of emergency (emergency, calamity and others);

iv. disseminate, at all levels, the measures taken by some States for other states to emulate;

v. in case of excessive use of force by the agents of public order and security, to hold the perpetrators responsible;

vi. disseminate data on complaints and the results of the investigations carried out, for public knowledge;

vii. call on governments to provide appropriate protective equipment’s to law enforcement officers;

viii. promote the employment of women within the police and penitentiary services;

ix. disseminate and implement the instruments below, train Law Enforcement Officials on their content:
   a) Policing Assemblies Guidelines;
   b) Luanda Guidelines;
   c) Resolution ACHPR/RES.259 (LIV) 2013 on Policing and Human Rights; and
   d) Resolution ACHPR/Res.103a (XXXX) 06 on Police Reform, Accountability and Civilian Police Oversight in Africa;

x. provide information on the status of implementation of the Luanda Guidelines and the Policing Assemblies Guidelines when submitting
their Periodic States reports, as well as the Principles on the Decriminalization of Petty Offences in Africa;

xi. establish or designate an Independent Civilian Police Oversight Institution where civilians can freely access and report/complain about cases of abuse and violence committed by Police officers;

xii. ensure that laws and policies applied by the Police with respect to the need to counter-terrorism do not create sources of human rights violations especially during arrests and detention by the Police; and

xiii. enhance Police cooperation within regional and sub-regional frameworks in order to provide the appropriate means for Law Enforcement Agents including the Police, to prevent terrorists’ actions and protect civilians from such actions.

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs):

62. Civil Society Organizations are urged to:

i. assist the Commission in mobilizing society on the seriousness of the pandemic's consequences and, thereby, the need for voluntary compliance with the restriction measures legally imposed by the States Parties.

ii. assist the Commission to disseminate and promote the instruments relevant to Policing including the Luanda Guidelines, the Policing of Assemblies Guidelines and the Principles on the Decriminalization of Petty Offences in Africa;

iii. continue to monitor conditions of arrests and detention in Police custody; and


Donors and Partners:

63. Donors and partners are urged to:

i. provide financial and technical assistance to the mechanism to undertake relevant activities in the area of policing and human rights and specially to facilitate the dissemination and promotion of the Luanda Guidelines, the Policing Assemblies Guidelines; and the Principles on the Decriminalization of Petty Offences in Africa; and

ii. the Mechanism has so far produced 13 Newsletters on Policing and Human Rights in Africa and has started the production of Newsletter 14 on Police and Human Rights. I would like to urge donors and partners to renew and strengthen the support to the Mechanism for the continuing production of this Newsletter, which significantly contributes to awareness raising and promote human rights compliance policing in Africa.
CONCLUSION:

64. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my profound gratitude to all our partners, in particular, APCOF, DIHR, OSF, NANHRI, ICRC and the all Members of the Regional Campaign to Decriminalize Petty Offences in Africa, for their continued assistance and support to the mechanism. Finally, I would also like to encourage other partners, including States Parties to collaborate with the Mechanism in holding trainings to disseminate the Commission's publications on prisons, policing and human rights, and to authorize promotion missions.