



ACDHRS



ACHPR

PARTICIPATION OF NGOS IN THE 56TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE
AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS AND 30TH
AFRICAN HUMAN RIGHTS BOOKFAIR

17-19 APRIL, 2015
BANJUL, THE GAMBIA

INFORMATION BROCHURE

Introduction: The Forum on the Participation of NGOs in the Ordinary Sessions of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), also known as the 'NGOs Forum' is the main advocacy tool that the African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS) uses to promote networking among Human Rights NGOs, for the promotion and protection of human rights in Africa.

In an attempt to ensure that African-based NGOs, in particular, are kept informed of all developments in human rights and democracy situations in Africa, the NGOs Forum was initiated, whereby participants coming from all parts of Africa and beyond, would have a chance of updating their colleagues on what has been happening in their parts of the continent.

The NGOs Forum is organized twice a year preceding the Ordinary Session of the ACHPR as a platform where updates on the human rights situation in Africa are tabled and discussed by the NGO community with a view of identifying possible remedies, which are forwarded to the African Commission as contribution to its work during a said Session.

Objectives: The main objective of the NGOs Forum is to foster closer collaboration among NGOs and with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, for the purpose of promoting and protecting human rights in Africa. It also aims to:

- foster collaboration and co-operation amongst NGOs and with the African Commission for the promotion and protection of human rights on the continent

- provide a discussion platform for organizations to share ideas and experiences on democracy and human rights issues in the continent
- deliberate upon and adopt resolutions and or recommendations on specific themes and countries, for eventual presentation to the African Commission Session for consideration during its sittings
- promote inter-regional and organizational networking for the implementation of decisions of the Forum as contained in the ACHPR Communiqué amongst others.
- encourage African governments to domesticate and implement provisions enshrined in existing regional and international human rights instruments to which they are parties, thereby improving the human rights situation in Africa.

April, 2015 NGOs Forum: The Forum preceding the 56th Ordinary Session of the African Commission and the 30th African Human Rights Bookfair will be held from 17-19 April, 2015 in Banjul, The Gambia.

The said Session which was scheduled to be held in October/December, 2014 in Niamey/Banjul was postponed due to the outbreak of the Ebola pandemic in three (3) countries in the West Africa sub-region.

The last Forum held in Luanda, Republic of Angola from 24-26 April, 2014 preceding the 55th Ordinary Session of the African Commission. The Forum was a resounding success with over 200 participants, coming from civil society organization and NGOs in Africa and beyond.

Content: The Forum will cover three (3) main thematic areas namely: Status of Human Rights and Democracy in Africa, Special Interest Groups Discussions and Networking for Human Rights

Language and Participants: The Forum will be conducted in English and French with simultaneous interpretation facilities. Participants working on democracy, human rights and the rule of law issues in Africa and beyond will participate in the Forum.

Expected Outcomes: At the end of the Forum, a Press Conference will be held to share the outcomes of the proceedings of the Forum in addition to the following outcomes:

- Adoption of Recommendations emanating from presentations and the working group discussions, which will be forwarded to the African Commission for its consideration during the 56th Ordinary Session.
- NGOs Statement at the official opening of the 56th Ordinary Session (highlighting deliberations of the NGOs Forum).
- Update on the situation of human rights in the continent, particularly countries whose State Reports will be examined during the 56th Session (Algeria, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Malawi, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Uganda)
- Increased knowledge on the African human rights system, especially the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
- Enhanced cooperation between the regional and international systems and mechanisms for human rights promotion and protection
- Sharing of information for participating NGOs to apply for observer status with the African Commission.
- Increased or enhanced sub-regional, regional and international networking, advocacy and lobbying opportunities
- Report of the NGOs Forum and 30th African Human Rights Bookfair

Visa

Participants are encouraged to make the necessary visa arrangements, where required, before departing from their respective countries to The Gambia. Where participants do not have Gambia Diplomatic Representation in their countries of residence, the ACDHRS would endeavor to facilitate the issuance of visa on arrival to such participants, provided the ACDHRS is informed well in advance.

Accommodation

The African Centre would negotiate room rates on behalf of participants and forward such information to participants.

Application Deadline

All participants must register online no later than **Friday, 27th March, 2015** in order to facilitate administrative and logistic arrangements. The African Centre is not obliged to process registration forms received after the deadline.

Registration fees

All participants to the Forum are to meet the full cost of their participation, including a registration fee of US\$100.00 (one hundred United States Dollars) or its equivalent in Gambian Dalasis. Please note that this amount is **subsidised** by the African Centre to meet the cost of hire of conference room, tea and coffee breaks, lunch, documentation, stationery and other administrative logistics for the duration of the Forum **only**.

Furthermore, note that the said amount should be paid by **ALL** participants in cash at the registration desk on **Friday, 17th April, 2015**

Please disseminate this information to your networks as widely as possible.