


AFRICAN UNION		UNION AFRICAINE
الاتحاد الأفريقي African Commission on Human & Peoples' Rights		UNIÃO AFRICANA Commission Africaine des Droits de l'Homme & des Peuples
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**81st Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human & Peoples' Rights  
17<sup>th</sup> October to 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

**Relationship and Cooperation between the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and NGOs**

1. Article 45(1)(c) of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights mandates the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (the Commission) to *"co-operate with other African and international institutions concerned with the promotion and protection of human and peoples' rights."*
2. As at the 77<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session held in October/November 2023, the Commission had enhanced its criteria for granting observer status by adopting **Resolution 572 on the Criteria for Granting and Maintaining Observer Status to Non-Governmental Organizations working on Human and Peoples' Rights in Africa.**
3. **Resolution 572 on the Criteria for Granting and Maintaining Observer Status to Non-Governmental Organizations working on Human and Peoples' Rights in Africa** recognises the important role of NGOs in supporting the Commission to fulfill its mandate of promoting and protecting human and peoples' rights in Africa.
4. Furthermore, the Resolution states that NGOs with observer status "shall undertake to establish close relations of co-operation with the Commission and to engage in regular consultations with it on matters of common interest," and "present their activity reports to the Commission every two years."

**Status of granting Observer Status to Non-Governmental Organizations**

5. As at the 79<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session held in May/June 2024, The Commission granted Observer Status to ten (10) NGOs, in accordance with the Resolution on the Criteria for Granting and Maintaining Observer Status to Non-Governmental Organizations working on Human and Peoples' Rights in Africa, namely:
  - i. **Afrogiveness;**
  - ii. **IBSAR Association;**
  - iii. **Tunisian Coalition against the Death Penalty;**
  - iv. **Danish Institute against Torture - Dignity;**

- v. Centre for Human Rights and Democracy;
- vi. Lawyers for Human Rights;
- vii. Hope Inspired Foundation for Women and Youth with Disabilities;
- viii. Rwanda Men's Resource Centre;
- ix. Friends of Angola;
- x. Women's Legal Aid Centre.

### Status of submission of Activity Reports to the Commission

6. As at the 79<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session held in May/June 2024, **five hundred and seventy one (571)** NGOs have been granted Observer Status with the Commission.
7. During the inter-session period, prior to commencement of the 81<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Session, the following **Eight (8)** NGOs submitted their activity reports to the Secretariat of the Commission:
  - (i) African Policing Civilian Oversight (APCOF) - No. 372;
  - (ii) FIACAT - No. 40 ;
  - (iii) Association Djazairouna - No. 487;
  - (iv) East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project (Defend Defenders) - No. 359;
  - (v) The Great Lakes Initiative for Human Rights and Development - No. 502;
  - (vi) Trial International - No. 522; and
  - (vii) Observatoire Ivoirien des Droits de l'Homme (OIDH) - No. 518;
  - (viii) Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights - No. 329.
8. To date, among the **five hundred and seventy one (571)** NGOs with Observer Status, **four hundred and fifteen (415)** NGOs have submitted one or more reports on their activities.
9. The Commission would like to commend these NGOs for fulfilling the requirement of submitting activity reports, and takes this opportunity to call on all NGOs which enjoy the benefits of Observer Status, to consistently submit activity reports to the Commission every two years, in line with the provisions of **Resolution 572**.