



# THE STATE REPORTING PROCEDURE

**ROAD MAP FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT AT THE AFRICAN  
COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS**

2025 REVISION

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## CREDITS

Authors: Adélaïde Etong Kame, Salomé Boucif, Antoine Tremblay  
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# INTRODUCTION

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Created by the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights adopted, by African Union member States in 1981, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights<sup>1</sup> (the 'African Commission' or 'ACHPR') is a regional quasi-judicial institution headquartered in Banjul, The Gambia, and the primary human rights institution of the African Union.

The African Charter requires that States give effect to the rights guaranteed therein at the domestic level. To ensure effective implementation by States, the African Commission conducts the State periodic review<sup>2</sup>, its primary human rights protection procedure. The State periodic review (or 'State reporting procedure') is covered by Article 62 of the African Charter. It requires that all States submit every two years a report on the legislative and other measures taken to give effect to the rights and freedoms recognised and guaranteed in the African Charter. The consideration of State reports is a core element of the African Commission's work, whose purpose is, in the words of the African Commission, 'to create a channel for constructive dialogue' with States on the state of implementation of the African Charter. The State Reporting Procedure provides an opportunity to evaluate positive measures already taken by the State being reviewed, identify obstacles to the full realisation of guaranteed rights, and formulate recommendations for improving State practice.

Civil society engagement in the State periodic review is vital to the success of the process. Indeed, civil society engagement serves to contribute the perspectives of civil society organisations (CSOs), non-governmental organisations (NGOs), non-profit organisations (NPOs), human rights defenders (HRDs), and more, on a country's human rights situation, complementing, supplementing, or even contradicting and correcting the government's perspective on things, thereby ensuring that the African Commission has a picture of a country's human rights situation on the ground as complete and accurate as possible. Moreover, civil society engagement can help to improve the quality of the final recommendations by the African Commission to a State at the end of its review and to improve the effectiveness of the follow-up on national-level implementation.

Despite its potential, the State reporting procedure faces a number of serious difficulties. In general, States parties have shown insufficient engagement in the process: the majority of States are not up to date in their reporting; States fail to engage actively with the ACHPR; and the African Commission lacks capacity to ensure appropriate follow up and implementation of its recommendations.

In addition, civil society organisations have not extensively engaged in this process. Relatively few CSOs participate regularly in the ACHPR's sessions, and those that do often do not focus on the State reporting procedure. Moreover, available advice on CSO engagement with the ACHPR focuses relatively little attention on this procedure.

**This road map is an effort to address this gap and encourage CSOs to engage more extensively in the process. It provides basic information on the procedure (including on what States need to do), describes challenges, and shares tips based on concrete experiences by CSOs working with the ACHPR.**

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<sup>1</sup> African Commission Official Website, ACHPR <https://achpr.au.int/en>

<sup>2</sup> State Reporting Procedure and Guidelines, ACHPR, 2025 <https://achpr.au.int/en/states/reporting-procedures>



## BASIC INFORMATION ON THE AFRICAN COMMISSION

The African Commission was created in 1986 by the African Charter, in particular Articles 30 to 45. The African Commission is composed of 11 Commissioners nominated by States and approved by the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government for a mandate of 6 years renewable once. All Commissioners serve in their personal capacity.

The African Commission's mandate includes:

- the promotion of human rights,
- the protection of human rights,
- the interpretation of the African Charter,
- and any other task as entrusted to it by the African Union.

As such, the African Charter pursues a wide range of activities: considering communications submitted by States or individuals on human rights violations; setting up Special Mechanisms<sup>3</sup> to focus on certain thematic issues; conducting fact-finding missions in certain countries on situations of human rights violations; making public statements on human rights issues or situations; developing soft law instruments, etc. Civil society and States can participate in these various activities in a number of ways.

For more information on the ACHPR and its related mechanisms, we encourage you to consult the ISHR Academy module: <https://academy.ishr.ch/learn>

<sup>3</sup> Special Mechanisms Page, ACHPR, <https://achpr.au.int/en/special-mechanisms>



# WHAT IS THE STATE REPORTING PROCEDURE?

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The State periodic review is the African Commission's main procedure under its promotional mandate.

Pursuant to the African Charter, States parties are to present reports to the African Commission every two years outlining steps taken to ensure implementation of rights contained in the African Charter. Similarly, States may also be bound to report on the implementation of the Maputo Protocol and/or the Kampala Convention, if they have ratified these instruments too. The guidance<sup>4</sup> provided by the ACHPR to States regarding the preparation of reports defines that States should make available both information on the legal structure for integrating rights into their national systems, and the extent to which these measures have been successful in ensuring enjoyment of these rights in practice.

As noted above, the creation of a constructive environment for dialogue is an important objective of the process. The process is, therefore, intended to provide a basis for exchange between the African Commission and States with a view to promoting the exchange of best practices and lessons learned when implementing the African Charter.

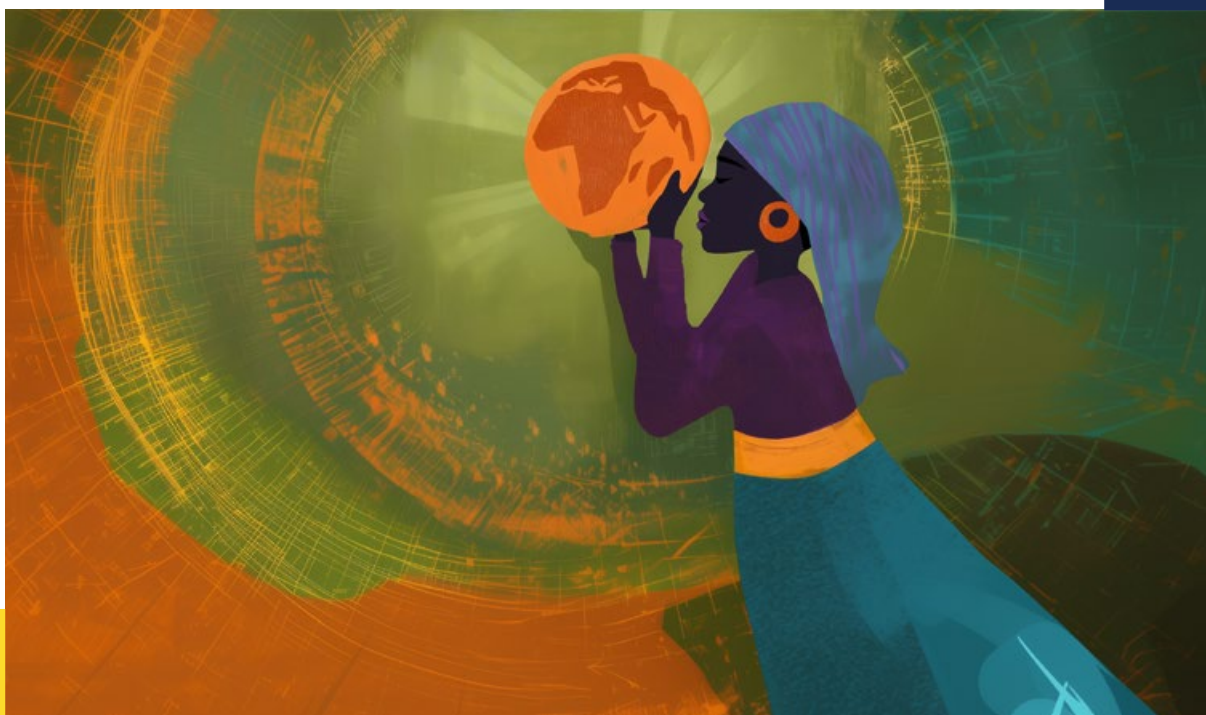
The process includes the following phases:

1. submission of the State periodic report  
(up to 120 days before the ordinary session during which the State will be reviewed)
2. submission of NGO shadow reports and other stakeholders reports  
(up to 30 days before the ordinary session during which the State will be reviewed)
3. consideration of the State periodic report  
(during the ordinary sessions of the African Commission)
4. adoption of concluding observations  
(after the ordinary sessions of the African Commission during which the State was reviewed)
5. State reports are made available on the African Commission's website ahead of the ordinary session<sup>5</sup> during which a State will be reviewed, once submitted by the State.

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<sup>4</sup> State Reporting Procedure and Guidelines, ACHPR, <https://achpr.au.int/en/states/reporting-procedures>

<sup>5</sup> States Reporting Status, ACHPR, <https://achpr.au.int/en/states-reporting-status>



## GENERAL CHALLENGES

The State reporting procedure suffers from a number of serious challenges. These include:

- **Lack of consultation of civil society in the drafting of the State report:** the [Guidelines on Shadow Reporting of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights](#) recommend that the State, when drafting its report, includes civil society input (see section: elaboration of the State report). If this is the case in your country, you should consider participating and/or pushing for your State to hold consultations. In practice, however, this is not always possible, either because the State is unable, or unwilling, to include civil society input. In such a case, you should consider submitting your own NGO shadow report.
- **Delay in the submission of reports by States:** a major challenge for activists is the delay in State reporting before the African Commission. As of the 81st Ordinary Session of the African Commission in October 2024, only 10 African States were fully up to date on their periodic reports submissions, namely Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Eritrea, Kenya, Mauritania, Mozambique, Senegal, Uganda and Zambia; 5 African States were in the process of preparing to submit combined late reports, namely Burkina Faso, Angola, Ethiopia, Mauritius and Zimbabwe; 10 were late by one report; 3 were late by two reports; 1 was late by 3 reports; 19 were late by more than three reports; and 6 had never presented a single report in the history of the African Commission (Comoros, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, São Tomé and Príncipe, Somalia, and South Sudan)<sup>6</sup>. Furthermore, there are few repercussions for non-compliance. Indeed, the African Commission regularly reports on

<sup>6</sup> ACHPR81: Situation of State Reporting at the African Commission, ISHR, 2025 <https://ishr.ch/latest-updates/achpr81-situation-of-state-reporting-at-the-african-commission/>

this, both at the session and to other African Union organs, but little action is taken to ensure submissions are made in due time. This is a serious obstacle to civil society engagement, particularly in those countries that have never submitted reports.

- **Lack of predictability regarding when a State report will be reviewed:**

Another obstacle is the lack of clarity about when State reports will be considered, making it difficult for CSOs to plan their involvement. Typically, the States which are to be examined at a given session are identified at the preceding session. However, corresponding documentation, in particular reports, may be published anywhere between several months and a few days before the scheduled review of the State. Moreover, the review of a State can be postponed to a later session on very short notice, including at the request of the State itself. This means that it is difficult for CSOs to plan targeted interventions around the date and time when the report will be discussed.

- **Delay in the review of State reporting:** Even when the schedule is made public, State presentations are often delayed. For example, at the 81st ordinary session, Mauritius' review was scheduled to take place but in the end was postponed to the following session. Not only does this send a worrying signal about the lack of government commitment, but it also makes it difficult for civil society organisations, particularly those with scarce resources, to be present during the relevant session.

- **Lack of CSO oral statements during the sessions of the review:** Although CSOs can attend the sessions during which State reports are considered, they cannot take the floor to make statements or ask questions. That's why it's important to clearly suggest some questions in the report, as mentioned in the next section.

- **Lack of emphasis on follow-up:** Another obstacle is the minimal focus placed on follow-up by the African Commission itself. For example, although the ACHPR posts State reports on its website, only a handful of concluding observations of the African Commission are available once the State has undergone its review, impeding capacity to monitor State responses.



# GUIDELINES FOR STATE REPORTING

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In order to facilitate proper State reporting, the ACHPR has developed Guidelines on State Reporting<sup>7</sup> for States parties in relation to the preparation of reports. The African Commission focuses on two sorts of State reporting: the initial and periodic reports. Although these are differentiated quite extensively in the guidelines, the questions dealt with are more or less the same. The key difference is only that the initial report should provide comprehensive information and periodic reports should focus on developments since the State's previous report and on response to comments.

The African Commission guidelines request information on a broad spectrum of rights issues at the national level:

- civil and political rights
- economic, social and cultural rights
- peoples' rights
- specific rights and duties provided for in the African Charter
- elimination of all forms of discrimination based on race, identity, gender, ethnicity, religion, or country of origin.

Although these guidelines focus on the provisions of the African Charter, they also draw on other areas of international law, particularly in the sections on discrimination against women and relating to the crime of apartheid. In [its reporting guidelines on economic, social, and cultural rights \(the 'Tunis Reporting Guidelines'\)](#), the ACHPR sets out specific standards and rights on which it would like information. CSOs wishing to engage with the process should familiarise themselves with the particular information requested by the African Commission. The African Commission has also adopted [reporting guidelines for the 'Maputo Protocol' on the Rights of Women in Africa](#) and [relating to Extractive Industries, Human Rights and the Environment](#).

As a general rule, certain core questions should be addressed in each section of the State report:

- Is the right in question protected in the national constitution?
- What other national laws and policies regulate the enjoyment of this right?
- What limitations are placed on this right?
- Can African Charter provisions related to this right be invoked in national courts?
- What recourse is available in the event that this right is violated?
- What other measures have been taken to ensure that this right is respected in practice (for economic, social, and cultural rights, this may include social programmes and policies, as per the above-mentioned 'Tunis Reporting Guidelines')?
- What obstacles lay in the way of full realisation of this right?

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<sup>7</sup> Guidance Note on State Reporting, ACHPR, 2023 <https://achpr.au.int/fr/node/3762>

In addition to responding to the substantive questions above, it is important that reports include detailed and concrete information useful in assessing the human rights situation in each country.

The following suggestions could help to ensure that the report is comprehensive:

- The report should contain the following annexes: copies of the relevant laws, regulations, agreements and judicial decisions in order to facilitate their consideration. Detailed discussion of relevant provisions should be included.
- The report should, as much as possible, refer to concrete cases and actions. These are more useful in illustrating the situation of human rights than general assertions that rights are protected.
- The report should reflect on the extent to which rights are enjoyed in practice and not only on efforts that the State party has undertaken.
- The use of credible statistics will provide an opportunity for concrete evaluation and for assessment of the State's progress in implementing its human rights obligations.
- The report should be elaborated in a consultative manner, including ministries and State agencies as well as civil society organisations with access to relevant information.
- In order to ensure transparency, the report should include a methodology section and a description of civil society engagement in the process, about which the African Commission will ask questions during its review (for an example, see Mozambique)<sup>8</sup>.
- The report must address a large range of human rights issues, including the rights of minorities, gender rights etc.
- The report must acknowledge challenges to the fulfilment of human rights, acknowledging and responding to criticism of its human rights record previously raised by the African Commission, national human rights bodies, and CSOs.

From past sessions, **frequent questions** asked by the African Commission to the States are related to:

- request for statistics
- involvement of CSOs in the drafting of the report
- compliance of the report to the guidelines
- link between the rights reported on and the articles of the African Charter
- concrete, positive measures taken to realise the rights enshrined in the African Charter.

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<sup>8</sup> ACHPR79: Mozambique should share the measures taken to better protect defenders, ISHR (2024), <https://ishr.ch/latest-updates/achpr79-mozambique-should-share-the-measures-taken-to-better-protect-defenders/>

# ELABORATION OF THE STATE REPORT

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This is the process of drafting by the government under review. The African Commission's guidelines do not provide specific guidance as to the procedure to be followed, except that it should be produced in a consultative manner.

## Challenges

- failure of States to undertake the preparation of State reports
- inconsistent quality of State reports
- lack of engagement with civil society organisations in the drafting of State reports
- lack of transparency about when State reports are likely to be prepared and submitted, limiting the possibility for civil society early engagement in the process
- lack of awareness about State reporting procedures at the national level.

## Tips for civil society

- Pressure your government to submit its report to the ACHPR and to do it in a timely manner.
- Advocate to make sure the authorities engage relevant stakeholders in the drafting process, such as National Human Rights Institutions and CSOs. The participation in this process does not exclude the possibility to submit CSOs reports directly to the ACHPR.
- Draw attention to States' negligence in the submission of reports at the national level through direct communication with States (advocacy letters and meetings with relevant departments) and indirectly through articles in newspapers.
- Ask members of the ACHPR to request information about stakeholders engagement in the elaboration of the State report, including requesting a list of CSOs consulted.
- Urge Commissioners to pay close attention to State compliance with reporting guidelines.
- Encourage training of governments on best practices with regard to State reports. Such efforts could also be undertaken at the regional level through the arrangement of peer reviews. Launched in 2003 by the African Union, the African Peer Review Mechanism is a mutually agreed instrument voluntarily acceded to by the Member States of the African Union as an African self-monitoring mechanism.
- Due to the lack of proactive engagement by the secretariat of the ACHPR, it is critical that CSOs conduct their own outreach to the secretariat through e-mail. This can solicit feedback on the possibility of State reporting and promote close coordination to reinforce the ACHPR advocacy for State participation.
- Identify the Commissioner responsible for your country and seek to forge a collaborative relationship and engagement with them throughout the process.



## HOW CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS CAN ENGAGE IN EACH PHASE

NGO engagement in the State reporting process can play an important role in improving that process, both by providing information to governments and the African Commission, and by following up on the implementation of recommendations. CSOs can submit what the African Commission calls 'shadow reports'. Such reports may be prepared and submitted by any organisation, regardless of whether it enjoys observer status at the African Commission or not. This is particularly important in situations in which CSOs are not involved in the elaboration process of the State report, but can also be used to supplement direct participation where governments do not integrate CSO comments. The African Commission has developed Guidelines on Shadow Reporting, specifically for other stakeholders<sup>9</sup>.

The purpose of a shadow report is to:

- help the African Commission get a more comprehensive picture of the human rights situation in your country, by providing it with credible and reliable information (other than the State report)
- alert the African Commission of human rights issues not raised by the State under review
- provide recommendations.

<sup>9</sup> Guidelines on Shadow Reporting, ACHPR, 2022, <https://achpr.au.int/en/documents/2022-10-28/guidelines-shadow-reports-african-commission-human-and-peoples>

### Tips for civil society

- Be clear, concise, and objective.
- Support your claims with properly cited sources, do not rely exclusively on press sources.
- Write your submission in one of the official languages of the African Union, i.e. English, French, Portuguese, Arabic, Swahili or Spanish.
- Include SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, reliable and time-bound) recommendations addressed to the State; for example: *'By next year, repeal the reservations made on Article 14 of the Maputo Protocol on safe abortion to provide a favourable environment for access to effective contraception and abortion care; or: 'Within the next six months, issue an invitation for a country visit of the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders.'*
- Consider structuring your shadow report around the rights guaranteed in the African Charter.
- Write specific questions that should be asked by the Commissioners to the government; for instance: *'What concrete steps does the government plan to take to address the challenges faced by women human rights defenders and ensure their effective protection by a specific legal framework ?'*
- Consider collaborating with other NGOs on joint engagement, including joint submissions, to scale your efforts and maximise your potential impact.

Submit your shadow report at least 30 days prior to the review of your State. You can submit it either by email (preferable) or by regular mail to the Secretariat of the African Commission:

### African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

31 Bijilo Annex Layout, Kombo North District, Western Region  
P.O. Box 673  
Banjul, The Gambia

Tel: (220) 4410 505

Fax: (220) 4410 504

Email: [au-banjul@africa-union.org](mailto:au-banjul@africa-union.org)



# PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS BY THE AFRICAN COMMISSION

When a report is received, the ACHPR may take a number of steps at the start of the examination process. According to the ACHPR's rules of procedures, once the Secretary has received a report from a particular State, they may, in consultation with the African Commission, transmit it to relevant specialised mechanisms and solicit comments. The rules of procedures are not completely clear on which institutions are to be approached, but the African Commission has, in practice, shared reports with credible CSOs working on that country. The African Commission has also begun publishing reports to be examined at its next session publicly on its website. In addition, the African Commission may prepare questions for the State concerned to be transmitted to the State at least six weeks prior to the session at which their report is to be considered. Consideration of State reports is governed by the Rules of Procedure of the African Commission<sup>10</sup>, in particular Rules 78 to 83.

## Challenges

- lack of public information from the African Commission about when reports are initially received
- limited outreach by the African Commission in developing its initial list of questions

## Tips for civil society

- Advocate with national authorities to encourage them to make preliminary reports available to civil society organisations.
- Engage with both Commissioners and the secretariat in encouraging them to share State reports as early as possible.
- Submit alternative information: as soon as a copy of the State report can be obtained, civil society organisations may consider compiling a CSO report in order to complement the government report.
- Providing suggested questions to be asked to States, even without a CSO's report, can be useful. These can be emailed directly to the Commissioner in charge of your country, and their assistant.
- Advocate with organisations at the NGO Forum held prior to every ACHPR session to add to and endorse your list of suggested questions.
- Given the important role the Commissioner Rapporteur in charge of your country plays in your State's review, it is important for you to keep in contact with them and copy them on all information sent to the secretariat in relation to the review of your country.

<sup>10</sup> Rules of Procedure, ACHPR, 2020 <https://achpr.au.int/en/rules-procedure>



## PRESENTATION OF THE STATE REPORT DURING THE PUBLIC SESSION OF THE AFRICAN COMMISSION

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The African Commission is to advise the State as soon as possible of the date of the session at which its report will be considered. At the session, the State is invited to present its report. Commissioners then have the opportunity to ask questions on the content of the report (which need not be limited to those questions transmitted in advance). The African Commission encourages States to send high level representatives, able to respond effectively to questions. Although the presentation is conducted during the public session and CSOs can attend, only Commissioners may ask questions.

### Challenges

- Civil society may find it difficult to attend the sessions as related arrangements can be expensive, especially given the lack of predictability with regard to the timing of the discussion of State reports.
- CSOs are not allowed to directly take the floor during the review.

### Tips for civil society

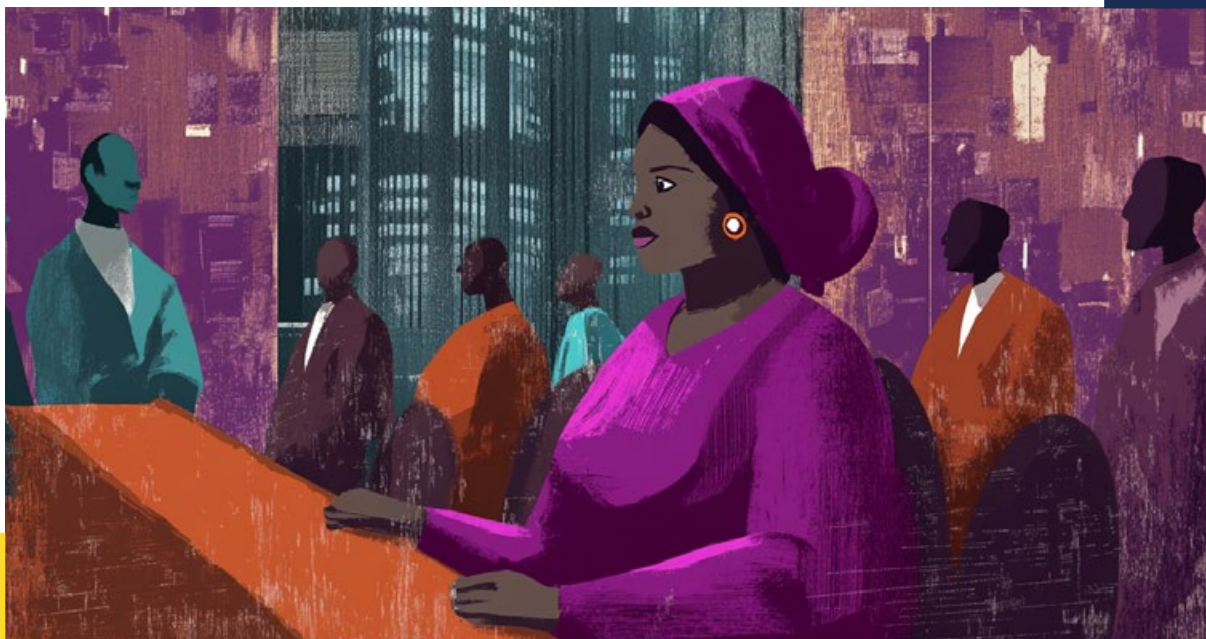
- Especially if unable to attend, engage with other CSOs which regularly attend ACHPR's sessions in order to seek assistance in transmitting ideas or information.
- Directly engage with national authorities in relation to the content of reports.
- Engage with both Commissioners and the secretariat to encourage them to pose questions suggested by civil society.
- Take advantage of the ability of organisations with observer status to make comments on other agenda items to address the content of a particular State party's report. Many issues raised in the reports can be addressed either through the agenda item on the general situation of human rights in Africa or in one of the thematic agenda items.
- Consider organising side events or private briefings for Commissioners as alternative fora for engaging in discussion on the content of State reports.
- Including statistics from reliable sources and detailed case examples can be a powerful way to illustrate human rights violations. The shadow report cannot exclusively be based on press articles. It must be focused on the specific situation of human rights in the country, not the general political situation as a whole.
- Draft suggested questions to be posed by Commissioners, organised by theme and relevant African Charter provisions and include these in the CSO report.

### Engaging in person at the ACHPR

When attending a State's periodic review during an ordinary session of the African Commission, you should consider whether you might be exposing yourself to reprisals. Reprisals are punitive measures or other acts of intimidation by States (or non-State actors) to deter human rights defenders and civil society in general from engaging in human rights work.

It is possible to suffer reprisals as a result of cooperating or attempting to cooperate with the African Commission. In the context of the State reporting procedure, this will generally not occur before the review of the State in question, as any submission made beforehand is confidential (so the State will not be able to know of your submitted shadow report until the review at the earliest).

However, reprisals may occur during or after the State's review, as it takes place during public ordinary sessions of the African Commission. You should assess your own risk of suffering reprisals prior to engaging with the State reporting procedure, and make an informed decision on whether to engage or not (and if needed, prepare a contingency plan if you decide to engage).



## FINAL CONSIDERATION OF THE STATE REPORT AND ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Once the African Commission has gathered all available information (including the State report, materials provided by CSOs, and responses to questions posed by Commissioners), it conducts a final consideration of the report. If the African Commission decides that the State in question has not discharged some of its obligations under the African Charter, it may make observations and recommendations to the State.

### Challenges

- It is difficult for civil society to engage with Commissioners at this stage of the process. Concluding observations and recommendations are generally adopted in closed session, which limits the possibilities for engagement for CSOs.

### Tips for civil society

- Make suggestions of potential recommendations in earlier engagements with the African Commission. These might also be included in NGO reports.
- Engage with Commissioners in order to encourage the adoption of particular recommendations.



## TRANSMISSION OF CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS TO THE STATE FOR COMMENTS

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The African Commission will then submit its observations to the State party for comments and may set a deadline for submission of these comments. The African Commission may submit these observations to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government with any comments supplied by the State.

### Challenges

- lack of timely communication with regard to the transmission of observations and recommendations.

### Tips for civil society

- Advocate with your government to ensure a timely response to the African Commission's preliminary assessment.



# IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE STATE

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An effective State reporting process does not end with the adoption of recommendations. It must be maintained between reporting periods and continued at the national level. CSOs have a specific role to play in ensuring that the African Commission's recommendations are implemented and followed up at the national level.

## Challenges

- lack of emphasis by the African Commission on following up on recommendations
- inability of the African Commission to enforce non-binding recommendations
- lack of political will from the States authorities to implement the recommendations
- lack of coordination among State organs in charge of the implementation of the recommendations
- Some recommendations are vague, making follow up difficult.

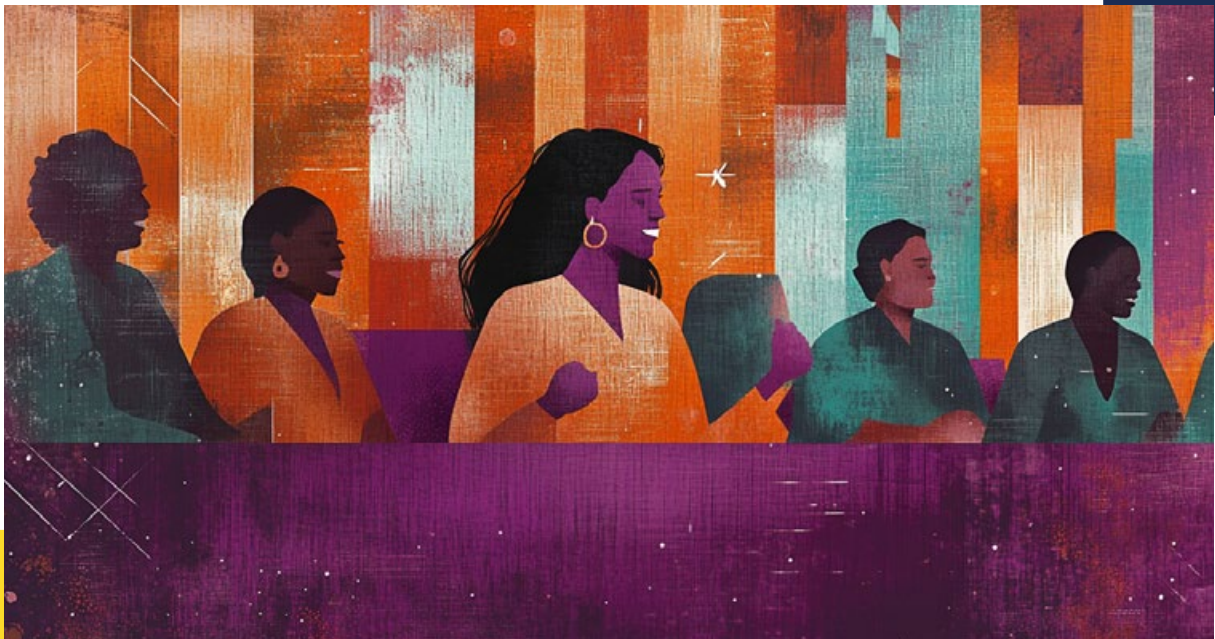
## Tips for civil society

- Advocate with the African Commission to ensure that observations are made public, particularly where States have undertaken insufficient efforts to ensure compliance.
- Disseminate, and raise awareness about available recommendations.
- Conduct advocacy campaigns in support of the African Commission's recommendations at the national level.
- Monitor government compliance with ACHPR recommendations and provide this information to the African Commission.
- Urge collaboration between the ACHPR and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and other United Nations organs to carry out joint advocacy work for the implementation of similar recommendations.
- Advocate with governments to encourage them to report regularly to the African Commission on the status of implementation of previous recommendations.

# CASE STUDIES OF ENGAGEMENT

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## 1. Namibia - Decriminalising consensual same-sex conduct



Ahead of the 69th ordinary session of the African Commission, ISHR and the Intersectional Network of Namibia submitted a [shadow report](#) drawing attention to violations of the rights of LGBTIQ+ people and defenders in the country. The report urged Namibia to repeal discriminatory laws against the LGBTIQ+ community and to align its national legislation with the African Charter, which prohibits all forms of discrimination. The Namibian delegation engaged with NGOs and expressed their commitment to respecting the human and fundamental rights of all citizens. The insights from the report contributed to the decriminalisation of same-sex relations in 2024.

- [Article](#) and [shadow report](#)
- [Amnesty International article](#)
- [The Times article](#)

## 2. Niger - Commissioners committed to ensure an enabling space for CSOs



Niger is one of the few States in Africa to fulfil its reporting obligations to the African Commission on time. After its previous review in 2017, the government submitted its 15th Periodic Report covering the period 2017-2019. The report presented the progress made by the country regarding the state of human rights, such as the ratification of international treaties and protocols.

Ahead of the review, ISHR along with the *Collectif des Organisations de Défense des Droits de l'Homme et de la Démocratie* (CODDHD) submitted a [shadow report](#) on the situation of human rights defenders in the country. During the dialogue with States, it was interesting to notice that numerous references to the report were made and several questions specifically regarding the work of human rights defenders were asked, directly influenced by the report:

*How are awareness-raising campaigns on the death penalty organised and which NGOs are involved in those campaigns?*

*What kind of training workshops are provided to civil society by the State, and how can they be financed?*

This shows the importance of asking clear and specific questions and making recommendations for the Commissioners to use.

- [Summary of the review \(ISHR\)](#)
- [Shadow report \(ISHR and CODDHD\)](#)

# CONCLUSION

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The State reporting procedure, as described above, despite its flaws and challenges, remains an invaluable opportunity for engaging with the African human rights system. As the African Commission's primary human rights promotion mechanism, it offers the unique possibility of spotlighting the human rights situation in your country. While limited by a lack of resources, unpredictability in its proceedings, and potential risk of reprisals, the procedure, with proper civil society engagement, can yield valuable results for human rights defenders in Africa.

For more on the African Commission, check out the ISHR Academy: <https://academy.ishr.ch>





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#### GENEVA OFFICE

Rue de Varembe 1, 5th floor, P.O. Box 16,  
CH-1211 Geneva 20 CIC, Switzerland

#### NEW YORK OFFICE

777 UN Plaza, 7th floor, New York,  
NY 10017, USA