


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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83rd Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human & Peoples' Rights 02nd to 22nd May 2025

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 77th 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 81st Ordinary Session held in October/November 2024, The Commission granted Observer Status to eight (8) 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. **African International Christian Ministry (AICM);**
 - ii. **Alliance of Women Advocating for Change (AWAC);**
 - iii. **Inua Advocacy;**
 - iv. **Southern Africa Human Rights Defenders Network (SAHRDN);**

- v. Association Congolaise Contre l'impunité et pour le développement (ACOCID);
- vi. Caritas Développement Bukavu;
- vii. Groupe de Recherche-Action sur la Sécurité Humaine (GRASH);
- viii. Centre d'Actions pour le Développement;

Status of submission of Activity Reports to the Commission

6. As at the 81st Ordinary Session held in October/November 2024, **five hundred and seventy nine (579)** NGOs have been granted Observer Status with the Commission.
7. During the inter-session period, prior to commencement of the 83rd Ordinary Session, the following **Five (5)** NGOs submitted their activity reports to the Secretariat of the Commission:
 - (i) **African Child Policy Forum – No. 512;**
 - (ii) **AIDS and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa-ARASA – No. 436 ;**
 - (iii) **Centre d'Actions pour le Développement – No. 580;**
 - (iv) **East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project (Defend Defenders) – No. 359; and**
 - (v) **The Human Rights Implementation Centre – No. 497;**
8. To date, among the **five hundred and seventy nine (579)** NGOs with Observer Status, **four hundred and twenty (420)** 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.**