

**FIFTH ANNUAL HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUE ON DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS
AND GOVERNANCE IN AFRICA: TRENDS, CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS**

**THEME: REFLECTING, CELEBRATING AND ADVANCING HUMAN AND
PEOPLES' RIGHTS IN AFRICA**

VENUE: - YAOUNDE, CAMEROON

DATE – 21 to 23 November, 2016

CALL FOR PAPERS – No. 001/2016

I. Background

1. The African Union has declared 2016 as African Year of Human Rights with focus on the rights of women in Africa. This auspicious year is seen as a veritable watershed in the continental human rights trajectory: it marks, among others, the 35th Anniversary of the adoption of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (the African Charter) in 1981; the 30th Anniversary of the entry into force of the African Charter in 1986; the 10th Anniversary of the operationalization of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (the African Court), and the 15th Anniversary of the operationalization of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC).
2. Dedicating 2016 as African Year of Human Rights with focus on the rights of women provides an opportunity for the peoples of Africa, to mark, commemorate and celebrate the significant milestones in Africa's continental human rights progression. It also gives Africans the chance to tell their story – not only to raise awareness about the great work they have been doing to uplift their communities, but also to inspire future generations to emulate innovative and exciting approaches to making a difference through human rights based approaches.

3. To celebrate this special year, a number of activities have been earmarked, including, publication and dissemination of human rights material, human rights awards, lectures, exhibitions, as well as a human rights Dialogue on the human rights situation on the continent.
4. The African Court on Human and Peoples Rights, in collaboration with other African Union Organs (AUC, PAP, ACHPR, ACERWC, AUABC, AUCIL, ECOSSOC), is organising a four- day Dialogue in human rights in Africa.
5. This Dialogue, which will bring together all relevant human rights stakeholders on the continent, provides a forum for frank discussions on the human rights situation on the continent. Furthermore, it will take stock of where we are, seek strategies to consolidate and improve on current gains, examine the difficulties and challenges impeding the effective protection, promotion and enjoyment of human rights and discuss strategies to deal with those challenges, with a view to adopt a concrete and realistic roadmap on the future and the way forward for human rights on the continent.
6. The Court is therefore inviting interested persons to contribute papers to the Dialogue.

II. Topics

7. The proposed topics for the Dialogue are:
 - i. The status of human rights on the continent or the human rights situation in Africa;
 - ii. Review of the implementation of the outcomes of the previous human rights conferences – Grand Bay Declaration (1999) and Kigali Plan of Action (2003) – what lessons can we learn?
 - iii. Normative framework on human rights in Africa and the implementation of human rights norms
 - iv. The status of the rights of women in Africa
 - v. The specific challenges of the girl child in Africa (with a focus either on the girl child in the context of armed conflict or on harmful traditional practices)

- vi. Enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights
- vii. The enjoyment of civil and political rights
- viii. The rights of minorities
- ix. Human Rights, good governance, the rule of law, peace and development – an indispensable nexus
- x. Implementation of decisions of human rights treaty bodies
- xi. The Role of civil society organizations in the promotion and protection of human rights
- xii. The ratification, domestication and making of declarations of human rights instruments on the continent
- xiii. The promotion and protection of human rights in post-conflict and emerging societies.

III. Language

- 8. Papers can be submitted in any of the African Union working languages, that is, Arabic, English, French or Portuguese.

IV. Selection of papers:

- 9. The selection process will be done in the following stages:

i – Submission of abstracts - Interested persons will be required to submit abstracts (of not more than 500 words), based on the proposed topics stated in paragraph 7 above. The abstracts should be sent by email, no later than **15 July, 2016**, to hld@african-court.org or registrar@african-court.org, with the subject line reading '**Call for papers – 2016 High Level Dialogue**'. Interested persons can submit as many abstracts as there are topics. However, no one will be selected for more than one presentation. In the selection process, priority will be given to Africans.

ii – examination of abstracts - a Committee will be set up to evaluate the abstracts, and those whose abstracts are selected will be invited to develop their papers. Papers shall be submitted no later than **30 September, 2016**.

- iii. **Review of papers** - The Court will set up another Committee to review the papers, and if necessary, engage the authors to see how their papers could be enriched or focused to address the theme of the Dialogue, with a view to achieving the objectives of the Dialogue.

V. **Guidelines for submission of abstracts and papers**

10. All documents must be submitted via email, and must be formatted as follows:

- i. Size 12
- ii. Line spacing – 1.5
- iii. Justification – justify
- iv. Font – Arial
- v. Type – Microsoft word
- vi. Provide 5-10 key words
- vii. Provide a short biography of not more than 200 words
- viii. Provide names, nationality, country of residence, gender, age, profession, email address and telephone numbers.

VI. **Facilitation to attend the Dialogue**

11. Resource persons selected to present papers at the Dialogue will be facilitated to attend the Dialogue. They will be provided with a return air ticket in economy class, as well as Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) for the host country of the Dialogue. They will also be paid an honorarium of \$1000.¹

For further information, please contact: hld@african-court.org or registrar@african-court.org

¹ Please note that honorariums shall be paid only for the final paper to be presented during the Dialogue. No honorarium will be paid for abstracts.