



Directorate of Information and Communication

MEDIA ADVISORY

HIGH LEVEL CONSULTATION OF MAPUTO PROTOCOL ON AFRICAN CHARTER ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS ON THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN IN AFRICA AND 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MAPUTO PROTOCOL.

INVITATION TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MEDIA

- WHAT:** High-Level Consultation meeting to accelerate the ratification, domestication and implementation of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol on Women's Rights) and the 15th Anniversary Celebrations of the Maputo Protocol.
- WHEN:** 12th -13th December, 2018.
- WHERE:** African Union Commission Headquarters, Medium Conference Hall.
- WHO:** Women, Gender and Development Directorate under African Union Commission. In collaboration with the African Union (AU) Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa (SRRWA) of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR).
- WHY:** Maputo Protocol on Women's Rights is an African regional treaty affirming women's rights to exercise self-determination and bodily autonomy free of discrimination, coercion and violence.

OBJECTIVES:

The overall objective of the High-Level Consultation Meeting is to promote the universal and full ratification, domestication and implementation of the Maputo Protocol.

The specific objectives are to:

- a. Celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Maputo Protocol.
- b. Validate and adopt the following documents:
 - Roadmap for the "All for Maputo Protocol Programme", which aims at making the Maputo Protocol a reality for all women on the continent involving all relevant stakeholders.

- Country Profiles of Members States who are yet to ratify the Maputo Protocol and Advocacy Strategies for the In-country Advocacy Missions
 - Concept Note and Action Plan for the In-country Advocacy Missions Protocol.
- c. Reaffirm the AU, United Nations and CSOs commitment to work towards the promotion of women's rights and gender equality on the continent

Participants:

The High-Level Consultation meeting will bring together various stakeholders, including, among others:

- AUC Officials
- AU Organs: African Commission on Human and People's Rights; African Court on Human and People's Rights; African Union Commission on International Law; Pan-African Parliament; and Pan-African Women's Organization.
- Member States: Ministers and Experts responsible for Gender and Women's Affairs, Experts from Ministries of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), and Members of National Parliament.
- STC Bureau Members: Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC); Burkina Faso; Mauritania; Ethiopia and Angola.
- Civil Society Organizations: women's rights organizations; women's movements and youth organizations as well as academic institutions
- UN Agencies: RCM Cluster 5 on Gender and Youth

Background:

In July 2004, the African Union (AU) adopted the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA) in which they committed to undertake to sign and ratify the Maputo Protocol by the end of 2004 to pave the way for the domestication and implementation of the Protocol alongside other national, regional and international instruments on gender equality and women's empowerment. In 2009, the African Women's Decade (2010 - 2020) was also adopted and committed AU Member States to universal ratification, full domestication and implementation of the Maputo Protocol by 2020.

Fifty one of the 55 African Union member states have signed the Maputo Protocol and forty (40) have thus far ratified it and are bound to its provisions.¹ By becoming parties to the Maputo Protocol, the forty Member States have assumed obligations and duties under international law to respect, protect and fulfill human rights. Through ratification, these States have undertaken to put into place domestic measures and legislation compatible with their obligations and duties. However, to date, only a small number of States have domesticated the Protocol and only 11 countries have submitted reports to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR).

Journalists are invited to cover the event.

The draft programme is attached:

¹ African Union, List of Countries which have signed, ratified, acceded to the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, <http://www.achpr.org/instruments/women-protocol/ratification/> (accessed on 6 April 2017).

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