



## JOINT PRESS RELEASE



### **Regional Sensitization Seminar on the promotion of the African Court**

**Addis Ababa, 16 August 2012** - The African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights is organizing a Regional Sensitization Seminar on the promotion of the Court for East and North Africa, from 22 to 24 August, 2012 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on the theme **"The African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights: Your New Partner in Strengthening the Protection of Human Rights in Africa"**

The aim of the Seminar is to enhance the protection of human rights in Africa, through among other things, raising public awareness about the Court; encouraging States that have not already done so, to ratify the Protocol establishing the Court and/or make the declaration required under Article 34(6) thereof, allowing individuals and NGOs to access the Court, after exhausting domestic remedies; sensitizing would-be applicants on how to access the Court and the procedures before it; encouraging the public to utilize the Court in settling human rights disputes; and encouraging States to seek advisory opinions from the Court on important human rights issues.

During the Seminar, participants will discuss a range of topics aimed at exploring ways of enhancing the effectiveness of the Court, including the role of the Court in contentious matters; the role of the Court in advisory matters; enforcement of the decisions of the Court; the relationship between the Court and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights; the relationship between the Court and Sub-regional Courts; and strategies to be deployed to encourage more ratifications and deposit of the above mentioned declaration.

The Conference will bring together a wide range of key stakeholders involved in the protection of human rights, including African Union organs dealing with

human rights and related issues, experts or practitioners in litigation before international tribunals, Bar Associations, national human rights institutions, academic institutions, the media and Non-governmental organizations from East and North Africa.

The opening ceremony will take place on 22 August 2012 in the Medium Hall of the New AU Conference Centre. The President and Judges of the Court, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, representatives of African and other Diplomatic Missions in Ethiopia, will be among the many dignitaries at the opening ceremony.

The Seminar follows a series of sensitization activities the Court has organized since 2011, aimed at creating awareness among stakeholders, including in particular, the Continental Conference on the Promotion of the Court held in Lilongwe Malawi, from 9 to 11 March 2011 and the Consultative and Sensitization Seminar for National Human Rights Institutions in Africa, held in Arusha, Tanzania, from 16 to 18 November, 2011.

For further information and enquiries on the seminar, *visit the AU website: [www.au.int](http://www.au.int) and the website of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights: [www.african-court.org](http://www.african-court.org).*

Interview requests should be directed to Mr. Jean-Pierre Uwanone NTAWIZERUWANONE  
Information & Communication Unit, African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights Tel : +255755763450  
Email: [info@african-court.org](mailto:info@african-court.org);  
Mrs. Yaye Nabo Sene, Directorate of Information and Communication, African Union Commission, Tel: +251 91345311, e-mail: [SENEY@africa-union.org](mailto:SENEY@africa-union.org) / Mrs. Esther Azaa Tankou, Directorate of Information and Communication, African Union Commission, tel: +251 911 3611 85, e-mail: [yamboue@africa-union.org](mailto:yamboue@africa-union.org)

**Contact:**

Ms. Grace Wakio

Legal Officer

African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights

Email: [grace.wakio@african-court.org](mailto:grace.wakio@african-court.org) or [gwakio@yahoo.com](mailto:gwakio@yahoo.com)

Tel: +255783057533/+255732979745