

**UPDATES ON AU DEVELOPMENT OF THE AFRICAN TEN-YEAR ACTION
PLAN ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS:**

21st October 2017

African Union Commission

Background:

1. The African Union (AU) has over the past three years prioritized its commitment to the promotion and protection of human and peoples' rights in Africa to deepen the culture of human rights on the continent.

The current renewal of this commitment to human and peoples' rights started in 2015 when the year was dedicated to women's economic rights and empowerment towards the realization of Agenda 2063. In a similar manner, 2016 was anchored on human and peoples' rights in general, and the rights of women in particular.

The commitment trends continue till date but in 2017 the focus shifted towards the prioritization of the rights of the African youth as this year is dedicated to "**Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investment in the Youth**". Meanwhile, 2018 has also been devoted to the fight against corruption to deepen the socio-economic and cultural rights in Africa.

Development

Reflecting back on the development of the Action Plan, the African Union five-year Human Rights Strategy for Africa (2012-2016) ended last year. In July 2015, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government declared 2017-2027 as the African Human Rights Decade and a decision was made by the AU Assembly to develop a ten-year Human Rights Action and Implementation Plan for Africa.

Following this Decision, the Human Rights and Transitional Justice Cluster of the AGA met to discuss the development. There was a call for bidders to draft the Action Plan and the Pan African Lawyers Union (PALU) emerged as the winner of the bid.

Methodology of the Development:

- a. The AU developed a comprehensive ToR, which has been used by the PALU.
- b. The first draft was subjected to the 2016 African Union High Level Dialogue on Democracy, Governance and Human Rights in Arusha in November 2016; there was also a side event for civil society to review the draft Action Plan and make inputs.
- c. A website was created to solicit African inputs to the draft Action Plan.
- d. In March 2017, the Human Rights and Transitional Justice Cluster once again met to review the draft Plan in The Gambia to see whether the document had taken into consideration the inputs from different stakeholders.

- e. Finally, another meeting of the Cluster was held in Arusha in August 2017 to review the work of the Consultants. Real progress has been made with this process and the AU now has a draft Human rights Action Plan.

Meanwhile, the consultation has not ended

1. Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANRI) November 8th in Kigali
2. Final Continental CSOs meeting at the merging of the 2017 HLD in South African
3. AU Member states and RECs Consultation.
4. Youth consultation on 21 October 2017.

Emphasis is laid on gratitude to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, especially through its East Africa Regional Office, and the Government of Norway for supporting the development of the Action Plan.

Content of the Draft Plan

(It has ten Human Rights Goals for ten Years) and these goals include

1. Educate Africans on their Rights
2. Taking seriously the African Human and Peoples Rights Laws and Policies
3. Enhancement of Peoples' and Human Rights Protection
4. Citizens Access to the African Courts; the Human Rights Commissions and other AU and RECs institutions on human Rights
5. Promote synergy among the AU Institutions on Human Rights and RECs
6. Effectiveness of Human Rights Institutions
7. Free Movement for African Citizens
8. No African is denied Citizenship
9. Development as a Right in African Union
10. Transformation of Human and Peoples' Rights in Africa by the African Leadership.

These Goals are further grouped into Five Themes, namely

- a. Inculcate a culture of human rights awareness
- b. Enhancement of States Commitment to the existing human rights obligations
- c. Human Rights Institutional Strengthening
- d. Development and African Integration
- e. Transformative Human rights Leadership

Chapter 1. Introduction to the Action Plan- structure, historical background, norms and institutions, plans of the Action Plan and challenges to realization of human rights in Africa, methodology of development etc

Chapter 2: Pillars and Key Results Areas of the Ten Years Action Plan 1. Inculcation of culture of human and peoples' rights; 2. Protection of human and people's Rights; 3. Coordination, coherence and cooperation within the African Human Rights System; 4. Institutional Strengthening within the African Human Rights System.

Chapter 3 Flagship Interventions- Free Movement of Persons in Africa, Residence and establishment Rights projects **(all have Key Result Area, Objectives and Outcomes)**

Chapter 4: Stakeholders Analysis and Role of Stakeholders in Human rights Critical relationship

Chapter 5 Institutional and Structural Arrangement- Using the AGA platform

Chapter 6. Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Learning

Chapter 7 Resourcing (Kigali declaration on Human rights Trust Fund (2003))

Chapter 8 Communication and Advocacy
Annexes.