

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

P. O. Box 3243

Telephone: 5517 700

Fax: 5517844

Website: [www. Africa-union.org](http://www.Africa-union.org)

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Fourteenth Ordinary Session
26 - 30 January 2009
Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA**

EX.CL/460 (XIV) b

**REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PRC SUB-COMMITTEE
ON REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND INTERNALLY
DISPLACED PERSONS IN AFRICA
JULY TO DECEMBER 2008**

**Report of the Activities of the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees,
Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa
July to December 2008**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons continued to implement its Programme of Work. During the remaining half of the year 2008, the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees focused its particular attention on the preparations of the Special Summit on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa which will take place in Kampala, Uganda in April 2009 in accordance with Executive Council's EX.CL/Dec. 289 (IX) of July 2006, in Banjul, The Gambia. The theme for the Special Summit is "African Union Addressing the Challenge of Forced Displacement in Africa".

II. ACTIVITIES

2. The PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees carried out the following major activities:
 - Visits to Member States,
 - Meetings, and
 - Monitoring the situation of forced displacement

a. Visits to Member States

3. During the period under review, delegations of PRC Sub-Committee on Refugee undertook missions to Angola, Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Uganda in order to assess the humanitarian situation of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in these countries. They met and had exchanges with Government Officials, AU Special Representatives, AU Partners, various humanitarian Organizations as well as member of civil society. They also had discussions with Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons during their visits in the camps.
4. In the countries emerging from conflicts, such as Angola and Burundi, the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees noticed a, urgent need of support from the international community to assist them to put in place community development projects that could help returnees to have sustainable integration in their areas of origin or places of habitual residence. On the other hand the delegations of the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees have observed that in Chad, Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Uganda the security issues were priority. The recent crisis in the DRC has forced more than 250,000 People to flee their homes and has resulted in numerous and grave violation of human rights: killing, looting, sexual abuses,

destruction of Internally Displaced Persons camps. The delegations of the PRC Sub-Committee formulated some recommendations to the attention of the Africa Union in order to support the efforts of the Governments to assist the victims of forced displacement.

b. Meetings

5. Members of the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees actively participated in several meetings. PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees chaired the Meeting of the Task Force on the AU Special Summit in August 2008. They also chaired some of the important meetings of AU Member States Experts on Forced displacement and of Legal Experts on the draft AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa. The Experts considered a set of recommendations, a Declaration as well as the draft AU Convention which were presented and thereafter adopted by Ministers in-Charge of forced displacement issues on 11 November 2008. The PRC Sub-Committee therefore noted with satisfaction the outcome of these meetings which would form a basis for the discussions at the Special Summit.
6. A Representative of the PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees was part of the Informal Group on the Special Summit which undertook a mission to Uganda on the preparations of the Summit in mid November 2008. Uganda and UNHCR are also members of the Informal Group. They exchanged views with high ranking officials and agreed on the way forward for the success of the Summit, particularly on the aspects regarding raising awareness, financial support and logistical matters.

c. Monitoring of forced displacement situation

7. The PRC Sub-Committee noted with satisfaction the positive political developments which have resulted in the voluntary repatriation of returnees and refugees many countries on the continent, particularly in Angola, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Southern region of Sudan and Uganda.
8. The PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees was also concerned about the insecurity situation which was prevailing in some regions of the continent, such as in Somalia, in the eastern part of Chad, in the region of Darfur, Sudan, and in the northern region of Central African Republic. Meanwhile, the PRC Sub-Committee commended the AU Commission for the advocacy role and the efforts it continued to play in order to resolve the crises in the countries affected by conflicts and problems of forced displacement of populations.

d. Cooperation with AU Partners

9. The PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees carried out other activities in close collaboration with AU Partners and some Members of the AU Coordinating

Committee on Protection and Assistance to Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons, in particular, UNHCR, WFP, ICRC, IOM, AHA, JRS, OCHA and UNICEF.

III. CONCLUSIONS

10. The PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons will continue to monitor the situation of forced displacement in Africa in order to ensure that victims of forced displaced population are treated in accordance with the international and regional instruments in the protection of refugees and Internally Displaced Persons.
11. The Sub-Committee will continue to together with the Commission and AU Partners and within the Special Summit Task Force on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons, in order to ensure the success of the AU Special Summit on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons. The PRC Sub-Committee on Refugees will also participate in the promotion of the Draft AU Convention on IDPs to ensure that this important instrument is signed and ratified by Member States as soon as possible.

2009

Report of the commission on the situation of refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons in Africa

African Union

African Union

<http://archives.au.int/handle/123456789/4837>

Downloaded from African Union Common Repository