

RESOLUTION ON THE AFRICAN COMMISSION
ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity meeting in its Thirty-Second Ordinary Session in Yaounde, Cameroon, from 8 to 10 July, 1996,

Considering the Ninth Annual Activity Report of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights,

Recalling that the African Charter of Human and Peoples; Rights came into force on 21 October 1986, and that 50 Member States of the OAU are parties to the Charter,

Further recalling that, in accordance with Article 25 of the said Charter, the States parties are committed to recognizing and promoting the rights, duties and freedoms enshrined in the Charter, and have undertaken to adopt appropriate measures to give effect to them,

Considering that the report on the implementation of the Charter indicates, in particular, that very few States have submitted their periodic reports on the legislative and other measures taken with a view to giving effect to the provisions of the Charter, as stipulated in Article 62 thereof,

Also considering the human and people's rights situation in Africa, and the absolute need to endow the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights with the human, material and financial resources necessary for its effective functioning,

Further considering the appeal made by the said Commission to all the States Parties to celebrate with fanfare the 10th Anniversary of the entry into force of the

African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights which comes up on 21 October 1996 and coincides with the opening date of the 20th Ordinary Session of the Commission scheduled to take place in Grand Bay, Mauritius,

Finally considering that, pursuant to Resolution AHG/Res.230 (XXX), government experts have elaborated a draft text on the establishment of an African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights and plans to consider the matter in depth in the coming days,

Aware of the absolute need to strengthen the African mechanism for the promotion and protection of Human and Peoples' Rights:

- 1. TAKES NOTE WITH IMMENSE SATISFACTION, of the Ninth Annual Activity Report of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights as well as the conclusions and recommendations contained therein, and AUTHORIZES the publication of the said Report;**
- 2. COMMENDS the African Commission for the remarkable work it accomplished during the financial year just ended;**
- 3. STRONGLY SUPPORTS the activities of the African Commission aimed at promoting and protecting the rights and freedoms recognized and guaranteed under the Charter;**
- 4. HIGHLY COMMENDS AND ENCOURAGES the States Parties which submit their periodic reports regularly, cooperate with and provide assistance to the Commission towards the execution of its mandate,**
- 5. CALLS ON the States Parties to take concrete measures to implement effectively the provisions of the Charter and, in particular, cooperate further with and step up assistance to, the Commission to enable it accomplish its mission;**

- 6. MAKES AN URGENT APPEAL to Member States of the OAU to ratify the Charter as early as possible if they have not already done so;**
- 7. URGES all the State Parties to take appropriate steps, to celebrate with fanfare the 10th Anniversary of the entry into force of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on 21 October, 1996;**
- 8. ALSO APPEALS to the State Parties to submit their periodic reports in conformity with Article 62 of the Charter, of they have not already done so;**
- 9. CALLS ON the Secretary-General of the OAU to forge ahead with the elaboration of the draft instrument establishing the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights in consultation with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights;**
- 10. FURTHER CALLS ON the Secretary-General of the OAU to take necessary measures through the appropriate organs to endow the African Commission as early as possible, with the requisite human, material and financial resources to enable it carry out its mission effectively, and to submit an appropriate report to the 33rd Ordinary Session of the Assembly.**

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