

AFRICAN UNION

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UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA P. O. Box 3243 Telephone: +251 11 551 7700 Fax: +251
115182072

Concept Paper

Declaration of 2016 as Africa Year of Human Rights

Context and Justification

1. The adoption of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948 stirred Africa to establish a human rights regime specifically tailored to suit the needs and realities of the African continent. This resolve resulted in the elaboration and adoption of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (the African Charter) in 1981. The African Charter came into force on 21 October 1986. Indeed, the then Organization of African Unity (OAU), now the African Union (AU), has already declared 21 October as African Human Rights Day to mark the significance of the entry into force of this important treaty.
2. Article 30 of the African Charter provides for the establishment of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (the Commission), a quasi-judicial treaty body charged with the responsibility of promoting and protecting human and peoples' rights on the continent. It will be recalled that this Commission was established and became operational in 1987.
3. To further strengthen the human rights regime on the continent, on 9 June 1998, the OAU adopted the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (the Protocol). The Protocol came into force on 25 January 2004 and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (the Court) started operating in November 2006, following election of the judges. This Court was established with the specific mandate of complementing the mandate of the Commission to protect human and peoples' rights in Africa.
4. Furthermore, the Second Ordinary Assembly of AU Heads of State and Government adopted in 2003 the Protocol to African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, which remains a ground breaking instrument in the advancement of women's rights in Africa. The Protocol came into force on 25 November 2005 and has been ratified so far by 36 AU Member States.
5. In addition to these two premier human rights institutions, other key AU treaty Organs have also been established by the African Union, whose mandates also reinforce the promotion and protection of human rights on the continent.

These include, amongst others, the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (the Children Committee), which was established in July 2001; the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), which was established in March 2004; the Peace and Security Council (PSC), which was established in 2003; and the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC), which was established in September 2008.

6. In addition to establishing and operationalizing the above-mentioned mechanisms whose combined efforts seek to push the continental human rights agenda forward, the O/AU adopted a number of human rights instruments and declarations, which also seek to promote and protect human and peoples' rights on the continent. In that regard, instruments governing human and peoples' rights on the continent include, among others, the following:
- i. The OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa (1969);
 - ii. The Cultural Charter for Africa (1976);
 - iii. The OAU Convention on the Elimination of Mercenarism in Africa (1977);
 - iv. The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (1981);
 - v. The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (1990);
 - vi. The Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa (1991);
 - vii. The Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community (1991);
 - viii. The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (1998);
 - ix. The OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism (1999);
 - x. Constitutive Act of the African Union (2000);
 - xi. Protocol to the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to the Pan-African Parliament (2001);
 - xii. Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union (2002);

- xiii. Statutes of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (2004);
- xiv. The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003);
- xv. The AU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Corruption (1999);
- xvi. The African Youth Charter (2006);
- xvii. The African Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance (2007);
- xviii. Protocol on the Statute of the African Court of Justice and Human Rights (2008),
- xix. Statute of the African Union Commission on International Law (2009),
- xx. AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons (2010);
- xxi. African Charter on Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration (2011).

7. The continental Organization has also adopted the following Declarations with relevance to human rights:

- a. Grand Bay (Mauritius) Declaration (1999);
- b. Declaration on Unconstitutional Changes of Government (2000);
- c. Declaration on the Principles Governing Democratic Elections in Africa (2002);
- d. Kigali Declaration (2003);
- e. Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (2004);
- f. Guidelines for Electoral Observation Missions (2004);
- g. Banjul Declaration on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. (2006).
- h. The African Women's Decade (2010 - 2020)
- i. the AU Declaration on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health by 2015;
- j. the Durban Declaration on Gender Mainstreaming and the Effective Participation of Women in the African Union;
- k. the Maputo Declaration on Gender Mainstreaming and the Effective Participation of Women in the African Union;

- l. the Abuja Declaration on HIVS/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and other related infectious diseases.
 - m. The Sandton's Declaration on 2015''Year of Women's Empowerment and Development Towards Africa's Agenda 2063''
- 8. Together with the other AU Organs with a human rights mandate, the Commission, the African Court and the Children's Committee, have made significant contributions to the promotion and protection of human and peoples' rights on the continent. AU Member States have been more than willing partners in this endeavour, and they have taken initiatives and measures at their level to give expression to the human and peoples' rights enshrined in the African Charter, particularly through the strengthening of national institutions to promote and protect human rights. As a result, while there are continuing human rights challenges on the continent, very significant strides have been made and many achievements have been recorded which are deserving of noting and celebrating.

Why celebrate 2016 as African Year of Human Rights?

- 9. The year 2016 marks a veritable watershed in the continental human rights trajectory: 2016 marks the 35th Anniversary of the adoption of the African Charter in 1981; 2016 marks the 30th Anniversary of the entry into force of the African Charter in 1986; the year marks the 29th Anniversary of the operationalization of the Commission in 1987 (in 2016 the Commission will be just one year shy of its 30th anniversary); 2016 also marks the 10th Anniversary of the operationalization of the Court.
- 10. The adoption of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (the Maputo Protocol) in 2003 ushered in a new thinking in addressing gender inequality and the rights of women in Africa. In 2016, the Maputo Protocol will be 13 years old. To reaffirm their commitment to gender equality, in 2004, the Assembly of Heads of State adopted, the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA), and this commitment was reinforced with the adoption of the first-ever African Union Gender Policy in 2009 and Assembly Declaration of 2010 - 2020 as an African Women's Decade and the launching of the Fund for African Women. The

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Assembly also committed itself to continue to expand and to accelerate efforts to promote gender equality at all levels, and the determination to build on the progress that have been achieved in addressing issues of major concern to the women of Africa.

11. It is for this reason that it was deemed necessary to declare this auspicious year (2016), the African Year of Human Rights with particular focus on the rights of women, to mark, commemorate and celebrate these significant milestones in Africa's continental human rights progression. It is an opportunity to give Africans the chance to tell their story – not only to raise awareness about the great work that they have been doing to uplift their communities, but also to inspire future generations to emulate innovative and exciting approaches to making a difference through human rights based approaches. This, in the end, will showcase the African local human rights activities by Africans themselves to solidify local humanitarian dividends and ensure longer-term outcomes.
12. The declaration of 2016 as the Africa Year of Human Rights will provide further opportunity to consolidate the gains already made over the years, ensure better coordination of human rights bodies on the continent, and move towards the establishment of a true human rights culture on the continent.

Objectives of the Celebration

General Objectives

13. The general objective of the celebrations is to raise awareness on human and peoples' rights on the continent, in particular, women's rights and take stock of progress or efforts made, including major challenges and/or obstacles encountered.

Specific objectives

14. The Specific Objectives for the celebration include:

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- i. To evaluate the level of ratification, domestication and implementation of regional and major international human rights instruments into national legislation;
 - ii. evaluate the progress made in advancing the socio-economic and political rights of women; and best practices since the coming into force of the Maputo Protocol;
 - iii. Encourage Member States to develop policies, plans of actions and programmes on the promotion and protection of human and peoples' rights, and specific programmes with the intention of integrating women in all spheres of life, so as to boost women's empowerment in Africa;
 - iv. Encourage Member States to recommit to the promotion and protection of human rights;
 - v. To encourage Member States of the African Union that have not already done so, to ratify the Protocol establishing the Court and make the declaration under Article 34(6) thereof, allowing individuals and NGOs direct access to the Court;
 - vi. Evaluate the work accomplished by various mechanisms in the promotion and protection of human rights, notably, the rights of women;
 - vii. Provide a platform for constructive debate on human rights with a view to putting human rights at the foundation of the AU framework.
 - viii. To popularize the Maputo Protocol with, information, education and communications strategies at grassroots women and men's level to make them aware of the protocol
 - ix. To popularize the Maputo Protocol and other AU and UN instruments like the CEDAW , UN Resolutions on Women with simplified publication and also translated into local languages, and also through local media used by communities.
15. It is hoped that the celebration will initiate an advocacy and coordinating campaign that effectively reaches out to stakeholders and partners at all levels (political, institutional, civil society organizations, national and community levels), and give ownership to all key stakeholders, as well as the repositories/beneficiaries of the rights enshrined in the African Charter.

Expected outcome of the Celebration

16. At the end of the celebrations:

- The population will be sensitized on human rights issues for a better understanding of national, regional and major international human rights mechanisms;
- Increased awareness, promotion and protection of the rights of women;
- Enhanced awareness of the African human rights system, including in particular, the human rights mechanisms established at national and continental levels;
- Increased domestication and implementation of regional and major international human rights instruments at the national level;
- Member States are sensitized of the need to ratify the Protocol establishing the Court and the Declaration;
- General improvement in the human rights situation in Africa;
- Increased involvement of states, civil society and individuals in the promotion and protection of human rights;
- renewed commitment by States to comply with their human rights obligations and adhere to the decisions taken by the different Organs of the African system;
- Effective integration of human rights in the operations of the African Union.

Opportunities and achievements - consolidating human rights gains

a. Achievements

17. Since the adoption of the Charter in 1981, there have been significant positive developments on the continent.

I. From a legal standpoint

18. Almost all African countries have entrenched the notion of respect for human rights in their constitutions and provided for procedures to claim remedies where violations occur. Some constitutions provide for a bill of rights with justiciable economic and social rights. Several African countries have ratified most of the UN and African human rights instruments, and others have taken steps to domesticate some of the instruments. A number of African countries have also developed national action plans for the promotion and protection of human rights.
19. With a view to mainstreaming and ensuring proper coordination of the AU's human rights project, the Union adopted in April 2011, a comprehensive *Human Rights Strategy* for Africa. The main objective of the Strategy is to take the normative human and peoples' rights framework of the continent, turn it into the concrete realities of the people of Africa, and thereby create a viable human rights culture on the continent by making the promotion and protection of human rights a reality. The Strategy examines the strategic objective, content and value modalities of enhancing the existing and unfolding human rights initiatives, and seeks to build synergies with other governance initiatives, like the African Governance Architecture.

ii. On the gender front

20. The AU adopted a Gender Policy with the purpose of establishing a clear vision and make commitments to guide the process of gender mainstreaming and women empowerment to influence policies, procedures and practices which will accelerate the achievement of gender equality, gender justice, non-discrimination and fundamental human rights in Africa. The vision of the Gender Policy is to achieve an African society founded on democracy, gender equality, human rights and dignity which recognizes the equal status of women and men, girls and boys, with both sexes thriving together harmoniously, in a peaceful and secure environment characterized by equal partnership in decision-making in the development of the Continent.

21. At the institutional level, the Women, Gender and Development Directorate (WGDD) was created in 2003 as part of the Maputo structure and placed in the Office of the Chairperson of the Commission together with other Policy and Strategic Directorates in the Commission. Furthermore, this decision was informed by the recognition that gender issues are cross-cutting by nature. The mandate of WGDD is to mainstream gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) in the AU Commission and work with AU Organs, RECs and Member States for the achievement of GEWE.

iii. At the sub-regional level

22. The majority of the regional economic communities (RECs), including the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD), and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), have Gender Units. The RECs and their Member States have elaborated Gender Policies, and adopted gender declarations, action plans and frameworks, strategic plans, gender audits and gender analysis tools which guide their gender mainstreaming, programming and budgeting.

iv. At the national level

23. To date, 70% of Member States currently have gender policies. Member States acknowledge gender mainstreaming as a global, regional and national strategy in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and MDG 3 on Gender Equality. While many of them are committed to implementing global commitments, they face challenges of weak Gender/Women machineries and inadequate resources.

b. Opportunities

24. The transformation of the OAU into the AU in 2002, ushered an era of institutional building which saw the establishment of several human rights and related institutions and bodies aimed at consolidating the human rights gains already recorded. The Constitutive Act of the African Union in particular recognizes the centrality of human rights in the integration of the continent and in sustainable peace and development, while Article 4(I) of the

Constitutive Act enshrines the gender equality principle. Initiatives such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and its African Peer Review Mechanisms (APRM) show that a new era has dawned in Africa, with regard to human and peoples' rights. The establishment of the ECOSOCC is further reality of the AU-civil society partnership and provides the Union with a medium to hear "the other side". This partnership has given legitimacy and credence to the work of many Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in several countries, and enabled them to feed into the continental processes.

25. During this period therefore, the continent has moved from standard setting to institutional development in the field of human rights in general, and the rights of women in particular, with the adoption of several human rights instruments, declarations and plans of action developed, as well as the establishment of human rights related mechanisms.
26. These opportunities and achievements provide the continent with enough reason to be optimistic. The success of the AU, including the realization of its Agenda 2063, which seeks to close the gap between the ideal of where Africa wants to be in 2063, and where she currently finds herself, will depend largely on the importance given to the promotion, protection and enjoyment of human and peoples' rights on the continent. To be effective the Union must integrate good governance, respect for the rule of law and respect for human and peoples' rights at all levels. If Africa is to make any economic and democratic advancement, together with their positive spin-offs, it must be committed to human rights.
27. From the above, it is clear that if human rights were to contribute to the AU agenda, and move the continent towards a credible sustainable integration and development, urgent steps must be taken by African leaders in this context.

Challenges faced by the African Union in the promotion and protection of human rights

28. The above human rights achievements and opportunities notwithstanding, the continent continues to face enormous challenges with regards to the respect, promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights, which if not urgently and adequately addressed, may erase the human rights gains recorded over the preceding decades. These challenges include, but are not limited to: inadequate allocation of resources to human rights institutions, lack of capacity,

insufficient political will, unwillingness by States to surrender sovereignty to supranational monitoring bodies, unwillingness by some States to domesticate international human rights treaties, persistent violence across the continent which result in destruction of life, property and reverse human rights gains, widespread poverty, ignorance and lack of awareness, the effects of colonialism characterized by human rights unfriendly laws, bad governance, corruption and disregard for the rule of law.

29. It is clear that if human rights were to contribute to the AU agenda, and move the continent towards credible integration and development, urgent steps need to be taken by African leaders in this domain. Fortunately, developments over the past few decades provide enormous opportunities to be optimistic.

Activities Earmarked for the celebration

30. To ensure that the celebration achieves the objectives set out above, a series of activities have been planned to commence in 2015, spread across the entire year of 2016, to celebrate the human rights gains made so far, review the human rights situation on the continent, take stock of what still needs to be done to create a culture of human rights observance on the continent, and explore how best to address the remaining human rights challenges.

31. The activities seek to initiate an advocacy and coordinating campaign that generates increasing momentum, and reaches out to stakeholders and partners at all levels (political, institutional, civil society organizations, national and community levels), and give ownership to all key stakeholders, especially, the repositories/beneficiaries of the rights enshrined in the African Charter.

32. As part of the activities, a communication plan is proposed that involves partners and African celebrities as endorsers to advocate for human rights in Africa. The Plan proposes a clear message that links to the Strategic Plan of the AU. There is need in particular, to build a brand by engaging the media and using modern tools of communication, such as television and online tools to really relay the message of the Africa Human Rights Year. For example, a special web portal will be developed, as well as special tools and a year of human rights documentary.

33. The following activities and timelines are proposed:

Proposed Activities and implementation timelines					
No.	Proposed Activity	Brief description of activity	Objective of activity	Institution responsible	Proposed time for implementation
SECTION ONE – THE PROCESS					
1.	Adoption of the decision to declare 2016 as African Year of Human Rights with particular focus on the Rights of Women.	The Executive Council adopts a decision to declare 2016 as African Year of Human Rights, and requests the Commission and the Court, including other relevant organs, to submit a concept note in June 2014.	To encourage all Member States and the African populace to own the project.	African Commission and African Court	January 2014
2.	Establishment of Committees to implement the decision	Committees/Focal Points established by the principal organs to prepare the concept note.	To ensure all relevant stakeholders are involved in the process.		January 2014
3.	Meeting of the Focal Points to prepare Concept Paper.	The Draft Concept Paper is considered in a meeting of focal points.	To consider and enrich the draft concept note before transmitting to the various organs for consideration.		February 2014
4.	Consideration of Draft Concept Paper by all relevant Organs.	The Draft Concept Paper is considered by the Commission and the Court during their respective ordinary sessions, as well as by the Committee on the	To further enrich the Draft Concept Paper.	The African Commission, the Court, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Department of	March/April 2014

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		Rights of the Child, the Department of Political Affairs, the Gender Directorate and other organs with human rights mandate		Political Affairs, the Gender Directorate as well as other relevant organs and Government of Rwanda	
5.	Meeting of the Focal Points to Finalize Concept Paper.	Focal Points from all the Organs will meet to incorporate comments from the organs.	To finalize the Concept Paper for submission to the 25 th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in June 2014.	All relevant organs	May 2014
6.	Submission of the Concept Paper to the AUC.	The Concept Paper is submitted to the AUC for transmission to the relevant AU Organs for consideration during the June 2014 Summit.	To ensure Concept Paper is considered and adopted by the Executive Council.		May 2014
SECTION TWO – PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES/ACTIVITIES LEADING UP TO THE CELEBRATION					
7.	Combined Retreat of AU Organs with Human Rights mandate and the PRC	Two days retreat between AU Organs with human rights mandate and the PRC.	To discuss implementation of the project, including allocation of responsibilities to organs, and involvement of States.	The PRC and All AU Organs with a human rights mandate	April 2015
8.	Joint human rights sensitization for AU officers.	Three day workshop for senior staff members of all AU Organs	To sensitize senior staff of the Union on human rights and the importance of observing human rights principles in their daily work.	All organs	May 2015
9.	Lectures in Universities and	Organize lectures in academic institutions	To create awareness about human rights	All organs, Member States, NHRIs	Ongoing throughout the year

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	Schools of Law	such as universities			
10.	Media Interviews	Organize interviews with African personalities on human rights issues on the continent.	To ensure the celebration is well publicized.	All relevant stakeholders.	Ongoing from 2015 through 2016
11.	Quiz Competition	Organize, in collaboration with Member States, a quiz competition for secondary schools. Encourage the establishment of African Union Human Rights Clubs in secondary schools.	To encourage participation of students, Member States, NHRIs, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)	All AU Member States.	July 2015
12.	Essay Competition for Universities	An essay writing competition for Universities will be launched and the topic of the essay will focus on a topical human rights issue.	To encourage participation of Universities Member States, NHRIs, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).	All AU Member States, Organs and Universities.	July 2015
13.	Appointment of Goodwill Ambassadors and Special Envoys on Human Rights.	The Chairperson of the AUC to Appoint Goodwill Ambassadors and Special Envoys to enhance human rights protection.	To strengthen the African human rights system	Chairperson of the AUC	August 2015.
14.	Simulated Moot Court Competition for Law Students	Organize, in collaboration with the academia, a moot court competition for law students across the continent.	Encourage Universities and law students in particular, to pursue human rights programmes	AU Member States and all relevant organs, the Centre for Human Rights, and Universities.	October 2015
15.	Publication of seminal papers,	Produce a commemorative	To compile all presentations that will be	The ACHPR and the Court and DPA,	November 2015

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	documents, studies, reports and other publications on human rights	publication	made as part of the celebration, from all stakeholders on the continent.	Member States, NHRIs, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).	
16.	Publication of African human rights jurisprudence	Publish in one volume and with commentaries all the human rights decisions and Judgments of African treaty-bodies	To publicize the human rights jurisprudence from Africa.	All relevant stakeholders, Member States, NHRIs, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).	January/February, 2016 (to be launched/released during the January 2016 Summit)
17.	Establishment of a human rights hotline/URGENT APPEALS/Situation room	Establish a human rights hotline/situation room for the continent	To present a forum for quick reporting and tackling of human rights issues, and to identify potential risk areas that may lead to gross human rights violations	All organs – African Commission	April 2016 – during the Conference
18.	Documentary on human rights in Africa	Produce a documentary on human rights in Africa	To sensitize the population about human rights	All relevant organs, Member States, NHRIs, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).	May 2016
19.	A Musical Concert	Organize a one-day musical extravaganza in which a host of reputable musicians in the continent, and if possible, some in the Diaspora will converge and perform to mark the anniversary.	To raise awareness about human rights on the continent	All Member States and Organs concerned, Member States, NHRIs, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).	June 2016 (during the Summit)
20.	Human Rights Awards, including Awards in the	Present human rights awards. The awards for the Quiz and Essay competitions will also be	To recognize individuals and organizations that have selflessly worked for the promotion and	- All Organs - Academic Institutions -Notable	June 2016 (during the AU Summit).

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	area of women's rights	presented at the same time, awards for achievements in the promotion and protection of the rights of women.	protection of human rights.	academics, Member States, NHRIs, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).	
21.	Launch of the Pan African Human Rights Institute (PAHRI).	The PAHRI will formally be launched by the Assembly.	To establish a human rights institute for the continent.	Assembly Member States, NHRIs.	June 2016 (during the AU Summit)
22.	Build the African Union Human Rights Memorial (AUHRM)	The building process of the AUHRM within the Headquarters of the AUC will commence in earnest	To establish a continental human rights memorial to honour the victims and survivors of gross human rights violations, including genocide; establish an educational/research facility and a virtual presence (website) that it linked to the human rights memorials of AU Member States	All relevant stakeholders, Member States, NHRIs, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).	From October 2015 through 2016
23.	Exhibition Football Match and other sports activities	Organize an exhibition football match and other sports activities on the theme 'Human Rights for All', in collaboration with the Confederation of African Football (CAF) and other Athletic Federations.	To enhance human rights awareness.	CAF, Athletic Federations, AU Member States and all relevant organs.	October 2016 – (Final to be played on 21 October – African Human Rights Day).
24.	Publication of Anniversary Album	Production of an album of human rights organizations and	To document the contribution some personalities have played	All Organs	October 2016

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		personalities on the continent	in the promotion and protection of human rights		
25.	Conference on the rights of specific groups – children, youths and other groups	Continental Conference for specific groups such as children and youths, bringing together these groups.	To discuss human rights situation related to them.	Member States, all organs, specific groups.	September 2016
26.	Continental Conference on the rights of women in Africa.	Conference to discuss the rights of women in Africa.	To take stock of the situation of the rights of women in Africa	Member States, all organs, specific groups.	September 2016
27.	Continental Conference/Campaign on Ratification of AU Human Rights treaties and the declaration	Organize a two day conference on the ratification of treaties and making of the declaration	To encourage the quick ratification of treaties, making of the declaration and their domestication	All Organs	October 2016

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28.	Convene a continental high-level dialogue on promotion and protection of Human Rights in Africa.	Three-day Conference to adopt a framework document to give support to the project. This will bring together, African leaders, and notable personages, Member States, AU Organs, think-tanks and other human rights stakeholders from across the continent, CSOs academics, to discuss the human rights situation on the continent and come up with a roadmap for the full integration of human rights in the AU framework, discuss the African Human Rights Strategy.	To galvanize support across the continent to ensure a participatory and successful celebration.	All AU Member States, Organs and other human rights stakeholders on the continent	November 2016
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NB. The activities listed above are to be implemented on a continental scale by a group of stakeholders. This does not however prevent organs and institutions from adopting their own activities and work plans for the celebration of the year. These activities may dovetail into the continent-wide activities or stand alone, to recognize the achievements of the organs, e.g., the Court may produce a 10th Anniversary Album describing the successes and challenges during its ten years of existence, documenting the past and present Judges, presentations made by Judges on the Court during this period, its jurisprudence, etc. Similarly, the Commission may want to showcase the highlights of the achievements over its 3 decade history, document its successes, celebrate those who have dared to stand up and be counted in the defense of human and peoples' rights, review the challenges it faces and the lessons learnt along the way.

Funding

34. While it is expected that the bulk of the funding will come from the African Union, support will also be solicited from partners around the world. Potential partners will include, but not be limited to:

- i. Individual AU Member States (to be identified)
- ii. The United Nations
- iii. The European Union (EU)
- iv. World Bank,
- v. The German International Cooperation (GIZ)
- vi. *Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie*
- vii. The Commonwealth Secretariat
- viii. Foreign governments (such as Australia, Canada, China, Denmark, India, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States of America)
- ix. African private businesses (to be identified)
- x. The AU-UNDP Project on women Empowerment located at the BOC/ Gender Advisor

How will implementation be monitored and evaluated?

35. While all the AU organs with human rights mandate and other relevant stakeholders, including Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and civil society organizations will be involved, the main coordinating organs will be the Commission, the Court, the AUC, through the Department of Political Affairs, the Gender Directorate, and the Government of Rwanda.
36. A Coordination Committee composed of Heads of the organs concerned, that is the Court, the Commission, the Children's Committee, the DPA/ AUC, the PAP, etc, will establish a Steering Committee, composed of the Executive Secretaries of these Organs. The Steering Committee will report on a regular basis (once a month) to the Coordinating Committee on the implementation of the activities, and the Coordinating Committee will report to the Executive Council/Assembly during the Summits.
37. The Coordinating Committee will present a report on the activities undertaken during the celebration to the Executive Council and the Assembly of Heads of State in June 2017, including appropriate recommendations