


AFRICAN UNION		UNION AFRICAINE
الاتحاد الأفريقي African Commission on Human & Peoples' Rights		UNIÃO AFRICANA Commission Africaine des Droits de l'Homme & des Peuples
No. 31 Bijilo Annex Lay-out, Kombo North District, Western Region, P. O. Box 673, Banjul, The Gambia Tel: (220) 441 05 05 /441 05 06, Fax: (220) 441 05 04 E-mail: au-banjul@africa-union.org ; Web www.achpr.org		

Consideration of Reports Submitted by State Parties under Article 62 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights

Concluding Observations and Recommendations on the Initial Periodic Report of the Republic of Liberia on the Implementation of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights

I. Introduction

1. The Republic of Liberia (Liberia) is a State Party to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (the African Charter), having ratified it on 4 August 1982. Liberia submitted its Initial Periodic Report (the Report) in accordance with Article 62 of the African Charter in September 2012.
2. The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (the Commission) considered the Report at its 55th Ordinary Session, held from 28 April to 12 May 2014, in Luanda, Angola, and adopted the following Concluding Observations and Recommendations at its 17th Extra-Ordinary Session, held from 19 to 28 February 2015, in Banjul, The Gambia.
3. The Commission welcomes the Report of Liberia, and it notes the reasons put forth by Liberia for the late submission of its Report, including the 14 years' civil war. The Commission however regrets the 23 years' delay in submission of the Report. The Commission further regrets that the Report does not fully observe the Commission's Guidelines on the Submission of National Periodic Reports under the African Charter (the Guidelines for State Reporting under the African Charter), as well as the Guidelines for State Reporting under the Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women in Africa (the Guidelines for State Reporting under the Maputo Protocol).
4. The Commission appreciates the presentation of the Report by the high-level delegation from Liberia, led by the Deputy Minister for Administration/Public Safety and Acting Minister of Justice, and the constructive dialogue that followed the presentation. It welcomes the frank admissions in the Report and during the presentation of the Report about the short-comings and challenges faced by the Liberia. The Commission further welcomes the open invitation extended by the delegation of Liberia for the undertaking of a visit to the country.

5. Following the presentation of the Report at the 55th Ordinary Session, the Commission had reiterated its request to Liberia for the immediate transmittal of written responses to questions posed by the Commission. The Commission deeply regrets Liberia's lack of response to requests for additional information, including requests made to Liberia prior to the presentation of its Report. This is especially unfortunate because time constraints did not allow the delegation to address many concerns and questions raised during discussions at the 55th Ordinary Session.
6. Liberia is expected to respond to the clarifications sought in these observations and recommendations in its next periodic report, which should be submitted to the Commission in two (2) years.

II. Positive Aspects

7. The Commission welcomes the following legislative, policy and institutional measures taken by Liberia:
 - i. The National Human Rights Action Plan for Liberia of 10 December 2013;
 - ii. The National Gender Based Violence Plan of Action;
 - iii. The National Policy on Girls' Education;
 - iv. The National Gender Policy;
 - v. The Liberia Emergency Employment Program and the Liberia Employment Action Program;
 - vi. Act to Amend the New Penal Code to Provide for Gang Rape;
 - vii. Act to Ban Trafficking in Persons; and
 - viii. The Establishment of the Special Court for Rape and other forms of Violence, Criminal Court E (the Special Court for Rape), the Sexual and Gender Based Violence Unit, the National Commission on Disabilities, the Liberian Anti-Corruption Commission, the Land Commission, the Liberian Extractive Industries and Transparency Initiative, the Human and Civil Rights Committee, the Independent National Commission on Human Rights, the National Election Commission, the Law Reform Commission, the Ministerial Task Force to Implement the Anti-Trafficking Act, and the Human Rights Unit under the Ministry of Justice.
8. The Commission welcomes the ratification by Liberia of the following regional and international instruments:
 - i. The OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa in 1971;
 - ii. The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in 2007;
 - iii. The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (the Maputo Protocol) in 2007;
 - iv. The African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption in 2007;
 - v. The Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) and the Optional Protocol to CAT (OPCAT) in 2004;

- vi. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR aiming for the abolition of the death penalty (ICCPR-OP2-DP) in 2004 and 2005 respectively;
 - vii. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1984;
 - viii. The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in 1976;
 - ix. The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) in 2004;
 - x. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 1993; and
 - xi. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2012.
9. The Commission also welcomes with appreciation:
- i. The launching of the Special Girls' Education Initiative, an all girls' night school program for pregnant students and teenage mothers;
 - ii. The Professional Magistrates Training Programme which trained and deployed magistrates across the country;
 - iii. The Economic Empowerment of Adolescent Girls Project and the Rural Women's Empowerment Project; and
 - iv. The Child Protection Network to discuss issues and design a common approach to prevent child abuse.

III. Factors Restricting the Implementation of the African Charter

10. The Commission acknowledges that years of civil war have had massive implications on the human and material capacity of the country. The infrastructure has been substantially destroyed, and the arms of government have become weak and ill-equipped. Further, principal sectors of the country, such as the healthcare and education system are unable to meet the needs of the country. The Report states that 70% of schools were destroyed during the civil war.
11. Despite the abundance of natural resources, poverty is widespread, and there is limited access to electricity and clean water. The conflict has also resulted in mass migration from rural to urban areas, fuelling unemployment and access to decent living.
12. The capacity of the healthcare system has been stretched by the recent Ebola outbreak, which has affected a large number of the population, and killed over a thousand people.

IV. Principal Matters of Concern

Implementation of the African Charter

13. The Commission notes with concern the absence of information in the Report on the domestic application of the African Charter in courts, more so, because Liberia has a dualist legal system. Furthermore, the

Report did not make reference to specific Charter provisions and relate them to the areas covered in the Report.

14. The Commission notes with concern that certain domestic legislation, including the *1986 Constitution of Liberia*, are inconsistent with the provisions of the African Charter. Article 11 of the Liberian Constitution does not adequately guarantee the right to equality and the right against discrimination. Further, there is no constitutional provision incorporating the principle of equality between men and women. This is particularly concerning in view of the extensive violations suffered by women throughout the country's violent past, and because of gender-based violations that continue to occur. Although children were disproportionately exposed to massive human rights violations during the civil war, and continue to suffer violations, there is no constitutional provision which guarantees the rights of children. Article 27 of the Constitution also restricts the grant of citizenship "only to persons who are Negroes or of Negro descent."
15. The Commission notes that the *Revised Hinterland Rules and Regulations (the Rules)* pose a challenge to the enforcement of the right to equality, contain derogatory terms such as *uncivilised natives*, and permit certain harmful traditional practices, including *trial by ordeal*, which is a form of customary justice system that in some cases has resulted in the infliction of injuries and death of the accused by the complainants.
16. The Commission commends the establishment of the Law Reform Commission (LRC) and its work, but is concerned that the Report does not state what steps have been taken to implement the recommendations of the LRC. It also does not indicate whether the Constitution is being considered for review.
17. The Commission notes that despite its inquiries during the interactive dialogue, the delegation of Liberia did not furnish the Commission with any information on reports that a Bill was before the House of Representatives seeking to amend the Penal Code so as to criminalise the promotion of homosexuality and imposing long sentences for consensual same-sex conduct. This amendment was reportedly written in terms so broad that it could be used to criminalise the activities of human rights defenders.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission

18. The Commission welcomes the final report of the Truth and Justice Commission (TRC) and its recommendations which were released in 2009. However, the Commission regrets the absence of information in the Report, regarding the nature of the recommendations and the measures taken by Liberia to implement the recommendations.

Equality and Non-discrimination of women

19. While acknowledging the important role played by Liberia in protecting the rights of women, there still exists inequality between men and women, including in the areas of political participation and literacy, with up to 80 per cent of Liberian women being illiterate. Women have been and still are vulnerable due to a patriarchal culture and discrimination that existed even before the civil war. Women in rural areas are disproportionately affected by lack of access to adequate health services, education, economic opportunities, social benefits and access to justice.

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

20. The Commission appreciates the legislative and policy measures taken by Liberia to combat violence against women and children, but is gravely concerned about the magnitude of violence against these vulnerable groups in the country, with rape and sexual violence being amongst the most frequently committed crimes, especially against young girls.

Children

21. The Commission is concerned with reports that even following the 14 years civil war, children continue to disproportionately suffer from abuse, including sexual violence and neglect.

Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities

22. The Commission notes that Liberia has no social safety net to address the concerns of old people, and neither are there any national policy frameworks within which the concerns of people with special needs, especially the elderly can be addressed. Many elderly persons died during the civil war, and in isolated instances, elderly persons were targeted and abused sexually, killed or exposed to poverty.
23. The Commission commends Liberia for ratifying the CRPD and establishing the National Commission on Disabilities, but is disturbed by reports that persons with disabilities, especially children, face discrimination.

Harmful Traditional Practices

24. The Commission notes that patriarchal attitudes and stereotypes relating to the role and responsibilities of men and women exacerbate harmful traditional practices.
25. Although the Liberia Report makes no mention of the practice of early marriage, nearly half of young girls in the country marry before the age of 18, increasing incidences of teenage pregnancy. In most cases these girls are forced to marry. The Commission highly commends the adoption of the Children's Act launched in February 2012, which prohibits marriage of girls under the age of 18.

26. *Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)* is another widespread practice in Liberia. The Commission is concerned that despite international pressure to criminalise this harmful practice, Liberia has not enacted a legislation criminalising FGM.
27. There are also reports of *ritual killings*, which take place for political or financial gain or in relation to ritualistic sacrifices, often referred to as “feeding a fetish”.

Right to Life

28. The Commission welcomes the fact that Liberia is party to the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, which prohibits the death penalty in Liberia. The Commission is concerned that Liberia violated its commitments under the Protocol by enacting the 2008 Armed Robbery Act, which prescribes the death penalty for a number of crimes.

Prohibition of Torture and Ill-treatment

29. The Commission welcomes the adoption by Liberia of CAT and OPCAT, but is concerned about the delay in enacting the Draft Anti-Torture Bill submitted to the National Legislature in 2011. The Commission regrets the absence of information on concrete measures taken to combat torture and hold perpetrators accountable. No information was provided on the establishment of a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM), on complaints received, investigations undertaken, as well as data on prosecutions and convictions in cases of torture and ill-treatment perpetrated by law enforcement agents, prison personnel and other state officials.

Human Trafficking

30. The Commission appreciates the passing of the Anti-Human Trafficking Act in 2005, but is concerned about reports that the Ministerial Task Force responsible for implementing the Act is facing serious challenges. The Commission regrets the lack of information on prosecutions and convictions of perpetrators.

Conditions of Detention

31. The Commission appreciates the candid information provided by the Liberian delegation regarding detention centres in the country, including short-comings such as over-crowding and the inadequacy of medical staff to look after prisoners, as well as the measures being taken by Liberia to address the problem. The Commission is however concerned with reports which indicate the unlawful establishment and operation of detention centres, as a result of the insufficiency of detention facilities. Further, many prisoners have been in extended pre-trial detention, due to the slow pace of the judiciary to consider cases.

Access to Justice

32. The Commission notes Liberia's account in the Report of the devastating impact of the civil war on the judicial system, and commends Liberia for the steps it has taken towards legal reform and to ensure access to justice. The Commission is concerned about reports of a weak and dysfunctional judiciary, which continually postpones cases and conducts trials in violation of fair trial standards. Reports further indicate that amongst the numerous challenges faced by Liberia is insufficient funding, lack of infrastructure, basic equipment and legal references, poor administration and case-load management, corruption and the need for law reform.

Juvenile Justice System

33. The Commission regrets the absence of any information regarding the juvenile justice system in Liberia. Credible sources report that because of the absence of an effective juvenile justice system, implementation of laws and procedures relating to child offenders and children in need of care and protection is poor, and there are no reformatory or rehabilitation facilities.

Mob Violence

34. The Commission welcomes the measures indicated in the Report to tackle mob violence and to restore public confidence in law enforcement. However, reports aver that mob violence, often referred to as “mob justice” continues to take place, at times resulting in the death of those accused.

Freedom of Expression and Access to Information

35. The Commission is concerned about the crackdown on journalists and newspaper editors by the Government, particularly journalists who have exposed high-level corruption of Government officials. Orders by Liberian courts requesting journalists/editors to pay up to USD1.5 million for defamation as compensation to government officials clearly hinders the development of a vibrant media.

Freedom of Assembly

36. The Commission is concerned about information in the Report that in order for Liberians to hold public demonstrations, the Ministry of Justice must provide clearance.

Asylum-Seekers and Refugees

37. The Commission commends the work done by Liberia, through the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission, in assisting the high number of refugees from Ivory Coast, and its successful collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other partners in protecting refugees and supporting voluntary repatriation. Although Liberia is generally fulfilling its

obligations related to ensuring respect for the rights of refugees in the country, reports aver that refugees involved in economic activities face intimidation from immigration or customs officers.

Land Rights

38. The Commission welcomes the first Liberian Land Rights Policy of 2013, which clearly defines the various categories of land and the accompanying rights and responsibilities, but is concerned with reports of increasing land and property disputes which have given rise to confrontation between different ethnic groups, especially following the civil war.

Right to Work and Favourable Conditions of Work

39. While commending Liberia's legislative and policy framework to ensure the right to employment of its population, the Commission is concerned with the high levels of unemployment, especially amongst the youth, ex-combatants and internally displaced persons.
40. The Commission welcomes the passing into law of the Decent Work Bill in April 2014, but is interested to know the measures taken by Liberia to ensure that human rights, including the right to favourable conditions of work, are central in the undertaking of investments/businesses, especially by foreign companies involved in the extraction of natural resources.

Right to an Adequate Standard of Living and Access to Resources

41. A large number of the population does not enjoy food security, and there is limited access to safe drinking water. There is a high rate of maternal and neonatal mortality, the majority of births are not attended by skilled health personnel, women in general have limited access to health services, and there is lack of awareness about HIV/AIDS among the population, and increasing lack of access to treatment and care for people living with HIV/AIDS.
42. The Commission is concerned that most infrastructure and basic services are located in Monrovia and other urban centres, which reinforced disparity in living standards between rural and urban areas. Sources further indicate the existence of a wide gap separating the Americo-Liberian upper class from the remainder of the Liberian population in the distribution of resources and services.

Right to Education

43. The Commission welcomes the legislative and policy measures taken by Liberia to improve the access and quality of education, but is concerned with reports which indicate that almost 50% of the Liberian population is illiterate, and that gender and rural/urban differences pose serious problems in accessing education. The Commission regrets the insufficiency of schools, especially in rural areas, to cater for school-aged

children. Despite the Free and Compulsory Primary Education Program set up by Liberia to increase school enrolment of children, unofficial fees and costs relating to uniforms and school supplies discourage parents from sending their children to school.

Extractive Industries

44. The Commission welcomes the legislative measures being taken by Liberia to ensure accountability and transparency in resource governance, including the passing of the Liberian Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative Act on 11 June 2009.
45. The Commission is however concerned with reports which reveal the existence of inadequacies in government oversight and monitoring in the area of extractive industries, including legal, regulatory and enforcement frameworks and transparency mechanisms. Reports further indicate of violations that have occurred because of concession agreements that Liberia has signed with private corporations, without the participation or free, prior or informed consent of affected communities.

Public Integrity and Corruption

46. The Commission welcomes the establishment of the Anti-Corruption Commission in 2006, but regrets the absence of information in the Report on steps taken to comply with the TRC recommendations to enact a Whistle Blower Statute to protect and reward persons who expose corruption and to enact a code of conduct to govern the public sector.

The Independent National Human Rights Commission

47. While welcoming the establishment of the Independent National Human Rights Commission (INHRC), the Commission is concerned that the INHRC has not been accredited by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, and it is not fully operational, and is therefore unable to effectively fulfil its mandate. The Report does not provide statistical data on the number of complaints received, investigations carried out, and orders for compensation and/or rehabilitation by the INHRC. Further, the TRC had recommended that the INHRC be empowered to prosecute the human rights violations it has jurisdiction over before any court.

Timely Submission of Periodic State Report

48. The Commission regrets the 23 years delay in submission of the Report, as well as the Report's non-compliance with the Guidelines for State Reporting under the African Charter, and the Guidelines for State Reporting under the Maputo Protocol.

V. Recommendations

49. In view of the above, the Commission makes the following recommendations to Liberia:

Implementation of the African Charter

- i. Align domestic laws with the provisions of the African Charter and other regional and international human rights instruments to which the country is a party;
- ii. Strengthen initiatives to better harmonise the formal and customary justice systems, and ensure compliance with regional and international standards;
- iii. Increase its efforts to raise awareness of the African Charter among judges, lawyers and prosecutors to ensure that its provisions are taken into account by courts, and take effective measures to widely disseminate the Charter to the public; and
- iv. Ensure the equal rights of all Liberians without discrimination including on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. It should in particular take account of Resolution 275 of the Commission which urged all States to enact and apply appropriate laws prohibiting and punishing all forms of violence including those targeting persons on the basis of their imputed or real sexual orientation or gender identity.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Support the work of the TRC, particularly by ensuring the wide dissemination of the TRC Report amongst the public and take measures to implement recommendations made by the TRC, and in particular, the following recommendations:

- i. The establishment of an Extra-Ordinary Criminal Court for Liberia to try the 116 most notorious perpetrators named by the TRC for gross human rights violations;
- ii. The prosecution by existing domestic courts of 58 named perpetrators who committed crimes which do not amount to gross violations, but form part of Liberian Penal Law;
- iii. The prosecution of named individuals and corporations responsible for the commission of economic crimes, and the conduct of further investigation into individuals and corporations suspected of committing economic crimes;
- iv. The barring of all those associated with former warring factions, their leaders, political decision makers, financiers, organisers, commanders and foot soldiers from holding public office;
- v. The immediate enactment of a comprehensive Witness Protection Statute; and

- vi. A reparation program and the establishment of a Reparation Trust Fund to ensure that the reparation programme is managed well and executed in a timely manner to satisfy the post-war objectives.

Regional and International Instruments

Ratify and domesticate the following regional and international instruments:

- i. The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and make the declaration in accordance with Article 34 (6) of the Protocol;
- ii. The African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance;
- iii. The African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention);
- iv. The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families;
- v. The Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance;
- vi. The Optional Protocol to the CRC on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict; and
- vii. The Optional Protocol to CRC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.

Collaboration with Civil Society Groups and Regional and International Bodies

Fully use the collaboration opportunities which are available to it, by engaging with civil society organisations, regional and international bodies in order to acquire the much needed technical and material assistance to rebuild the country, and to overcome challenges, and to also buttress the laudable initiatives the Government is undertaking to address the challenges. Liberia will also need support to implement the National Human Rights Action Plan of 10 December 2013 and TRC recommendations.

Equality and Non-discrimination of women

- i. Strengthen its efforts to eliminate existing patriarchal and gender stereotypes on the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and society;
- ii. Increase the participation of women in the public and private sectors to ensure their rightful place in society as equal partners; and
- iii. Ensure access to fundamental services on an equal basis to all, including in rural and urban areas.

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

- i. Strengthen and institutionalise a gender specific mandatory training course for all legal and law enforcement officials and health service

- personnel to ensure their full capacity in responding to all forms of violence against women and children;
- ii. Establish educational and public awareness raising programmes which, among other things, should emphasise the importance of reporting suspected cases of violence against women and children; and
 - iii. Investigate thoroughly and expeditiously all cases of gender based violence, including sexual and domestic violence.

Children

- i. Expedite its efforts to address the needs of child victims of the civil war and the establishment of rehabilitation and reintegration programs for child soldiers and children associated with armed groups, including free access to education and vocational training.
- ii. Take all legislative, administrative, social welfare and educational measures to protect children from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect and exploitation or maltreatment, including sexual abuse by persons or institutions entrusted with their care.

Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities

- i. Take legislative and administrative measures to protect older persons, and ensure their empowerment.
- ii. Rehabilitate older persons who were victims of abuse during the civil war.
- iii. Take steps to eliminate discrimination of persons with disabilities, and also take measures to provide psychosocial support and health rehabilitation to children with disabilities.

Harmful Traditional Practices

- i. Ensure effective implementation of the Children's Act and hold those responsible for subjecting children to early marriage judicially accountable;
- ii. Publicise the Act and inform girls, parents and community leaders of the harmful effects of early marriage;
- iii. Discourage teen pregnancy through family life and reproductive health education;
- iv. Enact, without delay, legislation prohibiting and criminalising FGM, and ensure effective implementation of the legislation, and conduct enhanced awareness raising campaigns, especially amongst parents and community leaders on the harmful effects of FGM; and
- v. Engage in awareness creation campaigns, and ensure the prosecution of those directly or indirectly involved in ritual killings.

Right to Life

Amend, without delay, the 2008 Armed Robbery Act in order to bring it in line with Liberia's commitments under the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, and maintain its long-standing moratorium on the death penalty.

Prohibition of Torture and Ill-treatment

- i. Compile statistical data relevant to the prohibition of torture and ill-treatment in the country, including data on complaints, investigations, prosecutions and convictions in cases of torture and ill-treatment, as well as on means of redress provided to victims, including compensation and rehabilitation.
- ii. Work more towards guaranteeing the independence of the Professional Standards Division and the Human Rights Unit.

Human Trafficking

Partner with relevant regional and international bodies as well as neighbouring countries to combat human trafficking. It should continue providing training to law enforcement officials and border patrols.

Access to Justice

- i. Provide substantial resources to key institutions in the criminal justice system and extensive rights education to the police, prosecutors, lawyers and judges to ensure safe prosecution and respect for due process; and
- ii. Prepare and implement a comprehensive road map to reform the judiciary, with clear timelines and benchmarks.

Juvenile Justice System

Facilitate the effective functioning of the juvenile justice system by providing lawyers and law enforcement personnel with extensive training on juvenile justice issues, and by building rehabilitation and reformatory institutions for juvenile offenders.

Mob Violence

Continue its community outreach programmes and reinforce the judicial system to effectively deliver justice, and build public confidence in the judiciary.

Conditions of Detention

- i. Identify and shut down all unauthorised detention centres and accelerate the construction of prisons, especially in counties that do not have detention centres;
- ii. Facilitate speedy dispensation of justice to avoid prolonged pre-trial detentions.

Freedom of Expression and Access to Information

Take measures, without delay, to revise its libel laws to ensure that they meet regional and international standards for freedom of expression and access to information, including compliance with the Commission's Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression in Africa.

Freedom of Assembly

Resort to a notification system in relation to freedom of peaceful assembly, and the notification procedures should meet the following minimum criteria:

- i. Organisers of the assembly should be able to notify the authorities simply and quickly;
- ii. The information required from organisers should not be strenuous and should include the date, time, duration and location or itinerary of the assembly;
- iii. The period of notice should not be lengthy but sufficient to allow authorities to plan and prepare measures necessary to minimise disruptions the protest may cause;
- iv. A prompt official response to initial notification should be given and lack of response would be deemed to constitute authorisation; and
- v. The organisers should be allowed to challenge the legality of any restriction imposed through a rapid appeal process.

Asylum-Seekers and Refugees

Take asylum-seekers and refugees into account when designing and implementing projects related to the Poverty Reduction Strategy, and accelerate the issuance of long-term legal residence documents, including naturalisation for refugees who have chosen to integrate in the country.

Land Rights

Strictly be guided by the Land Rights Policy in developing appropriate legal mechanisms and procedures for the resolution of land disputes, and ensure the speedy resolution of the disputes.

Right to Work and Favourable Conditions of Work

- i. Strengthen its efforts to create short-term employment opportunities, especially in areas most affected by the civil war, and amongst individuals with the least access to work.
- ii. Work more towards ensuring strict application of the 2014 Decent Work Act and also take steps to guarantee favourable conditions of work, as well as free, prior and informed consent in relation to ventures on the extraction of natural resources in the country.

Right to an Adequate Standard of Living and Access to Resources

- i. Continue its efforts to reduce poverty and improve the living standard of its people, and continue working with partners to build its capacity in areas such as healthcare, food security, access to safe

- drinking water, housing, electricity, roads and other basic social services;
- ii. Create awareness about HIV/AIDS and ensure access to treatment and care of people living with it; and
 - iii. Ensure equitable access to these resources, especially to those living in rural areas and to girls and women.

Right to Education

- i. Ensure a fully cost-free education, and strengthen learning and vocational training programmes for all, especially the youth;
- ii. Ensure equitable access to all levels of education, especially access to those in rural areas and to girls and women; And
- iii. Ensure human rights courses are taught in schools and universities, and the general public is made aware about human rights.

Extractive Industries

Ensure compliance with existing laws and procedures that have been set in place to guarantee that natural resources are exploited under transparent conditions in which people are well-informed and consulted during the process of policy formulation and decision making.

Public Integrity and Corruption

Monitor nepotism, favouritism and marginalisation in public service or economic benefits and distribution of social gains to ensure compliance with national, regional and international standards of integrity, fairness and equity.

The Independent National Human Rights Commission

Compile statistical data relevant to the monitoring of the implementation of the African Charter at the domestic level, including data on complaints, investigations, prosecutions and resultant convictions by the INHRC.

Timely Submission of Periodic State Report

Submit its next Periodic State Report in a timely manner, observing the Commission's Guidelines on the Submission of National Periodic Reports under the African Charter and the Guidelines for State Reporting under the Maputo Protocol.

Finally, the Commission welcomes the open-ended invitation by the delegation for a visit to Liberia to offer technical support in the area of promoting and protecting human rights.