

**LITIGANTS GROUP GENERAL MEETING DURING THE 85TH ORDINARY SESSION
OF THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS, BANJUL,
THE GAMBIA**

CONCEPT NOTE

1. Background

The Litigants Group is a coalition of civil society organisations (CSOs) collectively working towards a functional and effective communications procedure before the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), including greater transparency in how the Commission works, greater access to information on the mechanism's operations, timely finalisation of cases, consistent development of jurisprudence and implementation of the decisions and provisional measures of the Commission.

Over decades of engaging with the ACHPR's protective mandate, litigants have identified and documented challenges that hinder the Commission from functioning effectively. These challenges include difficulties in communicating and engaging with the Commission, delays in the communication procedure, lack of information and the seeming inconsistency of the Commission's jurisprudence. In addition, there is a low level of understanding of the Commission's Rules of Procedure by many litigants and a general low level of public awareness of the Commission's protective mandate. This has implications for the overall low number of cases that the Commission has dealt with to date, particularly in light of the scale of the human rights violations committed in Africa, and as compared to other regional mechanisms.

To ensure a functional and effective ACHPR communications mandate, the Litigants Group plays an active role in advocating for the adoption and implementation of progressive rules of procedure, and resolution of policy, structural, technical and interpretational barriers which impede the proper functioning of the ACHPR. Further, there is a need to establish, strengthen and clarify ways of engaging the Commission's secretariat and to clarify the scope and mandate of the ACHPR's Working Group on Communications (WGC). The Litigants Group also promotes cross-fertilisation between accountability mechanisms to ensure consistency and standard setting in the development of jurisprudence and quality control of the decisions.

To function effectively, the Litigant Group established working groups tasked to develop and implement effective strategies and initiatives around issues and challenges hindering the effective functioning of the ACHPR. These include the Arusha Initiative, Article 59 Initiative, and the Implementation Working Group, among others.

During the ACHPR's Ordinary Sessions, the Litigants Group organise its general meetings and activities to enhance the knowledge of the less experienced litigants of ACHPR's rules of procedure and create a platform for working groups to update members on their mandates and activities, exchange ideas, discuss cases, decisions, challenges, and map out plans.

2. Objectives

- a. To create a platform for updates, discussion of ACHPR's cases, decisions, challenges and potential solutions.
- b. To develop members' knowledge of the ACHPR's rules of procedure, general mandates and functions
- c. To exchange information and ideas around the effective functioning of the ACHPR.

3. **Meeting Venue:** The Sir Dawda Kairaba Jawara International Conference Center

4. **Date:** 19 October 2025

5. Expected Outcomes

- a. Enhanced understanding of the ACHPR's rules of procedure
- b. Improved awareness of recent ACHPR's decisions, jurisprudence and pending cases
- c. Shared knowledge and collective insight into Working Groups' activities and the Commission's functioning
- d. Strengthened collaboration and strategic coordination between members
- e. List of action points and follow-up commitments

6. Contact Information:

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AGENDA

TIME	ACTIVITY	FACILITATOR
9:00 – 9:30	• Welcome and Introductions • Introduction to the Litigants Group	ISLA: Sibongile Ndashe
09:30 -12:00	Working Groups Updates · Arusha Initiative: Toolkit on nomination and selection and Report on 2026 vacancies · Implementation: Engagements with ACHPR Implementation Unit/ Implementation webinar/Implementation dialogues · Art 59: Proposals for a resolution · AU Reforms: Recommendations from strategy consultation	Initiative/WG Lead

12:00 – 1:30	· Recent Decisions of the ACHPR · Open Session: Reflections on recent experiences communications procedure	Litigants with decisions
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