

AFRICAN UNION

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الاتحاد الأفريقي

African Commission on Human & Peoples' Rights



UNIÃO AFRICANA

Commission Africaine des Droits de l'Homme & des Peuples

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FINAL COMMUNIQUE OF THE 53rd ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AFRICAN COMMISSION
ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS
HELD IN BANJUL, THE GAMBIA
FROM 9 TO 23 APRIL 2013

1. The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (the Commission) held its 53rd Ordinary Session in Banjul, The Gambia, from 9 to 23 April 2013.
2. The Opening Ceremony was graced by the presence of the Attorney General and Minister of Justice of the Republic of The Gambia, **Honourable Justice Lamin SK Jobarteh**, who declared the Session open.
3. Honourable Commissioner **Catherine Dupe Atoki**, Chairperson of the Commission, presided over the deliberations of the 53rd Ordinary Session, (the Session) and the following Honourable Members of the Commission attended and participated in the Session:
 - Honourable Commissioner - **Kayitesi Zainabo Sylvie (Vice Chairperson);**
 - Honourable Commissioner - **Reine Alapini-Gansou;**
 - Honourable Commissioner - **Faith Pansy Tlakula;**
 - Honourable Commissioner - **Yeung Kam John Yeung Sik Yuen;**
 - Honourable Commissioner - **Soyata Maiga;**
 - Honourable Commissioner - **Mohamed Bechir Khalfallah;**
 - Honourable Commissioner - **Lucy Asuagbor;**
 - Honourable Commissioner - **Med Kaggwa;**

- Honourable Commissioner - **Maya Sahli-Fadel**; and
- Honourable Commissioner - **Pacifique Manirakiza**.

4. Altogether Six hundred and thirty two (632) delegates participated in the 53rd Ordinary Session. Of these, One hundred and thirty two (132) represented twenty eight (28) State Parties, Six (6) represented African Union Organs, thirty two (32) represented National Human Rights Institutions, nine (9) represented International and Inter-Governmental Organizations, four hundred and fifty three (453) represented African and International NGOs as well as other observers.
5. A number of parallel activities took place prior to and on the margins of the 53rd Ordinary Session, including the NGO Forum, which was held from 6 to 8 April 2013.
6. In her Opening Address, the Chairperson of the Commission, **Honourable Catherine Dupe Atoki**, welcomed participants and expressed the Commission's gratitude to the Government of The Gambia for hosting the Session and for the high level representation of its dignitaries at the opening ceremony.
7. The Chairperson noted that the Session was being held at a time when Africa is preparing to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), the forerunner to the African Union (AU). Whilst taking stock of the journey travelled so far by the continental political organisation, the Chairperson noted that the past fifty years of the Union had witnessed momentous developments, with significant political, economic, social, cultural and technological changes in Africa.

