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*The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in partnership with the African Union Commission Women, Gender and Development Directorate and the African Union Department of Citizens and Diaspora Organizations (CIDO) are pleased to invite you to a consultation on:*

**ENHANCING COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL, AFRICAN REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS:**

**HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS & CIVIL SOCIETY**

**8 July 2016, Kigali, Rwanda**

**Venue: Parliament of Rwanda**

The meeting aims to enhance cooperation between United Nations and regional and sub-regional human rights mechanisms in Africa, with a thematic focus on interactions with human rights defenders, civil society groups, and other relevant stakeholders.

The discussions are expected to identify existing cooperation and make recommendations for further cooperation between civil society, and national human rights institutions and African regional human rights mechanisms, and also focus on the promotion and protection of women's human rights. In addition, the consultation will be an opportunity to further strengthen synergies between these groups and UN human rights mechanisms.

UN entities, regional and sub-regional mechanisms, African NHRIs and civil society organizations and other relevant actors will participate and share their experiences, good practices, lessons learned and challenges with a view to strengthening cooperation in the field of human rights with particular attention to the following: key human rights challenges in the region, the situation of human rights defenders in general and in particular women human rights defenders, enhancing regional and international cooperation in the protection and promotion of human rights.

**Objectives and outcomes:**

- Preparing a space for further dialogue to clarify and discuss the challenges faced by human rights defenders and CSOs in their engagement with regional and UN mechanisms and to share experiences and good practices;
- protecting and widening the space for civil society actors to cooperate with UN and Regional actors
- Reinforcing UN support and cooperation in the field of human rights in such relevant fields as women human rights;



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- Reinforcing synergies and cooperation between human rights defenders, civil society organisations, NHRIs and regional human rights mechanisms and United Nations in promoting cooperation in the field of human rights.
  - Identifying priority thematic areas for discussion at the 5<sup>th</sup> workshop of Regional Arrangements to be held October 2016.<sup>1</sup>

### **Moderator 1: Commissioner AU**

#### **Regional and UN human rights mechanisms: opportunities for interaction with human rights defenders, civil society organisations, NHRIs and women led organisations**

Each mechanisms will present their work, share information/experiences of how CSOs, human rights defenders, UN and RHRMS can cooperate: good practices, challenges and lessons learned, and propose areas of new cooperation.

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#### Speakers

16.00-16.05 Moderator introduces Panel 1 speakers

16.05- 16.10 Chris Mburu, Human Rights Adviser, OHCHR –opening the session

#### **16.10 -16.36 - Panelists –(8 minutes each)**

Justice Augustino Ramadhani, President, African Court for Human and Peoples Rights (ACtHPR)

Ms. Franca Ofwor, Principle Legal Research Officer, ECOWAS Court

Justice Isaac Lenaola, Judge, East African Court of Justice

Justice Ariranga G. Pillay, Member, UN Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)

*16.36-16.40 Moderator summarizes and introduces Panel 2 speakers*

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<sup>1</sup> Pursuant GA Resolution 30/3 of 9 October 2015, OHCHR is required to hold in **2016**, a workshop on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights to take stock of developments since the workshop in **2014**, **including a thematic discussion on the interactions with civil society and human rights defenders**, based on concrete and practical experience of regional mechanisms, in order to share information on best practices, lessons learned and new possible forms of cooperation,



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## **Panel 2: Cooperation on specific themes: including reprisals, widening civil society space, and other prevailing human rights issues**

Participants will reflect key human rights challenges in the region; the context for human rights defenders activities; and cooperation with United Nations and regional mechanisms on the specific focus areas: best practices, challenges and lessons learned.

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### **16.40-17.05 Panelists (8 minutes each)**

Ms. Alapine Gansu , Commissioner and Special Rapporteur human rights defenders, African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR)

Ms.Ruth Sekiindi, Director Investigations and Monitoring Department, Uganda Human Rights Commission

Ms. Urmila Bhoola UN Special Rapporteur on Slavery.

*17.05-17.10 Moderator summarizes and hands over to moderator 2*

### **Moderator 2 : Ms. Alapine Gansou , ACHPR**

## **Panels 3 - Cooperation in relation to groups that should be given special focus: women, girls, indigenous peoples, refugees, migrants**

Participants will reflect key human rights challenges in the region; the context for human rights defenders activities; and cooperation with United Nations and regional mechanisms on the specific thematic areas: best practices, challenges and lessons learned.

*17.10-17.15 Moderator introduces Speakers*

### **17.15- 17.35 Panellists (5 minutes each)**

Ms. Kagwiria Mbogori, Chairperson, Kenya National Commission for Human Rights

Dr. Addisu Gebreigzabhier, Chief Commissioner, Ethiopian Human Rights Commission

Ms, Nirere Madeleine, Chairperson Rwanda Human Rights Commission

## **Identifying priority themes for Workshop on Regional Arrangements (Geneva, October2016)- Brain storming Session led by moderator**

### **17: 35 -17.50 Qn A**

17.50- 18.55 Moderator summarizes

17.55 -18.00 OHCHR – Concluding remarks

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