



The Addis Ababa Roadmap 2012 - 2022

A work in progress



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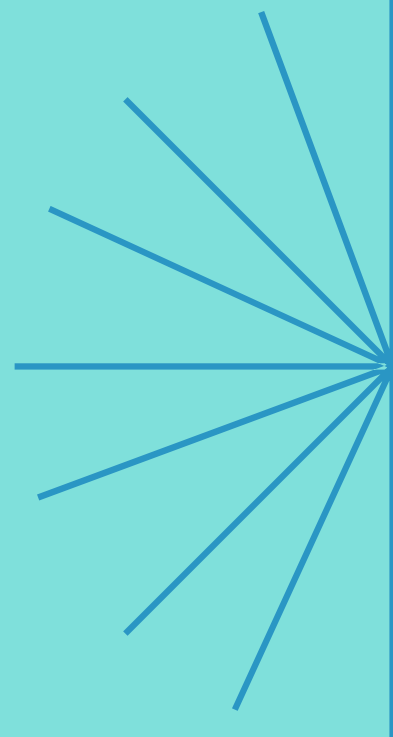
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Cooperation Framework Checklist





The Addis Ababa Roadmap on cooperation between the Special Procedures of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and of the UN Human Rights Council

"It is an historic opportunity to join hands and work together in discharging the important mandates entrusted to us for the benefit of rights-holders in Africa,"

FARIDA SHAHEED, FORMER CHAIRPERSON OF THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF THE SPECIAL PROCEDURES, JANUARY, 2012 AT THE LAUNCH OF THE ROADMAP.

2022 is the year to congratulate the Addis Ababa Roadmap on its tenth anniversary: the Roadmap was agreed upon at a consultation held in Addis Ababa in 2012; it provides a guiding framework to encourage special procedures mechanisms of the United Nations and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights to strengthen cooperation .

The Road Map targets specific actions to build synergies, develop joint action, and ensure systematic information sharing.

The Road Map builds on a number of Resolutions of the UN General Assembly, the UN Human Rights Council and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR). The Road Map targets specific actions to build synergies, develop joint action, and ensure systematic information sharing.

Taking Stock

10 years of enhanced collaboration between the African Commission on Human and People's Rights and the UN Special Procedures Mandate Holders.



"The collaboration under the Addis Ababa Roadmap is about strengthening both systems (AU and UN), through complementarity and synergies in the form of joint activities but also through the sharing of information, so we can achieve the best possible results on the ground."

CHAIRPERSON OF THE ACHPR, REMY NGOY LUMBU

In the past ten years, the work of the Roadmap has often been quoted in many different fora, as one of the success stories, a blueprint, of cooperation between the international and regional human rights systems.

Under the aegis of the Roadmap, between 20 and 30 important joint statements have been issued by relevant special procedures mandate-holders of the Human Rights Council and the Commission.

Almost 50 conferences and seminars have been organized in which relevant special procedures mandate-holders of both systems participated. An increasing number of joint initiatives with a thematic focus have also taken place,

including on child marriage, women human rights defenders, the right to life, protection of the human rights of people with albinism, and businesses and human rights.

Participation in the session of the ACHPR by UN Special Procedures and conversely participation of the Commissioners in sessions of the UN Human Rights Council and the annual meeting of special procedures mandate holders has become a regular feature of this cooperation.

Other areas of enhanced collaboration include follow-up to country-based recommendations formulated by both systems, promotion of the use of expertise within the ACHPR in HRC commissions of enquiry, contribution by both systems to early warning, peer-to-peer knowledge sharing and learning (induction sessions and staff exchanges) and joint visits.

In addition, the Roadmap has inspired similar joint efforts with other regional human rights systems, namely the agreement of a Roadmap between the UN Special Procedures and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

Implementation of the Addis Ababa Road Map*

35

Joint Public Statements and Press Releases

35

Joint awareness raising events/participation in events

13

Involvement in Thematic Work

5

Participation in annual meetings of Human Rights Council Special Procedures

16

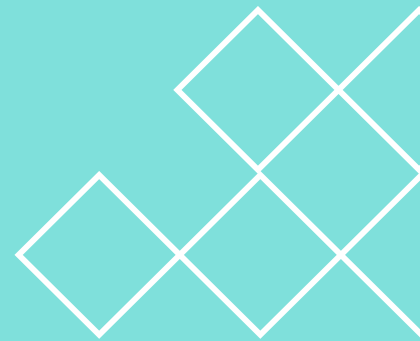
Participation in ordinary sessions of ACHPR

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Participation in sessions of the UN Human Rights Council

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Collaborative actions on specific thematic and country areas



Collaborative actions on thematic & country areas

JOINT VISITS

By joining forces, UN Special Rapporteurs and regional Special Rapporteurs can leverage public attention and political will for better protection. UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE RIGHTS TO FREEDOM OF PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY AND OF ASSOCIATION, CLEMENT NYALETSOSSI VOULE

UN AND AFRICAN EXPERTS ON RIGHTS DEFENDERS VISIT IN TUNISIA

The UN Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders, Margaret Sekaggya, and the Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, Reine Alapini-Gansou, made a joint visit to Tunisia in September, 2012. It was the first visit to North Africa by human rights experts since the 'Arab Spring'. The joint visit was an opportunity to address issues of freedom of expression and freedom of association for human rights defenders as international and regional experts collaborating by the regional approach to a universal human rights framework.

The human rights experts noted progress on freedom of expression since the transition and paid tribute to those who died or were wounded defending human rights.

They provided observations and recommendations on Tunisia's legal framework, institutions and other factors influencing the situation of human rights defenders.

The human rights experts noted progress on freedom of expression since the transition and paid tribute to those who died or were wounded defending human rights.

The experts noted that groups such as women human rights defenders, journalists, artists, academics, trade unionists and NGO workers have been subject to physical attacks, murder attempts harassment and threats.

Image: AFP/ FETHI BELAID

People gather in December 2011, in Sidi Bouzid's Mohamed Bouazizi square, named after the fruit-seller whose self-immolation sparked the revolution that ousted a dictator and ignited the Arab Spring



They called on the Tunisian authorities to ensure full participation of rights defenders in the drafting of the new Constitution and to guarantee that the final draft respects the work of human rights defenders both “in content and in process.” They called on the Constituent Assembly to better inform the public about the process and to strategize how to handle submissions.

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Human rights defenders often put their lives on the line to highlight human rights abuses and it's up to us to ensure their bravery results in actions, by collaborating at the international and regional level, for greater impact. FORMER UN SPECIAL RAPPOREUR ON HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS, MICHEL FORST

Under the Addis Ababa Roadmap framework, UN Special Rapporteur mandate holders and the African Commission have undertaken numerous joint actions to raise awareness of the situation of Human Rights Defenders and of the Rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association.

In April 2019, the ACHPR Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) Mr. Rémy Ngoy Lumby, the UN Special Rapporteur on Peaceful Assembly and Association Mr. Clément Voule, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of HRDs Mr. Michel Forst, The Vice-Chair of the UN Working Group on discrimination against women in law and practice Ms. Meskerem Geset and Ms. Diana Gichengo of the Kenya Human Rights Commission, participated in the 64th Ordinary Session of the ACHPR in Egypt, where during a panel discussion, they shared experiences and best-practices on the protection of Civic Space, and analysed the risk that a shrinking civic space poses for human rights defenders and other civil society actors in the African Region.

The UN Special Rapporteurs noted a high number of reports received from the African region concerning restrictions to the rights of Peaceful Assembly and of Association, as well as restrictions to freedom of expression, while the ACHPR highlighted actions they had undertaken to address the situation of HRDs, notably through the adoption of the Guidelines on the rights to Freedom of Peaceful Assembly and Association aimed at supporting efforts by States and other actors to promote and protect civic space.



Image: Guillaume Colin, FIACAT

The discussion resulted in the development of punctual and concrete actions to further strengthen collaboration between the international and regional mechanisms, in the area of the protection of civic space within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals.

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

“The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) has doubled in 20 years, with an estimated 59.1 million internally displaced by conflict globally at the end of 2021.(*). These people left their homes behind and rely on our solidarity to work together with regional and national colleagues on their behalf to ensure their human rights are protected”.

UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS, CECILIA JIMENEZ-DAMARY

The African Union (AU), in 2009, adopted the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons, (the Kampala Convention), the world’s first ever continental instrument that legally obligates governments to protect and assist internally displaced people.

The Convention was inspired and informed by the UN Guiding Principles and the UN Special Rapporteur continues to engage closely with the African Union to benefit from its experiences relating to internal displacement, encourage ratification by States, which have not yet done so and support its implementation.

This included the convening of the inaugural conference of States parties to the Convention in Harare in 2017, which resulted in the establishment of a Bureau of States parties and the adoption of an action plan to support the implementation of the Convention. In early 2018, the African Union also adopted a model law on internal displacement.

*Source: <https://www.internal-displacement.org/>

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES IN AFRICA

In 2018 the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights expanded the mandate of its Working Group on Death Penalty, Extra-Judicial, Summary or Arbitrary Killings to include enforced disappearances in Africa. Since then the members of the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID) have been cooperating in several of its activities to raise awareness on enforced disappearances in Africa with the view of encouraging State Parties to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights to ratify internationally legally binding document on enforced disappearances and address the protection gap in the African continent.

To this effect, members of the WGEID took part in several panels and discussions hosted by the African Commission on the sidelines of its sessions to discuss enforced disappearances in Africa and the challenges victims experience when seeking truth, justice and reparation. Further, members of the African Commission and the WGEID have also jointly participated in online activities to commemorate the International Day of the Victims of Disappearances. Finally, members of the WGEID have also taken part in the drafting process of the Guidelines on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances in Africa, which were successfully adopted in May and launched in October 2022.



Image: UNSOM

Women and children wait to receive food at in IDPs camp in Doolow, Gedo region, Somalia on June 12, 2017

VIOLENCE AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

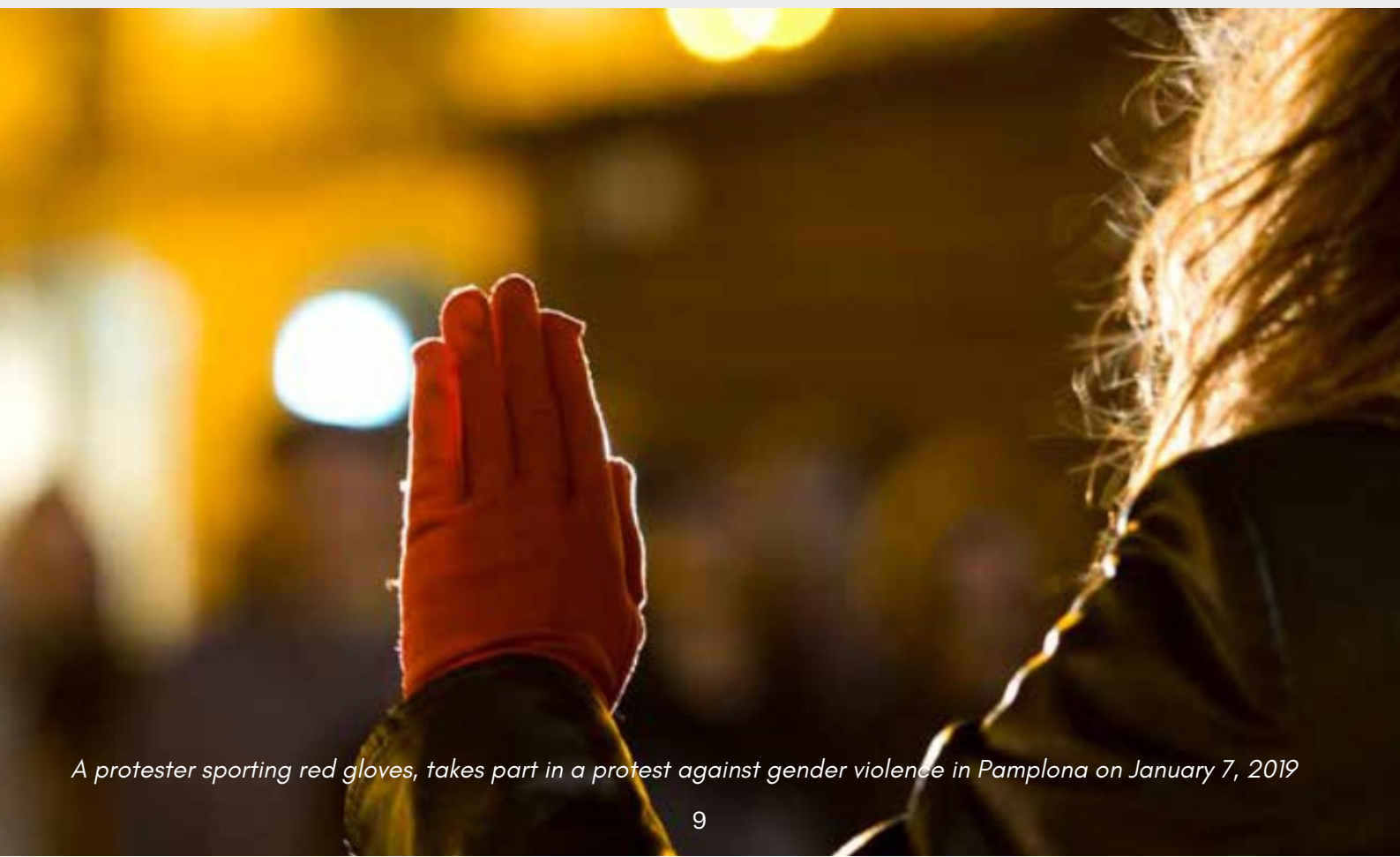
The Platform for Strengthening Cooperation and coordination among international and regional independent human rights mechanisms for full gender equality, full enjoyment of the human rights of women and girls, and the elimination of gender-based violence, was launched by the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women in 2018.

It comprises the following international and regional mechanisms:

- THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL RAPPOORTEUR ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, ITS CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES
- THE UNITED NATIONS WORKING GROUP ON THE ISSUE OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN IN LAW AND IN PRACTICE
- THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW)
- THE INTER-AMERICAN SPECIAL RAPPOORTEUR ON THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN
- THE SPECIAL RAPPOORTEUR ON THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN IN AFRICA
- THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS OF THE FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM TO THE BELÉM DO PARÁ CONVENTION (MESECVI)
- THE GROUP OF EXPERTS ON ACTION AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE (GREVIO)

In February 2020 the EDVAW Platform met for the first time in the African region in the context of the 35th Pre-summit CSOs Consultative meeting,

Image: AFP/ ANDER GILLENEA



A protester sporting red gloves, takes part in a protest against gender violence in Pamplona on January 7, 2019

In accordance with their respective mandates and working methods, international organizations, governments, national institutions and other stakeholders can engage with each of these mechanisms jointly, or separately in relation to work conducted at the national, regional and international level by supporting implementation of the mechanisms' thematic and country specific recommendations on elimination of violence and discrimination against women.

In February 2020 the EDVAW Platform met for the first time in the African region in the context of the 35th Pre-summit CSOs Consultative meeting, organized under the leadership of the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women its causes and consequences, and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights Special Rapporteur on Rights of Women in Africa, and in collaboration with the Secretariat of Gender Is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for Eastern Africa (EARO).

On this occasion, platform experts spoke on conflict and gender-based discrimination and violence against women, calling for renewed efforts by States, international and regional organizations, and relevant stakeholders to address the root causes of gender-based violence against women and girls before, during, and after conflict as a continuum that requires a holistic approach for its eradication.

The platform experts also met bilaterally with African Union officials, where they presented the platform's efforts to increase collaboration between UN and regional expert mechanisms, which was much welcomed by African Union officials.

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND INTERSEX (LGBTI)

A series of trilateral dialogues have been held between the African Commission on Human and People's Rights, the Inter-American Commission and UN human rights experts to develop South-South cooperation on the issue of sexual orientation, gender identity/expression and intersex characteristics (SOGIESC). The dialogues took place with the support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Development Programme and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

The inter-regional partnership between the African, Inter-American and United Nations human rights systems is grounded in the universality of human rights and the collaboration identifies good practices in each system. The dialogues look at the intersections of SOGI with other human rights concerns such as violence against women, the situation of human rights defenders, the rights of children, prevention of torture, killings, deprivation of liberty, freedom of expression and economic, social and cultural rights.

Into the future

What's next for the Addis Ababa Roadmap?

"The Addis Ababa Roadmap is an important tool for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights in the region. Its achievements have demonstrated that joining our efforts and our voices results in a stronger impact on the ground. We must now consolidate the hard work of the first 10 years to ensure an even more robust collaborative agenda for the decade to come." VICE-CHAIRPERSON OF THE ACHPR AND SPECIAL RAPPOORTEUR ON REFUGEES, ASYLUM SEEKERS, INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS AND MIGRANTS IN AFRICA, MAYA SAHLI-FADEL

A decade into its existence, we are at an important juncture for the Roadmap. The Roadmap has seen numerous achievements and it remains a leading light in measuring tangible coordination activities between different regional and international human rights mechanisms. But many challenges remain.

These coming years we must accelerate efforts to join forces for the protection and promotion of human rights which are increasingly put in danger by many forces, including anti-rights groups.

Protecting civic space

The Roadmap should become a key tool to enhance protection of the civic space on the African continent.

All of us doing work at the international and regional level are concerned and should be involved. We must also use the Roadmap at the benefit of civic space in the region by joining forces with civil society too.

Coordinating responses to crises

The Roadmap should also become central when facing crises, regardless of the nature of the crisis.

The COVID 19 pandemic taught us that crises know no borders and conversely human rights based responses to crises should be transnational, linking the regional and international responses.

The regional and international human rights mechanisms continuously monitor and observe situations and trends: the next step up should be to cooperate in order to turn these observations into early warnings to prevent crisis to set or deteriorate. Here as well, the Roadmap could be instrumental.

These ideas are but a glimpse of ways in which the Roadmap could pave the way for further interconnectedness between different human rights mechanisms. In line with its very raison d'être, let us further build the Roadmap we want in the next decade: TOGETHER.

Types of joint activities within the framework of the Addis Ababa Roadmap



Organise joint platforms, bringing together a variety of thematic & global experts



Participate jointly in events linked to human rights thematic & country areas



Issue joint press releases on human rights situations



Issue Joint statements on issues of concern



Undertake joint participation in panels/events at the UN Human Rights Council



Undertake joint participation in sessions/events at ACHPR



Do joint country visits & collaborate in preparation of reports



Share information & knowledge:

- at the international level
- at the regional level
- at country level with civil society & NHRI's

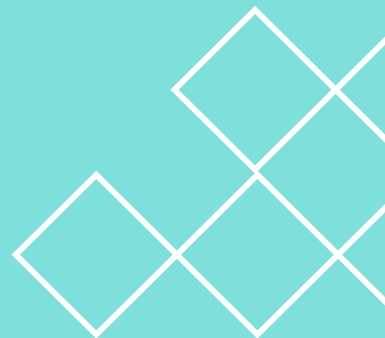
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