

African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights



The [African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights](#) (ACHPR) is one of two continental bodies charged with protecting human rights in Africa and interpreting the [African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights](#) (African Charter). Its counterpart, the [African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights](#), complements the Commission's work and has a more limited mandate.

The Commission is based in Banjul, the Gambia, where it often holds its biannual ordinary sessions, although it may meet in different States. It also holds extraordinary sessions when convened by the Chairperson of the Commission. Civil society organizations that have been granted observer status by the Commission may participate in the Commission's public sessions.

States Parties to the African Charter:

Out of the [African Union's](#) 55 Member States, 54 have ratified the [African Charter](#); the exception is Morocco. The Commission has jurisdiction to hear complaints concerning human rights violations allegedly committed by any one of those States, and to monitor their human rights practices. The 54 States are: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

The Commission's Activities:

- Issue guidance and interpretation regarding African human rights instruments
- Review reports by States and civil society organizations and issue recommendations ("concluding observations") concerning States' implementation of the African Charter
- Conduct fact-finding and promotional missions in African Union Member States
- Establish "[special mechanisms](#)," appointed experts who monitor specific human rights concerns
- Review "[communications](#)," complaints that allege violations of the Charter by States parties
- Issue "provisional measures," asking a State to prevent imminent, irreparable harm to an individual or group

Basic Instruments:

The following is a partial list of the treaties and procedural instruments relevant to the ACHPR's work. The Commission also has issued numerous non-binding [declarations and guidelines](#).

- African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights ([text](#))
- Rules of Procedure of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (2010) ([text](#))
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa ([text](#))
- African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child ([text](#))
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights ([text](#))

To learn more about the African Commission, visit IJRC's webpages on the [African Human Rights System](#), [Research Aids](#), and [Country Factsheets](#).