

## Working Group on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Africa

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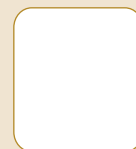
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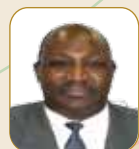
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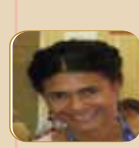
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# African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights



## About African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights established the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. The Commission was inaugurated on 2 November 1987 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Commission's Secretariat has subsequently been located in Banjul, The Gambia.

In addition to performing any other tasks which may be entrusted to it by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, the Commission is officially charged with three major functions:

- the protection of human and peoples' rights
- the promotion of human and peoples' rights
- the interpretation of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights

## Current Commissioners

The Commission consists of 11 members elected by the AU Assembly from experts nominated by the state parties to the Charter.

### Composition of the Commission

The Assembly considers equitable geographical and gender representation in electing the members of the Commission. Members of the Commission are elected for a six-year term and are eligible for reelection.

Once elected, the commissioners serve in their personal capacity and not as representatives of their respective countries. Previously, some members of the Commission held high political offices at the national level, which affects the Commission's independence. The AU in April 2005 issued a note verbale to member states prescribing guidelines for nomination of members to the Commission which excluded senior civil servants and diplomatic representatives.

### Bureau of the Commission

The Commission elects its Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson as the Bureau of the Commission. They are elected for a term of two years and are eligible for re-election once. The Bureau coordinates the activities of the Commission and supervises and assesses the work of the Commission's Secretariat. The Bureau is also empowered to take decisions on matters of emergency between the sessions of the Commission. It is however obligated to present a report on the situation to members at the next session of the Commission.

### Secretariat of the Commission

The Chairperson of the AU Commission appoints the Secretary of the African Commission including other support staff necessary for the effective discharge of the Commission's mandate. The Secretariat provides administrative, technical and logistical support to the Commission.

## Special Mechanisms

The Commission may create subsidiary mechanisms such as special rapporteurs, committees, and working groups. The creation and membership of such subsidiary mechanisms may be determined by consensus, failing which, the decision shall be taken by voting.

The Commission shall determine the mandate and the terms of reference of each subsidiary mechanism. Each subsidiary mechanism shall present a report on its work to the Commission at each ordinary session of the Commission.

Commissioners are appointed as special rapporteurs and as members of Working Groups. The Commission appoints independent experts, who are not commissioners, to assist the special mechanisms.

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### Commissioner Kayitesi Zainabo Sylvie



Vice-Chairperson of the African Commission  
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### Commissioner Reine Alapini Gansou



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### Commissioner Soyata Maiga



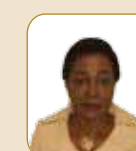
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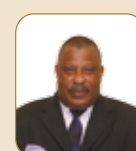
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### Commissioner Pacifique Manirakiza



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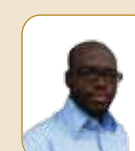
### Committee on the Protection of the Rights of People Living with HIV (PLHIV) and those at Risk, Vulnerable to and Affected by HIV

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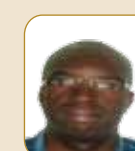
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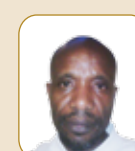
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