**Statement**

**Agenda item 6: Activity Reports of the Members of the Commission & Special Mechanisms**

This statement is being made on behalf of Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights (RFK Human Rights), the Human Rights Centre at the University of Pretoria (HRC) and the Human Rights Implementation Centre at the University of Bristol (HRIC). As the Commission is aware, we have been conducting research, individually and collectively on the implementation of decisions not only of the African Commission, but also the African Court, UN and other regional treaty bodies. We welcome the attention paid to implementation of decisions by the Commission in its meetings in Dakar and Zanzibar in 2017 and 2018 and a panel devoted to discussing the issue at its 63rd session. In light of one of the recommendations from Dakar, to ‘Increase capacity-building activities between the Commission and relevant stakeholders for increased compliance with decisions’, we would like to draw the attention of the Commission to some of the important recommendations from these two seminars and offer our assistance in taking these forward.

The conclusions from the seminar in Dakar noted:

* ‘Lack of guidelines to assist the various stakeholders in monitoring the implementation of the Commission's decisions/recommendations’; and
* ‘Lack of sufficient clarity in the types of remedies granted by the Commission and the body/institution responsible for monitoring implementation at the national level’.

One of the recommendations from both the Dakar and Zanzibar seminars was that the Commission should ‘Develop guidelines in the respective AU working languages with indicators to assist States Parties, NHRIs and CSOs in monitoring the implementation of its decisions/recommendations’.

We note a Guide on Reparations for African States that the HRIC produced to assist states, and a joint publication with Redress, for litigants in implementing decisions. NANHRI have also produced Guidance for NHRIs in monitoring implementation of decisions and judgements of the African Commission and Court. We understand there's an ongoing effort on when, what and how reparations should be granted, and there is a need for clarity on the formulation of reparations has been identified as being important for motivating implementation of decisions. We would also like to propose the Commission consider further indicators to assist stakeholders in the implementation and monitoring of implementation. We stand ready to assist.

In Zanzibar, it was acknowledged that there was a ‘lack of awareness of the Commission’s recommendations due to non- or delayed publication for appropriate action and/or public consumption’. The RFK Human Rights, HRC and HRIC remain available to assist in the informal translation of some of these decisions to ensure their dissemination.

Further recommendations from Zanzibar were that the Commission ‘Develop a database with periodic updates on the status of implementation of decisions by States’; and ‘Develop an integrated communication strategy to facilitate coordination and follow up on implementation of recommendations/decisions of the Commission ‘. We have gathered information on the measures taken by states to implement some of the decisions of the Commission and remain available to assist in the development of a database to present information and the development of a strategy to facilitate coordination, with the collaboration and support of other stakeholders.

Another recommendation from Zanzibar was that the African Commission should organise implementation seminars on its working method and related issues for all stakeholders. Our organiastions remain available to collaborate with the African Commission in hosting implementation workshops, and seminars to systematically monitor the implementation of its decisions/recommendations.

A final recommendation we would like to note is that States should ‘Establish a central mechanism or unit at national level responsible for coordinating issues regarding implementation of decisions of the Commission’. The team have been working on gathering information on these national mechanisms and will share this with the Commission to support its contacts with state authorities.

All of these initiatives, outlined in Dakar and Zanzibar and in other documents of the African Commission, could be used to develop a complete implementation strategy. We provide ready to assist on technical input to craft such a holistic strategy to enable the Commission to combine these ideas and move forward towards their realisation.