**Statement of the Human Rights Implementation Centre 75th Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights**

**Agenda item: Human Rights Situation in Africa**

The Human Rights Implementation Centre at the University of Bristol UK welcomes the opportunity to provide this statement to the 75th session of the African Commission.

Firstly, we would like to draw the attention of the Commission to the challenges in accessing its material since the updates were made to its website. This is particularly the case with older cases, documents and other material which forms an important part of the institutional legacy of the Commission. Without the entirety of the Commission’s documentation and jurisprudence being available on the website, the visibility of the Commission is diminished, and states, NHRIs and CSOs, in particular those who are less familiar with its work, will find it difficult to understand the mechanisms and how to engage with the Commission. Out of date documentation is also on the website, for example, on the communications procedure, and many links are broken. We respectfully request from the Commission information on when the website may be fully operational and all material restored.

Secondly, we reiterate our statements, made at previous sessions, regarding the monitoring of the implementation of the decisions of the Commission, including its own recommendations that it would ‘Institutionalise a mechanism to follow up on the implementation of its recommendations and decisions’ and ‘Develop a database with periodic updates on the status of implementation of decisions by States’. We reaffirm our ongoing commitment to work with the Commission in developing a strategy around reparations and monitoring implementation.

Thirdly, we would like once again draw the attention of the African Commission to the situation in Biafra. The African Commission has been continually alerted to ongoing violations against those who identify as Biafran including extrajudicial killings, arbitrary detention and torture and ill-treatment. In June 2021 the leader of the Indigenous Peoples of Biafra, Nnamdi Kanu, was picked up at the airport in Kenya and for the following 10 days his whereabouts were unknown. He then was found in detention in Abuja, with evidence of his torture and ill treatment in the intervening days. The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention adopted an Opinion in April 2022 in which it held that his continued deprivation of liberty, his detention pending trial and inability to challenge the lawfulness of his detention is in violation of Nigeria’s human rights obligations and that he ‘been targeted on account of his activism in galvanising momentum for a referendum on the sovereignty of Biafra’, contrary to Articles 2 and 7 of the UDHR and Articles 2(1) and 26 of the ICCPR. Mr Kanu, however, remains in detention.

We urge the African Commission to decide the communications currently pending before it, to call on the Nigerian government to respect the provisional measures adopted by the Commission, as well as request information from the government on the continued violations against individuals in Biafra, to undertake investigations, punish those responsible and provide reparations for the victims.

We stand available to provide further information to the African Commission and are always grateful for your support.