

Resolution on the Appointment of the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa - ACHPR/Res. 504 (LXIX)2021

Jan 03, 2022

The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, meeting at its 69th Ordinary Session, held virtually from 15 November to 05 December 2021;

Recalling its mandate of promotion and protection of human and peoples' rights in Africa, pursuant to Article 45 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (the African Charter);

Aware that in the exercise of its mandate the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (the African Commission) has established various mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human and peoples' rights in Africa;

Emphasizing that the right to freedom of expression and access to information is a fundamental human right guaranteed by Article 9 of the African Charter;

Reaffirming the commitment of the African Commission to promote the right to freedom of expression and access to information, and monitor implementation of the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa by the States Parties;

Bearing in mind the Model Law on Access to Information in Africa which was adopted by the African Commission to encourage the adoption of national legislation on access to information in line with the regional and international standards;

Mindful of the Guidelines on Access to Information and Elections in Africa, adopted by the African Commission in light of the importance of the right of access to information to the creation of a conducive environment for free, fair and transparent elections, and elaborate on the information which should be proactively disclosed by all relevant actors during elections;

Recalling Resolution ACHPR/Res.71(XXXVI)04 which established the special mechanism on Freedom of Expression in Africa, and Resolution ACHPR/Res.122 (XXXII) 07 which expanded the mandate to include access to information in Africa;

Recalling Resolution ACHPR/Res.84 (XXXV)05 which appointed Advocate Pansy Tlakula, and Resolution ACHPR/Res.377(LXI)2017 which appointed Mr. Lawrence Mute;

Further recalling Resolution ACHPR/Res. 453 (LXVI) 2020 which appointed Justice Jamesina E. L. King as the Special Rapporteur;

Considering that the mandate of Justice King, as a Member of the Commission and Special Rapporteur, came to an end on 15 November 2021;

Noting with appreciation the work done by Justice King as the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa;

Decides to appoint **Commissioner Ourveena Geereesha Topsy-Sonoo** as the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa.

Done virtually, on 5 December 2021