STATEMENT AT THE 64TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE ACHPR, APRIL 2019: ADDRESSING ON KAMPALA CONVENTION NON-DOMESTICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION BY AU MEMBER STATES

Read by Naji Moulay Lahsen

Sharm El Sheikh, 24 April 2019

Madam Chairperson and Honorable Commissioners of the African Commission for Human and Peoples’ Rights,

Distinguished Representatives,

The African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies wishes to commend the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the organization of its 64th session in Sharm El Sheikh, Arab Republic of Egypt. The commission has played a crucial role these past years in providing an open space to Civil Society to bring their voices and propositions at the table of discussion through the NGOs Forum facilitated by the African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies.

The NGO Forum offers a platform for exchange, discussion, but also for setting up regional lobbying and advocacy strategies for NGOs. It is also during the forum that the NGOs present and adopt resolutions on relevant human rights issues in Africa. These resolutions are then presented to the ACHPR, which decides whether to adopt them, nevertheless the resolutions of the Forum of NGOs are references to the progress of human rights on the continent since the establishment of the forum.

Madam Chair,

The specific objectives of the Forum are: (1) Improve NGO access to the African Commission; (2) Foster closer collaboration and cooperation between NGOs and the African Commission; (3) Provide a platform for organizations working on democracy and human rights to meet and discuss issues of common interest and to share information, experiences and good practices; (4) Build capacity to organize networking opportunities in the region; (5) and Contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights in Africa.
Our recommendations concern both cross-border situations and situations specific to certain countries. As for the continent in general, the African Center urges the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights to call on states to refocus the sanctions of expelling migrants and criminalizing migration, calling Member States to ratify the Kampala Convention and to implement it.

It is also recommended that the Commission call upon member states to provide durable solutions that can only be achieved when IDPs, Migrants, Asylum Seekers and Returnees have specific assistance and protection needs and can enjoy their human rights without discrimination on account of their displacement.

We also recommend that states ratify the various regional and international instruments on the protection of human rights of IDPs while encouraging countries that have already ratified these conventions to ensure their effective implementation.

We are further calling on Member States for the implementation of the Common African Position on Global Compact for Migration. The adoption of such a guide will provide a reference point for future discourses on migration management and effective cooperation.

We urge Africa Union State Parties to ensure the total independence of the Commission from interference with its work by Africa Union political and policy organs.

We wish all an excellent session.

Thank you.