

## **58th SESSION OF THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLE'S RIGHTS, BANJUL, THE GAMBIA**

### ***The role of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on ESCR in advancing equality and human rights for all***

Over the last decade, the legal recognition of economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR) has greatly increased in many parts of the world, including Africa. This is demonstrated by the growing use of litigation strategies within civil society, increased legal mobilization of marginalized groups and the greater constitutional recognition of ESCR.

In the context of the African Union's *Year of Human Rights with Special Focus on the Rights of Women* and the *50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the International Covenant on ESCR*, ratification of the OP-ICESCR represents a clear step forward ensuring access to justice and challenging poverty and marginalization.

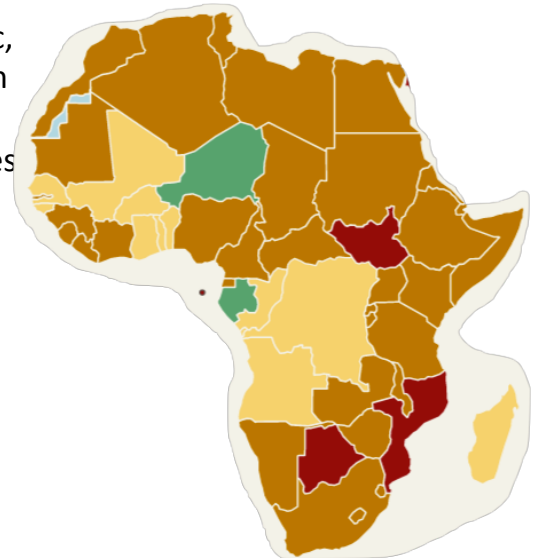
As of March 2016, ten African states have signed the OP-ICESCR: Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Congo, DRC, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Madagascar, Mali, Senegal and Togo. Three other states have ratified the OP-ICESCR: Cabo Verde, Gabon and Niger.

**Join the NGO Coalition for the OP-ICESCR**-composed of over 300 organizations across Africa and other regions **in a panel to explore the role of the OP-ICESCR in advancing equality and human rights for all.**

**When?** Monday, 11 April 2016, from 17:00 – 17:30

**Where?** Main Conference Room - Kairaba Hotel

- ✓ **Commissioner Jamesina E.L. King**, Chair of the Commission's Working Group on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- ✓ **Pauline Vata**, Economic and Social Rights Center-Hakijamii, Kenya
- ✓ **Member** of ACHPR's Working Group on ESC Rights (TBC)
- ✓ **Ivahanna Larrosa** (Moderator), Campaign Coordinator of NGO Coalition for the OP-ICESCR, International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR-Net)



● Ratified the OP-ICESCR

● Signed the OP-ICESCR

● Party to the ICESCR

● Not a party to the ICESCR