

**FORUM ON THE PARTICIPATION OF NGOS AT THE 40TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE
AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS
Paradise Suites, Banjul, the Gambia, 12 - 14 November 2006**

Resolution on Strengthening the Responsibility to Protect in Africa

NGO/Res/0019 – 1106

We, the participants attending the NGO forum on the 40th session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights,

Recall the report of the International Commission on Intervention and State Security (ICISS) of 2001 which set the foundation for governmental and civil society effort in achieving international consensus on the Responsibility to Protect,

Note the report of the Panel of Eminent Persons on United Nations – Civil Society Relations dated 7 July 2004 which among other things proposed increased civil society participation in the activities of the United Nations,

Mindful of the report of the High – Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Changes (A more secure world: our shared responsibility) dated 1 December 2004 with particular reference to pages 29 – 30 which called for Member States to endorse the Responsibility to Protect,

Further note the report of the United Nations Secretary General entitled 'In Larger Freedom: Towards Security, Development and Human Rights for All' particularly paragraph 18 and 19 which call for collective action in tackling human security challenges,

Re-affirm paragraph 138 and 139 of the United Nations Summit Declaration of September 2005, where the international community expressed its determination to its responsibility and readiness to act where national authorities fail to protect their population from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity,

Further Re-affirm the September 2005 United Nations Summit Declaration calling for the cooperation of relevant regional organisations to help protect populations from these grave threats,

Acknowledge the common African position on the proposed reform of the United Nations also known as the 'Ezulwini Consensus' where the AU member states affirmed and endorsed the Responsibility to Protect,

Deeply concerned at the slow response of the international community to past acts of genocide and crimes against humanity in Rwanda and the continued slow response to the allegations of genocide and crimes against humanity in Darfur,

Call on the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights to:

Re-affirm paragraph 138 and 139 of the September 2005 United Nations Summit Declaration, where governments endorsed their collective responsibility to protect population from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity when individual states “manifestly fail” to protect their own populations from these grave threats,

Urge the African Union to accelerate the promotion and protection of human and peoples' rights by ensuring good governance and take steps to protect their citizens from avoidable conflicts and ensure equal participation in resource allocation and distribution,

Call on African States to expedite action towards commitment to the people of Darfur by expanding the mandate of, and increasing financial support for the African Union Mission in Darfur and putting pressure on the government of Sudan to protect the people of Darfur from rape and other forms of gross human rights violation,

Further Call on Civil Society Organisation to adopt advocacy strategies in accelerating the understanding of the Responsibility to Protect in their engagement with their governments and communities,

Encourage support for capacity building for Civil Society for a more effective advocacy, monitoring and reporting human rights violations in Africa,

Done at Banjul, 14 November 2006.