

Citizens' Continental Conference

21-23 January 2016, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

23 November 2015

Dear Colleagues,

Re: Announcing the 6th Citizens' Continental Conference on the theme of the 2016 African Year of Human Rights with a Focus on Women's Rights

We are pleased to announce the 6th Citizens' Continental Conference to be held on **21-23 January 2016** in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on the margins of the African Union (AU) Summit scheduled from 24-31 January 2016.

As you may know, the AU has identified 2016 as the "*African Year of Human Rights, in particular, with focus on the Rights of Women*". This theme puts human rights at the forefront of the AU Agenda for 2016, and relevant organs and institutions of the AU have begun to outline their programme of activities for the year, with a culmination of commemorations aimed for Africa Human Rights Day on 21 October 2016.

There are critical issues which civil society organisations would want to reflect on and share insights and recommendations regarding this specific theme; as well as on the priority policy issues which the Summit will address. It is in this regard that we will be hosting this Citizens' Continental Conference with a view to bringing African voices to the African Union, and facilitating the creation of policy dialogue spaces for African citizens and civil society organisations to provide the AU with alternative narratives and concerns.

The 6th Citizens' Continental Conference seeks to:

- a) Engage in critical reflection on the current challenges, gaps and opportunities in addressing Human Rights in Africa with the aim to provide clear, concise and co-ordinated recommendations from civil society
- b) Reinvigorate co-ordination and joint advocacy of civil society
- c) Enhance the networking of civil society by ensuring the inclusion of new organisations with more seasoned organisations working on the key policy areas.

It is anticipated that the Conference will be attended by African citizens, social movements, media, CSO representatives, parliamentarians, Inter-governmental and multi-lateral institution representatives, PRC members and other relevant stakeholders. It will be held for

three (3) days with plenary and related parallel sessions to allow for debate and dialogue among the participants. We invite you at this time to send us your written suggestions if you are interested in hosting a parallel session at the conference. Attention will be paid to using innovative methodologies to encourage substantive engagement, including audio-visual exhibitions, debates, and participative developmental approaches. Details of participation in the conference will follow shortly. Please note that due to limited resources participants will be expected to cover their own costs as far as possible. We will be pleased to provide you with information on hotels and other local arrangements as may be necessary. Or any further documentation or possible assistance you might require to enable your participation at the conference.

Kindly do respond to **info@ccpau.org** by **2 December 2015** indicating your availability and interest in participating in the conference.

We thank you in advance and look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,



For:

The Organisers of the Citizens' Continental Conference

Oxfam International

In collaboration with:

- Centre for Citizens' Participation in the African Union (CCPAU)
- Southern Africa Trust (SAT)
- Open Society Foundations (OSF)
- Save the Children
- TrustAfrica
- Fahamu
- Pan Africa lawyers Union (PALU)
- State of the Union Coalition (SOTU)
- ActionAid International
- One Campaign Africa
- Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVr)