

ACHPR/Res.161 (XLVI)09 : RESOLUTION ON THE REAPPOINTMENT OF THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION IN AFRICA

The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (the African Commission) meeting at its 46th Ordinary Session held from 11 - 25 November 2009, in Banjul, The Gambia:

Recalling its mandate to promote human and peoples rights and ensure their protection in Africa under the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights (the African Charter);

Aware that in the exercise of its mandate, the African Commission has established various mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human and peoples' rights in Africa;

Recalling the Resolution on the Mandate and Appointment of the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression in Africa adopted at its 36th Ordinary Session held from 23 November - 7 December 2004 in Dakar, Senegal;

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

Recalling the adoption of the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression in Africa, at its 32nd Ordinary Session held from 17 - 23 October 2002, in Banjul, The Gambia, which elaborates the nature, content and extent of the right to freedom of expression and access to information provided for under 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 the implementation of the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression in Africa within Member States of the African Union;

Recalling Resolution ACHPR/Res.84(XXXV)05, appointing Commissioner Faith Pansy Tlakula, as Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression in Africa adopted at the 38th Ordinary Session held from 21 November to 5 December 2005, in Banjul, The Gambia;

Further recalling Resolution ACHPR/Res.122(XXXII)07: on the Expansion of the Mandate and Re-appointment of the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa adopted at the 42nd Ordinary Session held from 15 to 28 November 2007, in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo;

Considering that the term of Commissioner Faith Pansy Tlakula as Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa comes to an end on 5 December 2009 and the need for continuity;

Decides to renew the term of office of the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa for a period of two years, effective 5 December 2009.