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These institutions that aims at promoting and protecting human rights include: the African Court of Human and People’s Right , the Ecowas Community Court of Justice and the African Commission.

The first being African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Right which was established by The African Charter. The Commission was inaugurated on 2 November 1987 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

It’s mandate by virtue of ***Article 45***states that the functions of the commission shall be :

1. To promote Human and People’s rights which would include, researching on African problems,formulation of principles and rules aims to be a solution to legal problems and so on.
2. Ensure protection of human and people’s right under the conditions laid down by the present charter.
3. Interpretation of the provisions of the present charter at the request of a State Party , an institution of the OAU or an organisation recognised by the OAU ( Organisation of African Unity).
4. Performance of any other tasks which may be entrusted to it by the Assembly of the Heads of State and Government.

The second institution is the African Court which complements and reinforces the functions of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. The Court was established by virtue of***Article 1 of the Protocol*** to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights, (the Protocol) which was adopted by Member States of the then Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in June 1998. It has jurisdiction over all cases and disputes submitted to it concerning the interpretation and application of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, (the Charter), the Protocol and any other relevant human rights instrument ratified by the States concerned. Specifically, the Court has two types of jurisdiction: contentious and advisory.

Last being Ecowas Community Court of Justice which was established as a sub-regional international Court in 2001 pursuant to ***Articles 6 and 15 of the Economic Community of West African State (ECOWAS) Revised Treaty.*** It should also be noted that the primary aim of ECOWAS is to promote cooperation and integration, leading to the establishment of an economic union in West Africa in order to raise the living standards of its peoples, and to maintain and enhance economic stability, promote relations among Member States and contribute to the progress and development of the African Continent. It was originally set up in in the year 1975.

Human rights institutions in Africa are confronted by various challenges. First among these is lack of communication see ***Article 55 -59 of the ACHPR*** which shows the ineffectiveness in regards to the communication of the state parties and relevant stake holders; non-responsiveness of state parties on urgent appeals and provisional measures; lack of awareness on the institutions decisions due to delay/non publication. See the case of ***Constitutional Rights Project v. Nigeria.*** This was a case involving Zamani Lekwot and six others who were applicants sentenced to death in the Civil Disturbances (Special Tribunal) *Act No 2 of 2987*, it was said that their lawyers forced them to withdraw their case and that a conviction was reached without legal representation of the defendant. The commission found Nigeria guilty of ***Article 7(1)(a)(c) and (d)***of the charter and recommended that Nigeria freed the applicants and also to make sure the violations were repaired. The facts it found was never published despite the commission visiting Nigeria. A solution to this is state parties reports regularly to the Commission on the status of implementation of recommendations and decisions of the Commission,!also establish liaison persons to facilitate communication with the Commission and so on.

The second challenge would be Financial and institutional constraints which includes inadequate staffing levels at the Secretariat of the Commission often delaying the adoption and publication of Concluding Observations on State Reports, as well as the handling of correspondences/Communications; Inadequate financial resources of the Commission due to inadequate funding from State Parties resulting in the Commission’s reliance on donor fund and so on. This could be curbed if state parties could establish a central mechanism or unit at national level responsible for coordinating issues regarding implementation of decisions of the Commission and provide adequate decisions for this implementation.

Lastly , inadequate commitment by State PartiesNon-compliance by States with their commitment under ***Articles 62 of the African Charter and 26 of the Maputo Protocol*** and a way to curb is this by letting state parties develop national plans for implementation and follow-up of decisions from regional and international treaty bodies. These plans should clearly indicate the activities and the stakeholders responsible for implementation.