

RATIFICATION OF THE AFRICAN DISABILITY PROTOCOL OF THE AFRICAN UNION BY THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

On the 16th of October 2017, the African Union of the Blind paid a courtesy call to the High Commission of the United Republic of Tanzania in Kenya. The aim of the visit was to discuss with the High Commission on ratification of the African Disability Protocol (ADP) of the African Union (AU). The country is among the first few African States chosen in the Alliances for Rights – Africa towards Disability Inclusion (ARADI) project to ratify the ADP upon adoption owing to its sound record on disability inclusion in leadership and decision-making processes.



Photo 1: Dandy Mubima, AFUB Fundraising and Communications Officer; Peter Anomah-Kordieh, AFUB Programme Officer – Human Rights and Advocacy; H.E. Dr Pindi Chana; OKIYO Martin, AFUB Executive Director and Col Fabian Machemba – Tanzania High Commission in Kenya Defences Advisor.

As the second African Decade for Persons with Disabilities comes to a close, the AU is in the process of adopting the ADP to complement the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and to address continued exclusion, harmful practices, and discrimination affecting those with disabilities, especially women, children, and the elderly.

The Protocol requires State parties to ensure that people with disabilities are not discriminated against; to implement affirmative action to advance their equality; and to take necessary steps to promote equality and to provide reasonable accommodations for them.

The draft Protocol, which was adopted by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) in February 2016 is undergoing the treaty-making process within the African Union and is due to be open for ratification in early 2018.

To expedite its entry into force – which requires ratification by 15 States parties – AFUB, together with other regional disability organisations, is seeking the commitment of African governments, through their Embassies and High Commissions in Kenya, to ratify the Protocol as soon as it is open for ratification.

AFUB is proud of Tanzania's willingness to promote the rights of all persons without discrimination and we thank Her Excellency Dr Pindi Chana for committing to discuss with relevant stakeholders and authorities in Tanzania to facilitate ADP ratification. In the next few coming weeks, AFUB plans to reach at least 20 diplomatic missions in Kenya.



Photo 2: Peter Anomah-Kordieh, AFUB Programme Officer – Human Rights and Advocacy; Dandy Mubima, AFUB Fundraising and Communications Officer; H.E. Dr Pindi Chana; Col Fabian Macheba – Tanzania High Commission in Kenya Defences Advisor and OKIYO Martin, AFUB Executive Director.

Follow AFUB on;

Twitter: https://twitter.com/AFUB_UAFA/ and on

Facebook: <https://web.facebook.com/afub.uafa.7>

Our mission is to strengthen member organizations and create unity of purpose among them through capacity building and advocacy in partnership with governments, international agencies and other stakeholders.

AFUB is a registered International Non-Governmental Organisation (INGO) and enjoys semi-consulate status in Kenya.

AFUB enjoys Observer status in the African Union (AU) under Resolution CM/Res.944 (XL).

www.afub-uafa.org