



# **AFUB UAFA**

## **AFRICAN UNION OF THE BLIND**

### **UNION AFRICAINE DES AVEUGLES**

The African Union of the Blind (AFUB) was established in October 1987, in Tunis, Tunisia, under the auspices of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) now African Union (AU). The African Union of the Blind was created to provide a collective voice for blind and partially sighted persons through advocacy and the creation of national organisations of blind and partially sighted persons in Africa. AFUB also provides a regional umbrella for the WBU.

#### **Our main objectives are:**

1. To promote the human, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of blind and partially sighted persons in Africa;
2. To strengthen national associations of the blind to enable them promote the rights of blind people within their countries; and
3. To strengthen the self-awareness of blind and partially sighted persons, to develop their personality, self-respect and sense of responsibility.

AFUB is a collective voice on the blindness agenda at the AU, established through a resolution of the AU and granted observer status as the only authoritative regional organisation with the mandate to represent blind and partially sighted persons at the AU and continental level.

**Our vision** is of a continent where blind and partially sighted persons enjoy equal rights, social inclusion and full participation in development

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

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](http://www.afub-uafa.org)

#### **Follow AFUB on:**

**Twitter:** [https://twitter.com/AFUB\\_UAFA/](https://twitter.com/AFUB_UAFA/) and on

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

## What is ARADI?

The African Disability Alliance (ADA) through a joint collaboration with the Christian Blind Mission (CBM) Germany and funding support from the European Union, launched a three year programme, the Alliance for Rights- Africa towards Disability Inclusion (ARADI). AFUB is implementing this project which is aimed at enabling Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Pan-African Disability Federations (PADFs) to participate and contribute to the majority key – AU continental decisions, policies and laws related to human rights for both men and women.

ARADI's specific objective is to enable PADFs to promote the importance of disability rights by using the AU's African Disability Protocol (ADP) and its Model Disability Law (MDL).

The Draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa or draft ADP was adopted by Heads of State and Governments of the AU Member States during the 19th Extra-Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), on 25th

February 2016, in the Republic of The Gambia. The ADP complements the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and addresses continued exclusion, harmful practices, and discrimination

affecting those with disabilities, especially women, children, and the elderly.

The protocol guarantees equal protection of economic, social, cultural, civil, and political rights to individuals with "physical, mental, intellectual, developmental or sensory impairments", and requires States Parties to implement affirmative action to advance this equality.

"State Parties" are any AU member which have ratified or acceded to the Protocol and deposited the instruments of ratification or accession with the Chairperson of the African Union Commission.

The protocol was drafted with the intent of laying out the rights of persons with disabilities in a continental context, drawing from the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) as well as to address additional issues specific to Africa. This protocol therefore addresses issues faced by persons with disabilities in Africa namely increased rates of poverty; systemic discrimination; and risk of violence and abuse, particularly for those women and girls with disabilities.

The draft protocol requires State Parties to take appropriate and effective measures, including policy, legislative, administrative, institutional and budgetary steps, to ensure, protect and promote the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, without discrimination on the basis of disability, including by mainstreaming disability in policies, legislation, development, programs and activities and in all other spheres of life.

The Protocol and its MDL seek to provide a foundation from which Member States can formulate or adjust legislation impacting persons with disabilities in their countries.

The Protocol shall enter into force thirty days after the deposit of the fifteenth instrument of ratification by a member State.

AFUB is actively campaigning by working to get the commitment of the Kenyan government to sign the protocol once it is open for ratification, as well as getting the commitment of Embassies in Kenya to sign a certificate committing their governments to ratify the Protocol once it opens for ratification in early 2018.



*Photo: AFUB Advocacy and Human Rights Officer making a statement during the 61st ordinary session of the ACHPR*

## ADP Article 18: Self representation

State parties shall recognize and facilitate the right of persons with disabilities to represent themselves in all spheres of life, including by promoting an environment that enables persons with disabilities to:

- Form and participate in the activities of organisations of and for persons with disabilities.
- Form and participate in the activities of non-governmental organisations and other associations.
- Gain and enhance capacities, knowledge and skills for effectively articulating and engaging in issues of disability, including through direct collaboration with organisations for persons with disabilities.
- Be actively consulted and involved in the development and implementation of all legislation, policies and programmes that impact persons with disabilities.

