

**71th Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights**

**Item 5: Panel on the 10th Anniversary of the Addis Ababa Road Map**

**Observer Status No. 359**

**Honourable Chairperson,**

**Honourable Commissioners,**

**State Delegates represented,**

**Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,**

As a representative of AfricanDefenders and DefendDefenders, I would like to confirm that our organisation was able to work in line with the Addis Ababa Roadmap, bringing both the ACHPR Special Mechanisms and the UN Special Procedures together. We find it an important mechanism for cross-pollinating expertise, advocacy engagement and solidarity.

As we mark the 10-year anniversary of the Roadmap, we would like to suggest a clearer coordination mechanism of the Roadmap to continuously take stock of progress on its implementation. This could take the form of an annual online convening between African and UN special procedures, state representatives, national human rights institutions and civil society to reflect on past achievements and challenges and improve ways of further collaboration.

Additionally, in the context of shrinking civic space on the African continent, the Addis Ababa Roadmap ought to contribute to early warning/early response by providing inputs to the UN or AU Peace and Security Council on relevant issues by offering their views and perspectives.

Finally, in line with the Memorandum of Understanding between OHCHR and the ACHPR, we find it a tremendous opportunity for further cooperation and collaboration between the ACHPR Special Mechanisms and the UN Special Procedures.

**I thank you.**