



## DECLARATION OF SAN JOSÉ

### **Joint Declaration of the Presidents of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, the European Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, on the occasion of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the entry into force of the American Convention on Human Rights and the creation of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights**

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The Presidents of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, the European Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, gathered in San José, Costa Rica on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July 2018 on the occasion of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the entry into force of the American Convention on Human Rights and the creation of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights;

*Considering* the antecedents of institutional and jurisprudential dialogue, the previous shared work and efforts between the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, the European Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights that allowed the sharing of the conceptual and jurisprudential standards of each Court for the common benefit;

*Celebrating and recognizing* the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the entry into force of the American Convention on Human Rights and the creation of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights as an exceptional opportunity to strengthen the dialogue, cooperation and institutional ties between the three human rights courts of the world;

**Have agreed upon the following:**

1. To establish a Permanent Forum of Institutional Dialogue between the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, the European Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights;
2. The Permanent Forum will aim to strengthen the protection of human rights and access to international justice of the people under the jurisdiction of the three courts, to contribute to state efforts to strengthen their democratic institutions and human rights protection mechanisms, and to overcome the common challenges and threats to the effective validity of human rights by working together.



3. The Permanent Forum will meet in private and public sessions at the headquarters of each Court on a rotating basis, as often as the participating Courts deem necessary. The private work meetings will be sessions in which the three Courts will engage in dialogue on: a) the principal institutional, normative and jurisprudential developments of each Court; b) the impact, difficulties and challenges of the work undertaken by each Court, and c) mechanisms to strengthen cooperation between the Courts, among other issues. The public sessions will be events directed at disseminating and sharing the jurisprudential dialogue between the three Courts. The forum can conclude its session with the subscription of a joint declaration on the principal advances and consensus reached in each meeting, as well as the concrete measures to be adopted to strengthen the dialogue and shared work.

Signed in San José, Costa Rica on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July 2018

**Sylvain Oré**  
President  
African Court on Human and  
Peoples' Rights

**Guido Raimondi**  
President  
European Court of Human  
Rights

**Eduardo Ferrer Mac-Gregor Poisot**  
President  
Inter-American Court of Human  
Rights