

**Oral Statement by the Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on the
Activity Report of Hon. Commissioner Mudford Z. Mwandenga, Chairperson of the
Working Group on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Africa**

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Rights (ACHPR)**

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Your Excellencies, Honourable Chairperson, Honourable Commissioners,

We welcome the report of Honourable Commissioner Mudford Zachariah Mwandenga in his capacity as Chairperson of the Working Group on Economic Social and Cultural Rights and commend him on the impactful work he has led. We especially commend the Working Group for finalising General Comment 7 on State obligations under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights in the context of private provision of social services.

We appreciate the effort to ensure a participatory process in the development of the General Comment, and the effort to ensure the General Comment is adopted and published this year. This significant output by the African Commission is a milestone in the work to highlight and reverse the negative impact of the privatisation and commercialisation of social services. The African Commission has long flagged to State parties the risks associated with this trend and the negative impact on the rights to education, healthcare, water and others.

The concluding observations and recommendations from the African Commission following the review of country reports such as for [Kenya](#) and [Uganda](#) had emphasised the importance of monitoring and regulating the operations of private actors, and increasing the investment in public services. In the [2019 Guidelines on the Right to Water in Africa](#), the Commission also emphasised the importance of State parties effectively regulating all private actors' activities and impacts on the right to water, and established conditions for the delegation of water supply services to private entities.

Such a ground-breaking instrument coming from Africa deserves all the attention so that other regional human rights bodies as well as the UN human rights system follow this good example of the African Commission in a timely manner.

Therefore, we urge the African Commission through its Working Group on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to include activities aiming at popularising the General Comment in its 2023 Annual Work Plan. We further call on State parties to fully implement the standards set by the African Commission in the General Comment.



Thank you.

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