

## Guidelines for National Periodic Reports under the African Charter (1998)

The general guidelines (adopted in 1989) for the reports for the reports that the state parties are required to submit every two years (per article 62 of the Charter) and that are considered by the African Commission are reprinted in *Human Rights Law in Africa* 2004 p 569 and further, and are also available on [www.chr.up.ac.za](http://www.chr.up.ac.za). The African Commission adopted the simplified guidelines reprinted below as a supplement to the initial guidelines in 1998. The Commission has also adopted guidelines on reports on socio-economic rights. These guidelines are available at [www.achpr.org](http://www.achpr.org)

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1. An initial report (the first report) should contain a brief history of the state, its form of government, the legal system and the relationship between the arms of government.
2. The initial report should also include the basic documents – the constitution, the criminal code and procedure and landmark decisions on human rights.
3. The major human rights instruments to which the state is a party and the steps taken to internalise them.
4. How is the state party implementing the following rights protected by the Charter:
  - (a) civil and political rights;
  - (b) economic, social and cultural rights; and
  - (c) group rights?
5. What is the state doing to improve the condition of the following groups mentioned in the Charter:
  - (a) women;
  - (b) children; and
  - (c) the disabled?
6. What steps are being taken to protect the family and encourage its cohesion?
7. What is being done to ensure that individual duties are observed?
8. What are the problems encountered in implementing the Charter with regard to the political, economic or social circumstances of the state?
9. How is the state carrying out its obligations under article 25 of the Charter – on human rights education?
10. How is the state, as an interested party, using the Charter in its international relations, particularly in ensuring respect for it?
11. Any other information relevant to the implementation and promotion of the Charter.