

## **Dakar ATI & Democracy Charter Consultation**

**October 2011**

### **Action plan for Senegal**

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#### **Objectives**

- Facilitate ratification of the Democracy Charter
- Facilitate adoption of a national legislation on freedom of expression and ATI

#### **Expected outcomes**

- Entry into force of Democracy Charter
- Development of a bill and adoption of a national legislation on FoE and ATI in Senegal

#### **Activities**

##### **1. Government**

Following the Dakar consultation, the Minister for Human Rights and Peace has appointed two representatives to draft a comprehensive report including all relevant recommendations adopted during the consultation for transmission to all Senegal competent authorities, namely:

- The President of the Republic;
- The President of the Senate;
- The Prime Minister (Head of government);
- The Minister of Foreign Affairs;
- The Minister of Justice;
- The President of the Law Commission in the Parliament.

The Human Rights Minister will also personally discuss with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Communication to require information on the state of advancement of the ratification process and the one on a bill of ATI legislation.

## 2. CSOs

The Senegalese NGO RADDHO has already initiated, in collaboration with Oxfam Novib, an advocacy programme for the ratification and implementation of the Democracy Charter ; as well as the African Court of Justice and Human Rights Protocol.

RADDHO's advocacy programme includes various activities (round tables, broadcast programmes, ...) to lobby competent authorities, inform and sensitise the wider public on the usefulness and importance of the ratification and implementation of both instruments.

Motivations include among others:

- Strengthening democracy (organisation of free and fair elections; backed with follow-up mechanisms before, during and after elections);
- Consolidation of the rule of law (respect of separation of powers and independence between the executive, judiciary and legislature, etc.);
- Respect of social and economic good governance standards (transparency in management of public affairs, fight against corruption, concussion and lack of transparency, respect of citizens' equality before the law without discrimination of any kind).

As part of the launching of its advocacy programme with Oxfam Novib, RADDHO organised, on 25 August 2011 in Dakar, a panel discussion with the participation of representatives of the government (Prime minister's office, Foreign Affairs, Justice), of state institutions (Senate, National Assembly, Senegalese Human Rights Committee), the Senegalese Bar Association, and CSOs (Human rights, citizenship movements, trade unions and the media).

Ratification of the Charter and African Court of Justice and Human Rights have been at the heart of the discussions. Representatives of the government present have committed to extend their support to CSOs in their information and advocacy campaign towards the ratification of both instruments with no delay.

**Fait à Dakar, le 11 Octobre 2011**