INTERNATIONAL FORUM HELD FROM 28-29 OCTOBER 2019, AT KAMPALA UGANDA

ON THE THEME:

“Operationalising the International Human Rights Forum and Enhancing Jurisprudential Dialogue”.

Commentary on how to finance and sustain the International Human Rights Forum: Propositions on the options for fundraising and discussions on potential challenges by Judge Rafaâ BEN ACHOUR:

Talking Points

Introduction

The funding and resources allocated to a cause affects the achievement of its purpose. These funds and resources are required to implement programmes, undertake activities and hold meetings towards the realization of the aims and objective of that cause. This also applies to the Forum hence, this session to discuss proposals on fundraising to ensure its continuing existence and sustainability. We therefore make the following propositions in this regard.
Propositions on fund raising and sustaining for the Forum

- The three courts should commit a part of the respective Court’s budgets to the expenses of the Forum subject to the financial regulations of each Court.
- Develop joint initiatives aimed at ‘disseminating’ the objectives of the Forum to Member States, partners, businesses under their corporate social responsibility programmes, citizens, civil society and other relevant entities.
- Encourage member states of the respective Courts to directly contribute to the programmes of the Forum as voluntary contributions.
- Seek opportunities for obtaining technical support for the Forum through collaborations with relevant organizations within and out of the respective Courts’ existing networks. These include training and educational institutes, information technology organizations and international non-governmental organizations. These organizations could among other things support the capacity trainings and other programme the Forum organizes, support the conduct of thematic studies on specific human rights issues which the Forum may undertake and help create, manage and maintain the Forum’s online platform.

Potential challenges

- One of challenges that could arise in the effort to raise funds for the Forum is the fact that the participating Courts’ budgets are already stretched and they may not be able to accommodate the Forum’s programmes.
- Some bureaucratic processes within the Courts and/or their parent institutions may hamper timely release of authorizations and funds for the Forum’s activities.
- The impact of the Forum on the realization of the mandate of the respective Courts’ mandates must be properly communicated to potential supporters of the Forum and if this is not managed properly, the Forum’s potential supporters may not be forthcoming.
Conclusion

- Since the three Courts have decided to establish the Forum and build on their already existing relationships, whiles charting new areas for further collaboration they must strive to identify sustainable funding mechanisms towards the realization of its objectives. The resources of the Forum must be skillfully managed and maximized, towards the execution of the initiative of the Forum and ultimately, its purpose.