

	AFRICAN UNION (AU)	ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS)	ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN)
Approx population (2017), # of member states	1.256 billion, 58 states	1.007 billion, 35 states	0.645 billion, 10 states
GDP (PPP) per capita in USD: Highest / Lowest	In 2017 ¹ Equatorial Guinea \$34,865 Central African Republic \$681	In 2017 ² United States of America \$57,469 Haiti \$1,877	In 2018 ³ Singapore \$98,014 Cambodia \$4,321
Commission	African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)	Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR)	ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR)
Year founded	1987	1959	2009
Court	African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights	Inter-American Court of Human Rights	None
Mandate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A quasi-judicial agency, reviewing complaints. • Oversees and interprets the African Charter and verifies that signatory states meet their legal obligations to protect human rights. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observes, investigates, and reports on the general human rights situation in member states. • Holds thematic hearings, conferences and other meetings on priority human rights issues. • Exercises authority over states and cannot hear complaints (called "petitions") against companies or individuals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The overarching institution in ASEAN on human rights. • To develop a regional cooperation on human rights. • No mandate to handle individual cases.
Who can file a complaint	Individuals, peoples, groups, and NGOs.	<p>Commission: Any person, group of persons, or any nongovernmental entity legally recognized in one or more member states.</p> <p>Court: State parties to the American Convention who have accepted the Court's jurisdiction. The Commission itself may submit a case to the Court. Individuals do not have direct recourse to the Inter-American Court; their cases must be referred by the Commission.</p>	There is no grievance mechanism to receive and respond to complaints. Organizations or individuals may send letters for the attention of AICHR.

¹ [World Economic Outlook Database, January 2018, International Monetary Fund](#). Database updated on 12 April 2017. Accessed on 21 April 2017.

² International Monetary Fund. "[Report for Selected Countries and Subjects](#)". *World Economic Outlook Database, October 2017*. Retrieved 8 November 2017, and [World Economic Outlook Database, January 2018, International Monetary Fund](#). Database updated on 12 April 2017. Accessed on 21 April 2017

³ "[ASEAN](#)". [International Monetary Fund](#). Retrieved 17 April 2018.

How to file a complaint	Submit a “communication” to ACHPR which provides details of the human rights violation(s) that occurred. A complaint must meet seven requirements highlighted in Article 56 of the African Charter. ⁴	Submit a petition before the IACHR, including details of the alleged victim(s), the petitioner, and details of the case, complaints should also detail attempts at obtaining remedy. ⁵	There is no mechanism to receive and respond to complaints. However, letters may be sent through the AICHR Chair and copying all the other AICHR Representatives and the ASEAN Secretariat.
Case load: Number of petitions received per year	Commission: Over 600 communications were submitted to the African Commission until 2017. ⁶ Court: As of June 2016, the number of applications received by the Court since its establishment stands at 155, while the number of requests for advisory opinion stands at 13. ⁷	Commission: IACHR received 21,771 petitions between 2006 and 2017 ⁸ ; total number of cases pending at the moment: 2,622. ⁹ Court: Until 2017, the Inter-American Commission has submitted 258 cases. ¹⁰	N/A
How many were decided	Commission: There have been 96 total decisions on the merits between 1995 and 2018 ¹¹ —an average of 4 cases per year. As of December 2017, the African Commission has 232 cases pending before it. ¹² Court: There have been 53 finalized cases. ¹³ There are over 90 cases pending before the Court. ¹⁴	Commission: The Commission published merits reports on 63 cases between 2006 and 2017—an average of 5 cases per year. ¹⁵ Court: From 1987 to 2017, the Court decided on 227 cases—an average of 7 cases per year. ¹⁶	N/A

⁴ Article 56 of the charter states that the commission shall consider correspondence put to it pertaining to human and peoples' rights if it meets the **following conditions**:

1. Indicate their authors even if the latter request anonymity,
2. Are compatible with the Charter of the Organization of African Unity or with the present Charter,
3. Are not written in disparaging or insulting language directed against the State concerned and its institutions or to the Organization of African Unity,
4. Are not based exclusively on news discriminated through the mass media,
5. Are sent after exhausting local remedies, if any, unless it is obvious that this procedure is unduly prolonged,
6. Are submitted within a reasonable period from the time local remedies are exhausted or from the date the Commission is seized of the matter, and
7. Do not deal with cases which have been settled by these States involved in accordance with the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, or the Charter of the Organization of African Unity or the provisions of the present Charter.

⁵ Organization of American States, Petition and Case System: Informational Brochure

⁶ African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, Communications

⁷ African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, Mid-term Activity Report of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, 1 January-30 June 2017.

⁸ Organization of American States, Statistics, <http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/multimedia/statistics/statistics.html>

⁹ Organization of American States, Statistics, <http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/multimedia/statistics/statistics.html>

¹⁰ Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Annual Report: 2017, <http://www.corteidh.or.cr/tablas/informe2017/ingles.pdf>

¹¹ African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, Decisions on Communications,

<http://www.achpr.org/communications/decisions/?o=845&p=1&sort= date>

¹² African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, 43rd Activity Report of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, http://www.achpr.org/files/activity-reports/43/43rd_activity_report_eng.pdf

¹³ African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, Contentious Matters, <http://en.african-court.org/index.php/cases#finalised-cases>

¹⁴ African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, Contentious Matters, <http://en.african-court.org/index.php/cases#pending-cases>

¹⁵ Organization of American States, Statistics, <http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/multimedia/statistics/statistics.html>

¹⁶ Inter-American Court of Human Rights, Decisions and Judgments, http://www.corteidh.or.cr/CF/Jurisprudencia2/busqueda_casos_contenciosos.cfm?lang=en

Number of cases decided with NGO involvement	Commission: There were 30 decisions on the merits from 2000 through 2009 that had direct NGO involvement. ¹⁷	Commission: Between 2000 to 2009, there were 60 NGOs involved in the cases filed. ¹⁸	
Number of accredited CSOs	518	465	28
CSOs' Application for Registration	Granting observer status has mostly been "without much discussion" ¹⁹ and is "usually a rather routine affair" ²⁰ .	The process of accreditation for civil society members is not rigorous. ²¹	The likelihood of active human rights organisations in the region being accredited by ASEAN is minimal. ²² There are only 5 human rights organizations out of the 28 accredited organizations. ²³
Are intl human rights orgs - FIDH, Amnesty Intl, HRW & ICJ allowed in?	Yes	Yes	No

This factsheet was prepared for the AICHR Interregional Dialogue: Sharing Good Practices on Business and Human Rights, held in Bangkok, June 4-6, 2018.

¹⁷Lloyd Hitoshi Mayer, NGO Standing and Influence in Regional Human Rights Courts and Commissions, https://scholarship.law.nd.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1053&context=law_faculty_scholarship

¹⁸Lloyd Hitoshi Mayer, NGO Standing and Influence in Regional Human Rights Courts and Commissions, https://scholarship.law.nd.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1053&context=law_faculty_scholarship

¹⁹Magnus Killander, African Human Rights Law Journal, Human rights developments in the African Union during 2015, <http://www.scielo.org.za/pdf/ahrli/v16n2/11.pdf>, page 536.

²⁰The Conversation, African commission turns 30, but threats to its independence remain real, <http://theconversation.com/african-commission-turns-30-but-threats-to-its-independence-remain-real-85421>

²¹Rodolfo Albán Guevara, Civil Society and the Promotion and Protection of Democracy in the Americas, https://www.focal.ca/pdf/civil%20society_Alban_FOCAL_Promotion%20Protection%20Democracy%20Americas_FPP-06-03_e.pdf

²²Catherine Drummond, The ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and the Responsibility to Protect (R2P): Opportunities and Constraints <https://r2pasiapacific.org/filething/get/1263/AICHR%20and%20R2P%20Report%20No%20%20FINAL%202011.pdf>

²³ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights, Consultative Relationship with the AICHR, <http://aichr.org/external-relations/consultative-relationship-with-the-aichr/>