

Commemoration of December 10 in East Africa

The East African Regional Office (EARO) will commemorate Human Rights day with its partners in the region as summarized below:

Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, EARO has been closely working with the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission to celebrate the day colorfully. On the morning of 10th of December there will be a marching procession in Addis Ababa that will end with a program including reading out of the statements of the UNSG and the HC for the day and keynote addresses by CSO and government representatives. . Circus and band performances will add colour to the day. Flyers, posters and publications related to human rights will be distributed to create awareness among the public. This event will be followed by a panel discussion on the theme “Implementation of Human Rights in Ethiopia” in the afternoon. As part of this topic, OHCHR will make a presentation on the need for ratification of international human rights instruments yet to be endorsed by the Ethiopian Government. A year long campaign for ratification will be launched as of the 10th December 2009.

Tanzania

Under the coordination of the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG), several activities have already been taking place since the month of September, such as conferences and workshops on Human Rights, in the run up to commemoration of the day. The climax day ,10 December, will be celebrated in Zanzibar where the president of Zanzibar, His Excellency President Amani Karume is expected to be the guest of honor and different activities will be featuring including processions, reading out of speeches of the HC and UNSG and award giving ceremonies to high schools who have won the month long school debates on various human rights issues. CHRAGG will submit to the Government specific recommendations on human rights, including the one regarding the development of a National Human Rights Plan of Action. The EARO will be represented on the commemoration and its representative, Mrs. Selma Vadala, will read out the statement of the HC for the day. She will also take part the next day in Pemba Island (Zanzibar) in a CSOs celebration of the HR Day.

Djibouti

EARO will commemorate the day in Djibouti in an event organized by UNCT Djibouti and the National Human Rights Commission under the auspices of the Prime Minister. Statements of the UNSG and HC for the day will be read out and brochures referring to conventions which give emphasis to discrimination will be distributed. Different sketches and musicals reflecting the theme of the day will also be part of the day’s activities. Mrs. Mehret Berhane will represent OHCHR and will read out the HC’s statement.

African Union Commission

The day will be commemorated jointly by the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) of the African Union Commission and OHCHR/ EARO. Statements and speeches of the Commissioner for political affairs of the AU Commission, HC and UN Secretary General will be read out. In addition, the DPA has organized short story writings by school children touching upon the theme of the day; “**Embrace Diversity, End Discrimination**” which will be followed by Reading Ceremony of Winner Short Stories and award giving. The RR, Frej Fenniche, will represent the HC at the ceremony.