

Appendix P. African Commission Shadow Report Template



African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
[number] Ordinary Session
[dates of session]

Report on [issue] in the [name of country]
Under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
in response to
The [number] Periodic Report of the Government of [country]
presented at
The [number of session] Ordinary Session of the Commission
[date of session]

prepared by

[name of organization]
[description of organization]

and

[name of organization]
[description of organization]

[date of submission]

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. [Summarize the human rights violations your report addresses and your recommendations for action by the Government of _____.

I. _____'s international, regional, and domestic commitments to human rights include [_____].

2. [Identify the relevant treaties that Government has ratified.]

3. [Identify the relevant provisions in Government's Constitution.]

4. [Describe any recent statements by the Government of _____ that it will honor its human rights commitments, e.g., the state report, statements during the Universal Periodic Review.]

II. The Government of _____ has failed to uphold its human rights obligations in the context of [_____].

5. [Give an outline of the topics the report will cover. *Note: This template has 5 topics, but your report may have more or fewer topics.*]

A. [Topic 1]

6. [Summarize the human rights violations addressed in Topic 1.]

7. [Briefly describe the relevant treaty language and how it relates to Topic 1.]

8. [Summarize the "procedural history" of Topic 1. What, if anything, did Government say on the topic during the last African Commission review, during the last Universal Periodic Review, and during the last reviews by the relevant UN treaty bodies? What were the relevant outcomes of those procedures?]

9. [Describe the Government's current position on the topic, as extracted from the latest state report. If the state report is silent on the topic, look to any recent official pronouncements.]

10. [Describe the reality, explaining why the Government's position is inaccurate, incomplete, misleading, or false. Incorporate first-hand accounts and other documentation of human rights conditions on the ground, if relevant.] [*Note: This part will likely take multiple paragraphs. It is the most important and most substantive part of the report.*]

Suggested questions for the delegation from the Government of _____:

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Suggested recommendations for the Government of _____:

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B. [Topic 2]

11. [Summarize the human rights violations addressed in Topic 2.]

12. [Briefly describe the relevant treaty language and how it relates to Topic 2.]

13. [Summarize the "procedural history" of Topic 2. What, if anything, did Government say on the topic during the last African Commission review, during the last Universal Periodic Review, and during

the last reviews by the relevant UN treaty bodies? What were the relevant outcomes of those procedures?]

14. [Describe the Government's current position on the topic, as extracted from the latest state report. If the state report is silent on the topic, look to any recent official pronouncements.]
15. [Describe the reality, explaining why the Government's position is inaccurate, incomplete, misleading, or false. Incorporate first-hand accounts and other documentation of human rights conditions on the ground, if relevant.] *[Note: This part will likely take multiple paragraphs. It is the most important and most substantive part of the report.]*

Suggested questions for the delegation from the Government of _____:

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Suggested recommendations for the Government of _____:

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C. [Topic 3]

16. [Summarize the human rights violations addressed in Topic 3.]
17. [Briefly describe the relevant treaty language and how it relates to Topic 3.]
18. [Summarize the "procedural history" of Topic 3. What, if anything, did Government say on the topic during the last African Commission review, during the last Universal Periodic Review, and during the last reviews by the relevant UN treaty bodies? What were the relevant outcomes of those procedures?]
19. [Describe the Government's current position on the topic, as extracted from the latest state report. If the state report is silent on the topic, look to any recent official pronouncements.]
20. [Describe the reality, explaining why the Government's position is inaccurate, incomplete, misleading, or false. Incorporate first-hand accounts and other documentation of human rights conditions on the ground, if relevant.] *[Note: This part will likely take multiple paragraphs. It is the most important and most substantive part of the report.]*

Suggested questions for the delegation from the Government of _____:

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Suggested recommendations for the Government of _____:

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D. [Topic 4]

21. [Summarize the human rights violations addressed in Topic 4.]
22. [Briefly describe the relevant treaty language and how it relates to Topic 4.]
23. [Summarize the "procedural history" of Topic 4. What, if anything, did Government say on the topic during the last African Commission review, during the last Universal Periodic Review, and during the last reviews by the relevant UN treaty bodies? What were the relevant outcomes of those procedures?]

24. [Describe the Government's current position on the topic, as extracted from the latest state report. If the state report is silent on the topic, look to any recent official pronouncements.]
25. [Describe the reality, explaining why the Government's position is inaccurate, incomplete, misleading, or false. Incorporate first-hand accounts and other documentation of human rights conditions on the ground, if relevant.] *[Note: This part will likely take multiple paragraphs. It is the most important and most substantive part of the report.]*

Suggested questions for the delegation from the Government of _____:

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Suggested recommendations for the Government of _____:

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E. [Topic 5]

26. [Summarize the human rights violations addressed in Topic 5.]
27. [Briefly describe the relevant treaty language and how it relates to Topic 5.]
28. [Summarize the "procedural history" of Topic 5. What, if anything, did Government say on the topic during the last African Commission review, during the last Universal Periodic Review, and during the last reviews by the relevant UN treaty bodies? What were the relevant outcomes of those procedures?]
29. [Describe the Government's current position on the topic, as extracted from the latest state report. If the state report is silent on the topic, look to any recent official pronouncements.]
30. [Describe the reality, explaining why the Government's position is inaccurate, incomplete, misleading, or false. Incorporate first-hand accounts and other documentation of human rights conditions on the ground, if relevant.] *[Note: This part will likely take multiple paragraphs. It is the most important and most substantive part of the report.]*

Suggested questions for the delegation from the Government of _____:

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Suggested recommendations for the Government of _____:

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III. Conclusion

31. [Restate your main points and your most important recommendations.]