The Fourth African Union and China Dialogue on Human and Peoples’ Rights took place on 22 April 2024 at the Headquarters of the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This important event availed the two parties the opportunity to discuss and make concrete recommendations to pressing human rights concerns in both regions.

Building on a strong relationship characterized by robust economic collaboration, technological advancement and joint initiatives, the AU and China are committed to addressing key human rights challenges constructively and collaboratively. The dialogue considered the unique historical, cultural, and political landscapes influencing human rights practices in Africa and China. It addressed the following thematic issues: the promotion and protection of the right to development and education, Human rights due diligence in business conduct in both Africa and China, Human rights and emerging new technology, and Strengthening partnership and cooperation between the AU and China.
Participants included officials from the China Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Mission of China to the African Union, the African Union Commission, the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights, and the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights. The dialogue demonstrated a strong and unwavering commitment by both parties to promotion and protection of human and peoples’ rights in both regions.

Ms. Patience Zanelie Chiradza, the Director of Governance and Conflict Prevention, Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security of the African Union Commission, who led the AU Delegation, expressed her deep appreciation to H.E. Mr. Yang Xiaokun, Special Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China on Human Rights Affairs, and the Chinese delegation to the AU for the organization of the Dialogue. She underscored the enduring relationship of mutual respect, collaboration, and a shared commitment to promoting and protecting human rights between the African Union and China, as exemplified in the previous editions of the Dialogue. She further emphasized the importance of raising awareness among stakeholders from Chinese and Africa on the work of China on the principles that safeguard the rights of African Peoples, particularly in Business conduct as well as the need for further collaboration and awareness raising.

The dialogue had a substantive discussion on the Right to Development, where China cited its historical progress and emphasized the centrality of development to human rights. The AU highlighted its ongoing focus on sustainable development and the Right to Education, and China shared its successes and priorities in education as a long-term national investment.

In discussions on human rights and emerging technology especially Artificial Intelligence (AI), China and the AU recognized the opportunities and threats that technology poses to socio, political and economic transformations. They emphasized the need for responsible regulation on a global scale to ensure fair and equitable development of technologies.

The Dialogue symbolizes the strong partnership between AU and China and their shared commitment to improving human rights, technological capacity, and socio-economic development.

For more information:

Mr. Issaka Garba Abdou, Head of Governance and Human Rights Division, Governance and Conflict Prevention Directorate, Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department of the AUC, Email: GarbaAbdoul@africa-union.org

Ms. Seraphine Kando, Human rights specialist, Governance and Conflict Prevention Directorate, Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department of the AUC, Email: kandoS@africa-union.org

For media inquiries:

Ms. Limi Mohammed, GCP Communications focal point and Web Administrator, in the Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department, African Union Commission Email: shashlm@africa-union.org