

AFRICAN UNION



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**AFRICAN UNION SYMPOSIUM ON  
"Citizenship in Africa: Preventing Statelessness, Preventing  
Conflicts", Nairobi / Kenya, 22-24 October 2012**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Raise awareness on statelessness and the risk of statelessness, including at highest political/decision making levels to facilitate prevention and appropriate responses statelessness.
2. Carry out a survey/census and develop national plans to identify stateless persons and persons at the risk of statelessness.
3. Develop curriculum on citizenship with collaboration of non-state stakeholders.
4. Review national laws to determine if they render people stateless or put them at the risk of statelessness.
5. Understand reasons for conflict and particularly conflict fueled by nationality and, by extension, statelessness issues.
6. Encourage rapid accession to, domestication and implementation of international instruments on statelessness in Africa, particularly the 1954 & 1961 Conventions.
7. Ensure state compliance with the implementation of their international commitments.

8. Develop an African regional instrument on statelessness that reflects African realities and context such as nomadic, historical migrations and border dimensions of the phenomenon.
9. Encourage African states to take advantage of dual citizenship as a means of preventing statelessness.
10. Advocate with legislative and executive arms of governments on issues of Citizenship and Statelessness.
11. Encourage Member States to implement the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, in particular Article 6 to ensure that children acquire their nationality.
12. Adopt an Optional Protocol on the Right to Nationality in Africa to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.
13. Amend national laws to reflect international standards on acquisition of citizenship and prevention of statelessness.
14. Encourage member states to guarantee equal rights nationality, including the right to confer nationality/citizenship to descendants, regardless of gender, racial, religious and ethnic considerations.
15. Adopt effective naturalization procedures and mechanisms, including the establishment of objective criteria of reacquisition of nationality and naturalization of stateless persons and recourse to judicial and administrative mechanisms.
16. Establish a robust, cost-free civil registration and vital statistics system to allow for evidence-based conferment/acquisition of nationality.
17. Develop due process in addressing cases of citizenship and statelessness.
18. Ensure protection, including the right to residence and recognition of stateless' families and access to basic social services to stateless people and people at risk of statelessness.

19. Encourage the African Union and relevant partners to coordinate prevention and response to statelessness and to mobilize resources in this regard.
20. Call on the African Union to document good practices on the identification, prevention and reduction of statelessness.

Nairobi, 24 October 2012