**Final Communique of the Africa Civil Society Forum**

**2nd – 4th February 2019, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

On 2nd February 2019, Africa Civil Society Forum convened a 2-day conference to reflect on the theme of the 32nd Ordinary Summit of the African Union, “Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Toward durable solutions to forced displacement in Africa.” Civil society leaders, organizations and networks from the following ten countries and members of the Diaspora participated in the conference: Benin, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania, South Sudan, Rwanda, Uganda, and Sudan.

A**ppreciated** the African Union’s commitments and keenness to protect, assist and create conducive conditions for safe and dignified stay and repartition and passage of internally displaced persons. Apart from the decision declaring year 2019 for the refugees, a great number of African States are incorporating the Comprehensive Refugees Response Framework (CRRF) at the national policy level to mutually benefit both refugee and host communities.

**Recognized** that Africa’s Renaissance depends on the ingenuity of its people. The trail blazed by the African Union will enable ACSF to amplify ideas and opportunities unique to Africa and common across the increasingly interconnected world.

**Cognizant** of the challenges facing the continent regarding movement of population due to man-made or natural disasters, we understand that it is difficult to implement all of the tenants and agreements pertaining to movement of people. We the members of the ACFS, pledge to work with the African Union and international organizations towards achieving these resolutions.

**Africa Civil Society Forum Calls For:**

Enhanced regular collaboration and coordination with state public policymakers, the African Union and Africa civil society in support of refugees and host communities.

Empowering the youth through innovative programs and initiatives that will allow for their talent and originality to flourish and provide opportunities to alleviate poverty and to provide education and job security that will keep the largest portion of Africa’s population at home.

Policymakers in Africa to collaborate with the European Union to combat migration. We request that our policymakers work with the European Union at the level of states and regional bodies rather than engaging with non-state actors.

Finally, we wish the African Union a successful and fruitful Summit and we hope the issues we have raised will be addressed at the Summit and will be included in its final communiqué.