



DRAFT PROGRAMME – DECEMBER 2025 VERSION

African Court Coalition 2026 Stakeholders' Platform on the Margins of the 80th Ordinary Session of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights

Theme:

"20 Years of the African Court: Reflecting on Achievements, Confronting Challenges, and Charting the Future"

Dates: 26 February – 2 March 2026

Venue: Arusha, Tanzania

Languages: English | French | Portuguese | Kiswahili (with simultaneous interpretation)

DAY 1 – Thursday, 26 February 2026

"Reflecting on Two Decades of the African Court: Achievements, Challenges, and Lessons Learned"

Time	Session	Description / Focus
08:00 – 09:00	Arrival and Registration	Participant registration and networking
09:00 – 10:00	OPENING CEREMONY	<p>Welcome remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinator, African Court Coalition A representative from the Arusha Regional Commission Office <p>Remarks by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACC EXCOM Representative Representative from AU Organs Development Partners Keynote address and Official Opening: Judge President of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights
10:00 – 10:30 GROUP PHOTO & COFFEE BREAK		
10:30 – 11:00	SETTING THE SCENE: Presentation of the Background Paper	20 Years of the African Court: Reflecting on the Court's 20 years journey and its role in the African Human Rights ecosystem

<p>11: 00 – 12:30</p>	<p>Panel 1: The African Court's Jurisprudence and its Impact on Human Rights Protection (Highlights & Landmark Cases)</p>	<p>Exploring landmark decisions of the African Court and trends in human rights protection.</p>
<p>12:30 – 13:30</p>	<p>Panel 2: Updates on new major developments at the African Court</p>	<p>Panelists will provide recent updates towards enhancing the Courts’ effectiveness including updates on the newly adopted Guidelines on submission and transfer of cases between the Court & the Commission, implementation updates etc.</p>
<p>13:30 – 14:30 LUNCH BREAK</p>		
<p>14:30 – 15:45</p>	<p>Panel 3: AU Members States Perspectives on the African Court</p>	<p>This session will be dedicated to State Actors and their views on the African Court operations, challenges they face in compliance with the Courts’ judgements, withdrawals and how cooperation can be enhanced between the two parties. A representative from a ‘champion state’ will also be included in the panel to encourage other states to cooperate with the Court.</p>
<p>15:45 – 16:05 COFFEE BREAK</p>		
<p>16:05 – 17:30</p>	<p>Panel 4: Reflecting on practical guidelines for development of national implementation frameworks to enhance compliance with decisions of the African</p>	<p>Panelists will focus on detailed guidelines that can help State actors in the development of implementation legislation/guidelines/frameworks to enhance compliance with the Courts’ decisions and establishment of coordinated implementation mechanisms.</p>

	Court	
	Day 1 Reflections and Closing	Summary of key takeaways and framing of Day 2 discussions.

DAY 2 – Friday, 27 February 2026

“Charting the Future: The African Court in a Changing World”

Time	Session	Description / Focus
8:30 – 9:00	REGISTRATION	
09:00 – 09:10	Recap of Day 1	Summary presentation and framing remarks
9:10 – 11:00	Panel 5: Emerging Frontiers and Strategic Litigation before the African Court	Panelists will explore the burgeoning areas of climate change & environmental justice; the rapidly evolving landscape of artificial intelligence and digital technologies; and the area of business & trade; AND examine their profound implications on human rights and how such issues can be litigated before the African Court.
11:00 – 11:20 COFFEE BREAK		
11:20 – 12:30	Panel 6: The Future of Litigation & Adjudication – Legal Tech and Procedural Efficiency	<p>This session will focus on the use of technology in litigation and adjudication and the applicability of such to enhance efficiency in both.</p> <p>Panelists will explore the use of technology in diverse areas such as research and drafting, evidence (satellite image, surveillance data, etc.) as well as the use of technology to speedily adjudicate cases (Ai tools to summarize evidence & submissions, drafting</p>

judgments etc.)

12:30 – 13:30 LUNCH BREAK

13:30 – 14:45

Panel 7: Advancing Gender justice and Jurisprudence

This session will focus on exploring strategic practical ways in advancing women rights including the rights of women with disability from national level to the African Court, including limitations, and best practices. Discussions will also explore strategic ways on the possibilities of case referrals from the Commission to the Court, and strategic collaborations and future directions for gender-responsive adjudication at the African Court.

14:45 – 16:00

Panel 8: Amplifying Visibility: Media engagement, the Court's image & public trust

This session will bring together media and communication professionals to discuss constraints and opportunities in publicizing the Court's work. Discussion points include mainstream and social media, and interventions from the Court's publicity department on the needed support to enhance the Courts' visibility.

16:00 – 16:20 COFFEE BREAK

16:20 – 17:50

Panel 9: From Ouagadougou to Malabo: What is the future of the African Court?

This session will reflect on the existing African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (established through the 1998 Protocol in Ouagadougou), and other pending/future courts to be established; African Court of Justice (of which Protocol has already entered into force but the Court is yet to be operationalized); African Court of Justice and

		<p>Human Rights' AND African Court of Justice and Human and Peoples' Rights (Malabo Protocol)</p> <p>How do we move with the current Court to the future courts and what will be the implications for the Human Rights court? what are the realities of the continental and global trends and the practicalities of a future African court? How do we collaborate and organise ourselves in creating the 'African Court' that we want in the context of all existing Protocols?</p>
<p>17:50 – 18:00</p>	<p>Closing Remarks of Day 2</p>	<p>Brief summary of key takeaways and overview of breakout session logistics for Day 3.</p>

DAY 3 – Saturday, 28 February 2026

“Collaborative Breakout Sessions – From Dialogue to Action”

Time	Session	Description / Focus
8:30 – 9:00	REGISTRATION	
09:00 – 10:00	Presentation on the Arusha Initiative	Overview on the collaborations on the Arusha Initiative and its role in fostering stakeholder’ participation in the nomination and selections of judges of the African Court and members of the African Human Rights mechanisms. Highlighting the 2026/2027 vacancies within the African Human Rights System
10:00 – 10:30 COFFEE BREAK		
10:30 -11:30	Panel 10: Forging Strategic Partnerships & Networks for a stronger, visible and accessible African Court	<p>This multi-stakeholder dialogue explores the vital role of strategic collaborations, partnerships, and networks among CSOs, legal practitioners, academia, AU organs and NHRIs. The aim on one hand is to foster commitments and actionable recommendations from stakeholders in order to enhance visibility and access to the African Court by increasing the number of Article 34.6 Declarations, and the number of ratifications of the African Court Protocol; AND on the other hand, increasing engagement with the African Court through litigation and advisory opinion.</p> <p>Panelists will also focus on the ongoing African Union reforms process and its implications for the human rights architecture, particularly the African Court, and how the formed alliances can effectively participate in and influence such reforms to safeguard and strengthen the</p>

		Court.
11:30 – 13:00	THREE Breakaway Sessions: Developing Action-oriented Key-points and Recommendations (Concurrent Groups)	A breakaway Session on multi-stakeholder collaborations and actions on advocacy to strengthen accessibility and visibility of the African Court
		A breakaway Session on multi-stakeholder collaborations and actions on Strategic litigation, and identification of potential cases that can be brought before the African Court.
		A breakaway Session on consultation on the Model Law on Implementation of Decisions of AU Human Rights organs.
13:00 – 14:00 LUNCH BREAK		
14:00 – 14:45	Presentation of Action-oriented Key-points and Recommendations from the three Groups	Groups presentation of action-oriented key-points and Recommendations for validation and adoption. (45 minutes)
14:45 – 15:00	Presentation of General Draft Outcome Document	Recommendations an action-oriented key points from stakeholders for strengthening accessibility, visibility and strategic litigation and engagement with the African Court.
15:00 – 15:30	CLOSING CEREMONY	Official closing remarks.
15:30 COFFEE & NETWORKING		

DAY 4: SUNDAY- 1ST MARCH 2026

Networking Event to enhance cooperation among stakeholders	An informal convening for stakeholders to wind down and exchange ideas for future collaboration and cooperation
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DAY 5: MONDAY- 2ND MARCH 2025

Participation to the opening of the judicial year of the African Court.

SPEAKERS WILL INCLUDE DIVERSE STAKEHOLDERS FROM:

- Civil Society Organisations
- Representatives from African Union Member States
- National Human Rights Institutions
- Legal Practitioners and Litigants before the AU Human Rights organs
- The academia
- Representatives of AU Organs including the African Court, the African Commission and ACERWC
- Members of the media fraternity etc.