



CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST: JOIN THE AFRICAN COURT COALITION THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS TO IMPLEMENT THE ARUSHA ROADMAP

Submission Deadline: 20 September 2026

Introduction

The African Court Coalition (ACC) invites expressions of interest from its members, human rights practitioners, legal experts, researchers, academics, civil society organizations, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), Bar Associations, youth organizations, media professionals and other relevant stakeholders to participate in the ACC Thematic Working Groups established to support implementation of the Arusha Roadmap 2026–2030.

The establishment of the Working Groups arise from the outcomes of the 2026 African Court Coalition Stakeholders' Platform (the Arusha Roadmap), which brought together diverse stakeholders to identify practical strategies for strengthening the accessibility, effectiveness, visibility and impact of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (African Court) and the broader African Human Rights system.

The Arusha Roadmap provides an ambitious five-year agenda. Its implementation will require sustained collaboration, technical expertise, research, advocacy and engagement across national, regional and continental levels. The ACC therefore seeks to mobilize the expertise and networks of its members and strategic partners through a set of thematic Working Groups.

About the Working Groups

The Working Groups will serve as expert-driven and implementation-oriented platforms through which ACC members and partners can contribute to translating the Arusha Roadmap from recommendations into practical initiatives, policy interventions, research, advocacy and partnerships.

The Working Groups will operate as lean, collaborative and results-oriented mechanisms that draw primarily on the expertise, professional networks and institutional resources of participating members and partners. The ACC Secretariat will coordinate and provide institutional support to the Working Groups.

Participation is therefore primarily voluntary and based on the contribution of expertise and time. Activities requiring financial resources will be pursued through ACC resource mobilization, partnerships and donor support, subject to the availability of funding.

Building the Arusha Roadmap Together

The 2026 African Court Coalition Stakeholders' Platform established an ambitious agenda for the next phase of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights after marking its 20th Anniversary in 2026. The Working Groups provide a mechanism for stakeholders to move from dialogue to coordinated action and from individual initiatives to sustained continental collaboration.

The ACC invites members and partners with relevant expertise and commitment to join this collective effort to advance the Arusha Roadmap 2026–2030 and contribute to building a stronger, more accessible, visible and effective African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights.

Thematic Working Groups

Applicants may express interest in one or two of the following Working Groups:

1. Access to Justice, States' Engagement and AU Engagement

The Working Group will focus on strengthening access to the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, while helping in the development of strategic engagements at national and African Union (AU) levels. It will also support the ACC in identifying emerging opportunities and challenges affecting the African Human Rights architecture and developing timely and coordinated responses. The Working Group will help translate the following priority areas into concrete advocacy initiatives, policy recommendations, strategic engagements and coordinated actions;

Priority areas: -

- Ratification of the African Court Protocol and Article 34(6) declarations
- Ratification of the 2014 Sharm-El Sheikh Protocol (African Court of Justice and Human Rights)
- Future continental judicial architecture including the Malabo Protocol
- Selection and nomination of judges of the African Court
- Engagements with State actors and National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)
- Engagements with other AU organs to strengthen complementarity and the mandate of the African Court
- Sentinel-Front for AU reforms

2. Strategic Litigation and Emerging Issues

The Working Group will facilitate coalition-based strategic litigation and research on emerging Human Rights issues capable of generating transformative jurisprudence and structural change.

Priority areas;

- Socio-economic rights
- Climate justice
- Environmental and extractive industries
- Digital rights, cyber security, surveillance and Artificial intelligence
- Business and Human Rights
- Reparations
- Democratic and electoral integrity
- Bio-sovereignty and emerging rights issues

3. Decisions Implementation and Compliance

The Working Group will support national and regional mechanisms to enhance implementation of decisions of the African Court, while promoting complementarity with the African Commission and the ACERWC.

Priority areas;

- Implementation of African Court decisions
- National implementation mechanisms
- PAP Model Law on Implementation
- Engagements with State actors, NHRIs, Law Societies and CSOs
- National information nodes and compliance monitoring
- Continental implementation tracking
- Public compliance hearings
- Domestic enforceability of regional Human Rights decisions

4. Gender Justice

The Working Group will promote gender-responsive jurisprudence, litigation, implementation and institutional practice within the African Human Rights system, and support strategic interventions to ensure that women and girls, including those with disabilities can effectively access justice at the regional level.

Priority areas;

- Gender-responsive jurisprudence
- Strategic litigation at the African Court
- Gender-based violence
- Rights of women and girls with disabilities
- Technology-facilitated gender-based violence
- Gender-responsive implementation
- Feminist judgments
- Gender balance in judicial appointments
- Gender-sensitive judicial education

5. Media, Communications and Visibility

The Working Group will focus towards strengthening public understanding and visibility of the African Court through strategic engagement with traditional, community and digital media.

Priority areas;

- African Court Media Network
- Journalist capacity building
- Community radio
- Multilingual communications
- Digital communications
- Public African Human Rights system education
- Rapid response and fact-checking
- Simplification of Court decisions
- Public trust and institutional visibility

6. Youth, Academia and Legal Innovation

The Working Group will focus on initiatives that can strengthen the participation of young people, universities and emerging legal professionals in the African Human Rights system, specifically engagements with the African Court, while promoting legal innovation and technology.

Priority areas;

- Arusha Initiative Clubs
- Regional Litigation Clinics
- University curricula
- Moot courts
- Youth leadership and mentorship
- Academic research
- Legal-tech innovation
- Hackathons
- Young African Human Rights practitioners' network
- Lawctivism

Who Can Apply?

The ACC particularly welcomes expressions of interests from;

- ACC members, university student members, and partners
- Human rights lawyers, academics, researchers, and Bar Associations
- National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)
- Journalists and Media professionals
- Specialists in legal-tech, gender rights, climate justice and environmental rights, digital rights, and business and Human Rights (BHR)
- Any other experts capable of contributing to the implementation of the Arusha Roadmap

The ACC particularly encourages applications that contribute to geographic, gender, linguistic and generational diversity within the Working Groups.

What Will Working Group Members Contribute?

Working Group participation is intended to provide a practical opportunity for members and partners to contribute their professional expertise to strengthening the African Court and the African Human Rights system in general.

Members may contribute through;

- Legal and policy research
- Drafting articles, policy briefs and technical papers
- Strategic litigation analysis
- Facilitating training and webinars
- Mentoring young practitioners
- Providing technical expertise
- Supporting advocacy and stakeholder engagement
- Sharing institutional networks and contacts
- Participating in consultations and meetings
- Supporting development of advocacy materials
- Identifying partnership and resource mobilization opportunities
- Contributing relevant institutional research, data or expertise

Participation does not require members to contribute to every activity. Members will be encouraged to contribute according to their expertise, availability and institutional capacity.

Where resources become available for specific activities, ACC may provide appropriate support or reimbursement in accordance with its policies and available funding.

Expected Commitment

Successful applicants will be expected to;

- Participate actively in Working Group meetings and activities
- Contribute relevant expertise and experience
- Undertake agreed assignments within reasonable timelines
- Share relevant research, knowledge and networks
- Respect confidentiality and conflict-of-interest requirements
- Promote collaborative and cross-regional approaches
- Support the objectives of the ACC and the Arusha Roadmap

Working Groups will generally meet virtually at least once every quarter, with additional meetings convened when required.

Each Working Group will develop an annual workplan with a limited number of strategic priorities and measurable outputs.

Selection Considerations

The ACC will consider the following when constituting the Working Groups;

- Relevant professional or institutional expertise
- Demonstrated experience in the selected thematic area
- Understanding of the African Human Rights system
- Commitment to the objectives of the ACC and Arusha Roadmap
- Availability and willingness to participate actively
- Regional, linguistic, gender and generational diversity
- Potential to contribute expertise and strategic partnerships

The ACC may invite additional technical experts to participate in specific Working Group activities where specialized expertise is required.

How to Apply

Interested individuals and organizations are requested to submit their applications through the online Application Form [**CLICK HERE**](#)

8. IMPORTANT NOTE ON PARTICIPATION

ACC Thematic Working Groups are designed as expert and collaborative platforms rather than funded consultancy positions. Participation is primarily voluntary and provides an opportunity for members and partners to contribute to the strengthening of the African Court through professional expertise, knowledge, networks and advocacy.

The ACC will seek donor and strategic partner support for activities requiring financial resources. However, the sustainability of the Working Groups will depend primarily and substantially on the willingness of members and partners to contribute expertise and time within their reasonable capacity.