



## AGENDA

### Second Joint Forum of the Special Mechanisms of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)

**#ACHPRJSMF2025**

**Theme: Human Rights as an Imperative for People-Centered Sustainable  
Development in Africa**

**Date: 05 to 06 May 2025  
Venue: Banjul, The Gambia  
83<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Session**

TIME	ITEM	SPEAKERS
Day 1: MONDAY 05 MAY 2025		
09:00-09:30	Session 1: Opening ceremony	Moderator: Ms Abiola Idowu-Ojo, Executive Secretary, ACHPR (6 min)  ➤ <b>Statement by Honourable Commissioner Remy Ngoy Lumbu, Chairperson of the ACHPR (7 min)</b> ➤ <b>Statement by Representative from Champion Country (the Republic Tunisia) H.E. Ambassador Rachid Saidana (7 min)</b> ➤ <b>Keynote address and Opening of the Forum H.E. Amb. Bankole Adeoye, Commissioner for DPAP (10 min) (Virtual)</b>
09:30-10:00	Family Photo and /Tea & Coffee Break	
10:00-10:30	Session 2:	Moderator: Ms Abiola Idowu-Ojo, Executive Secretary, ACHPR  <b>Prof. Oladejo Justus Olowu,</b> Walter Sisulu University (20 mins) (Virtual)



	<p><b>Keynote Presentation – Human rights as an imperative for sustainable development: An overview of the legal framework in Africa and the contributions of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights</b></p> <p>This session is meant to explain the linkages between human rights and sustainable development, and to highlight some key contributions of the ACHPR, thus, setting the scene for the Forum's discussion.</p> <p><b>Presentation of data on human rights indicators for development in Africa</b></p> <p>This presentation is expected to provide data that presents the states of affairs of development on the continent which will serve to inform the conversation to take place.</p>	<p>Nyasha Mpani, Afrobarometer (10 mins)</p>
<p><b>10:30-12:15</b></p>	<p><b>Session 3: Aligning development assistance and investments with States' socio-economic rights and sustainable development obligations under the African Charter</b></p> <p>Article 22 of the African Charter provides for the right to economic, social and cultural development.</p> <p>The panel reflects on how development assistance and investments should assist countries to become self-sufficient, by ensuring food sovereignty, robust education and health systems, responding to needs of the population, developing transformation infrastructures, etc. The panel will discuss strategies to ensure development aid aligns with socio-economic rights under the African Charter while advancing sustainable development priorities.</p>	<p>Introductory Remarks and Moderator: <b>Commissioner Idrissa Sow (10 min)</b></p> <p>Interveners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Commissioner Mudford Mwandenga (15 min) (Virtual)</li> <li>➤ Commissioner Litha Musyimi-Ogana (15 min)</li> <li>➤ Mr Charif Dehimi, Foreign Affairs Counselor, Algeria (15 min)</li> <li>➤ Abdham Abdelaal- Manager AU/AfCFTA Relations and International Cooperation, AFREXIM representative (15 min)</li> <li>➤ Advocate Batlokoa Makong, APRM (15 min)</li> <li>➤ Q&amp;A (25 min)</li> </ul>
<p><b>12:15-13:30</b></p>	<p><b>Session 4:</b> <b>The promotion and protection of the right to health as a pre-requisite for sustainable development in Africa – lessons from strategies addressing public health emergencies.</b></p> <p>Promoting and protecting the right to health is crucial for sustainable development in Africa as it impacts economic growth, social well-being and overall human capabilities, requiring a multi sectoral</p>	<p>Introductory Remarks and Moderator: <b>Commissioner Litha Musyimi-Ogana (15 min)</b></p> <p>Interveners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Dr Ismail Badjie of Innovarx Global Health, Banjul, The Gambia (10 Min)</li> <li>➤ Dr Nathan Bakyaite, WHO Gambia, (10 min)</li> <li>➤ Ms. Sirra Ndow, UNAIDS Gambia (10 min)</li> </ul>



	<p>approach in addressing underlying social determinants of health.</p> <p>Access to HIV therapy is crucial for sustainable development, as it directly impacts health outcomes and allows individuals to live longer, healthier lives, contributing to economic and social progress.</p> <p>In that light, this panel aims to shed light on the progress made in the promotion and protection of the right to health in the continent, successes and challenges recorded, and the way forward, including with reflections on lessons learned in resourcing and funding of the health ministries in general and HIV healthcare in particular.</p>	<p>➤ Q&amp;A (20 min)</p>
<b>13:30-14:30</b>	<b>Lunch Break</b>	
<b>14:30-16:15</b>	<p><b>Session 5: Promoting inclusivity in development: Protecting the Rights of Vulnerable Groups – including Prisoners, Persons with Disabilities, Older Persons, Women, Refugees and IPDs, and Children - for Sustainable Development in Africa</b></p> <p>The SDGs seeks among others to address gender inequality (Goal 5) and inequality within and among countries (Goal 10).</p> <p>The session reflects on addressing challenges to inclusive and sustainable development, focussing on women, persons with disabilities and old persons</p>	<p>Introductory Remarks and Moderator: <b>Commissioner Marie Louise Abomo (15 min)</b></p> <p>Interveners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Commissioner Janet Ramatoulie Sallah-Njie (10 min) (Virtual)</li> <li>➤ Commissioner Maria Theresa Manuela (10min) (Virtual)</li> <li>➤ Hon Wilson Almeida Adão, Chairperson AU AGA Platform and Chairperson of ACERWC (10 min)</li> <li>➤ Solomon Atibuni, Child Protection Alliance-Gambia) (10 min)</li> <li>➤ Tida Joof, Child Protection Officer, UNICEF (10 min)</li> <li>➤ Q&amp;A (40 min)</li> </ul>
<b>16:15-17:30</b>	<p><b>Session 6: Respect for life and human dignity for harmonious and inclusive development</b></p> <p>The Panel will focus on preserving people's lives and protecting them from torture, exploitation and cruel and degrading treatment will be an additional asset for development. Healthy, strong and protected populations will be better able to work for the progress of their countries.</p>	<p>Introductory Remarks and Moderator: <b>Commissioner Hatem Essaïem (15 min)</b></p> <p>Interveners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Commissioner Idrissa Sow (10 min)</li> <li>➤ H.E. Hon. Lucia Dos Passos, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President of PAP (10 min) (Virtual)</li> <li>➤ Allan Ngari, Human Rights Watch (10 min)</li> <li>➤ Q&amp;A (30 min)</li> </ul>
<b>END OF DAY 1</b>		



TIME	ITEM	SPEAKERS
<b>Day 2: TUESDAY 06 MAY 2025</b>		
09:00-11:00	<p><b>Session 7: Balancing Prosperity and Equity for Social Justice in Africa - Advancing People-Centred Trade and Economic, Social and Environmental Policies</b></p> <p>The African Commission has been seized with contentious matters relating to development projects and conservation initiatives implemented without due regard to rights of concerned communities, including indigenous communities. Such project can disrupt life, destroy the fauna and flora, prompt displacement, etc.</p> <p>Also, the ACHPR adopted <i>Resolution ACHPR/Res.551 (LXXIV) 2023 on a Human Rights-Based approach to the Implementation and Monitoring of the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement</i>.</p> <p>The session will reflect on a people-centred approach to development rather than solely focusing on economic growth, touching, among others, on the intersections between human rights, conservation, trade, and extractive industries..</p>	<p>Introductory Remarks and Moderator: <b>Commissioner Solomon Ayele Derso (15 min)</b></p> <p>Interveners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Mme Balkissou Alfa Hassan Sido Kabo, Senior Legal Council, AfCFTA (15 min) Virtual</li> <li>➤ Mrs. Agnes Kabajuni – Minority Rights Group (MRG) (15 min)</li> <li>➤ Mr. Daniel Kobei, Ogiek People Development Program (15 min)</li> <li>➤ Dr. Kennedy Kariseb (15 min)</li> <li>➤ Counsellor Mpho Baleni, Delegate of the Republic of South Africa (15 min) Virtual</li> <li>➤ Q&amp;A (30 min)</li> </ul>
11:00-11:30	<b>Tea &amp; Coffee Break</b>	
11:30-13:00	<p><b>Session 8: Justice as a Pillar of Sustainability: The Role of Courts in Advancing Human Rights and Development Goals</b></p> <p>This panel focus on fair and timely justice as an important ingredient for sustainable development - citing investors' assurance of timely and fair decisions; how corruption disrupts due process of court hence negatively impacting development of individuals, nations etc</p>	<p>Introductory Remarks and Moderator: <b>Commissioner Remy Ngoy Lumbu (15 min)</b></p> <p>Interveners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Justice Malick Sow-Senegal (15 min)</li> <li>➤ Hon Justice Adjei, African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (15 min)</li> <li>➤ Mr. Abdulmalik Bello, IHRDA Gambia (10 min)</li> <li>➤ Mr Hassan Shire, Defend Defenders (10 min)</li> <li>➤ Q&amp;A (25 min)</li> </ul>



13:00-14:00	<b>Lunch Break</b>	
14:00-15:15	<p><b>Session 9: Addressing conflict, climate and development induced migration</b></p> <p>Displacement and migration prompted by conflicts, climate change and environmental degradation expose affected individuals and communities to high levels of risk. They erode fragile livelihoods and ecosystems, aggravate existing vulnerabilities and undermine resilience. This hinders many of the Charter-protected human rights and SDGs goals including ending poverty (goal 1), ending hunger (goal 2) and good health and well-being (goal 3).</p> <p>The panel reflects on averting, mitigating and responding to conflict, climate and development induced migration. The panel will also address the structural causes of conflicts and how human rights can address these.</p>	<p>Introductory Remarks and Moderator: <b>Commissioner Selma Sassi Safer (15 min)</b></p> <p>Interveners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ms. Sibgha Ajaz, Officer-in-Charge, IOM Gambia (10 min)</li> <li>➤ Kinetibeb Kassa, Crisis Action (virtual)</li> <li>➤ <b>Angola delegate (10 min)</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Mozambique delegate (10 min)</b></li> <li>➤ Jean Nicolas Marti, International Committee of Red Cross (10 min)</li> <li>➤ Q&amp;A (20 min)</li> </ul>
15:30-17:00	<p><b>Session 10: Freedom of association, assembly, expression and access to information as enablers of human and sustainable development</b></p> <p>Freedom of association, assembly, expression and access to information are a cornerstone for free and effective civic participation and engagement in public life, including in sustainable development processes. Sustainable Development Goal 16.10 aims to ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.</p> <p>The discussion will explore the extent to which protecting the above freedoms contributes to sustainable development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Introductory Remarks and Moderator: <b>Commissioner Rémy Ngoy Lumbu (15 min)</b></li> </ul> <p>Interveners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Commissioner Geereesha Topsy Sonoo (15 min.) (Virtual)</li> <li>➤ Mr Clément Voule (15 min)</li> <li>➤ Mr. Andrew Songa (15 min)</li> <li>➤ Q&amp;A (30 min)</li> </ul>
17:00-17:30	<p><b>Session 12: Closing ceremony</b></p>	<p>Moderator: Ms Estelle Nkounkou – legal Officer /ACHPR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Reading of the Declaration on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Joint Forum of Special Mechanisms – nominated Commissioner (15mns)</b></li> </ul>



		➤ <b>Closing Statement by Honourable Commissioner Rémy Ngoy Lumbu, Chairperson of the ACHPR (15mns)</b>
<b>End of the Special Mechanisms Forum</b>		