



AFRICA IN CONVERSATION SERIES

Accountability and Justice for Democratic Resilience in Africa

Agenda



AGENDA

08:30 – 10:00 **Arrival of participants**

09:00 – 09:10 **Welcome remarks**

- **Dr. Matthias Naab**
Director UNDP RSCA
- **Prof. Hajer Gueldich**
Legal Counsel, African Union

09:10 – 09:20 **Opening remarks**

- **HE Tewodros Mehret**
President, Federal Supreme Court, Federal Republic of Ethiopia

09:20 – 09:40 **Framing the conversation**

- **Dr. Solomon Dersso**
Adjunct Professor at the University of Cape Town and Founding Director of Amani Africa Media and Research Services, Addis Ababa

09:40 – 10:40 **Panel discussion**

- **Prof. Hajer Gueldich**
AU Legal Counsel
- **Chief Justice David Maraga**
Former Chief Justice and President of the Supreme Court of Kenya
- **Dr. Obiageli Ezekwesili**
Founder-Chairperson of the Board of SPPG- School of Politics Policy and Governance in Abuja, Nigeria
- **Mr. Marcel C. Akpovo**
Representative, UN Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) East Africa

10:40 – 11:40 **Questions & Answers**

11:40 – 11:50

Solidarity messages

Political Affairs, Peace and Security Commission (PAPS) on the AU Transitional Justice Policy

Representative from the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

11:50 – 12:00 **Summary of discussion and closing (Moderator)**

Profile of Resources person/panelists



1. Chief Justice David Kenani Maraga – Former Chief Justice and President of the Supreme Court of Kenya (2016 to 2021). Justice Maraga is a seasoned lawyer and jurist. He was the 14th Chief Justice and President of the Supreme Court of Kenya from October 2016 until his retirement in January 2021. Justice Maraga is known for upholding the constitution and the rule of law by consistently advocating for the independence of the judiciary, emphasizing the importance of judicial impartiality and fairness in upholding justice in Kenya and making efforts to streamline court processes, eliminating corruption, and improving access to justice.



2. Prof. Hajer Gueldich – AU Legal Counsel. She is a Full Professor in law at the University of Carthage (Tunisia), specialized in International Law. Prior to taking up the AU Legal Counsel job, Prof. Gueldich was the Director of the Center of Research in International law, International Jurisdictions and Comparative Constitutional Law-University of Carthage. She was an elected Member of the African Union Commission on International law (AUCIL) (2015-2023) and the Chairperson of the Commission (2022-2023). She was appointed as a member of the Team of experts on the Institutional Reform of the African Union, since 2017. She is also a visiting Professor at the Universities of Angers and Rennes (France), Venice and Siena (Italy), Saint Joseph (Lebanon), Laval University (Canada) and the Pan African University (Cameroon).



3. Dr. Obiageli Ezekwesili – Founder-Chairperson of the Board of SPPG- School of Politics Policy and Governance in Abuja, Nigeria. She was one of the co-founders and pioneer directors of Transparency International-TI, the Berlin-based global anti-corruption organization. Dr. Ezekwesili is currently the Founder-CEO of Human Capital Africa working in the education sector across Africa. She was Vice President of World Bank- Africa Region in Washington DC between 2007 and 2012. She served in the Government of Nigeria between 2000 and 2007. She was the Minister of Minerals and later of Education.



4. Marcel C. Akpovo – Representative, UN Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) East Africa - Mr Akpovo is a lawyer and an International Communications, Security and Defence Expert. He possesses 30 years of international experience as a Human Rights, Rule of Law, Conflict, Development, Peace and Security specialist. His extensive professional roles span across a broad range of thematic portfolios and Regions, where he served at senior management and leadership positions.



5. Solomon Ayele Dersso – Adjunct Professor at the University of Cape Town and Founding Director of Amani Africa Media and Research Services, Addis Ababa based Pan-African policy research, training and consulting think tank with expertise on multilateral policy processes concerning Africa and leading source of information and analysis on the African Union & its Peace and Security Council. Previously Chairperson of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (2019-21). Dr. Dersso is a member of the Commission chairing its Working Group on Extractive Industries in Africa & Focal Person on Transitional Justice in Africa. He serves in the editorial boards of the International Journal of Transitional Justice, the African Journal of Human Rights, the African Human Rights Yearbook, Nordic Journal of Human Rights, African Journal of Conflict Resolution & Journal of African International & Comparative Law.



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