



iarmj

International Association of Refugee and Migration Judges

IARMJ 14th World Conference

17-21, November 2025

**THEME: “PROTECTING THE INTEGRITY OF THE
REFUGEE AND MIGRATION SYSTEMS “**

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

The International Association of Refugee and Migration Judges (IARMJ) seeks to foster recognition that the individual right to seek protection from persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion is established under international law and that the determination of refugee status and its cessation should be subject to the rule of law.

Recognising the special role of judges in determining issues involving refugee status, complementary protection and rights and obligations arising from issues of migration law, IARMJ seeks to promote, across judges and judiciaries world-wide in relation to refugee, complementary protection, statelessness and human rights-related migration issues, a common, consistent understanding and application of international law, practices and principles; the use of fair practices and procedures; judicial independence and the development, within national legal systems, of independent decision-making institutions applying international rule of law and practices; the sharing of relevant jurisprudence and information including databases relating to conditions in countries of origin and countries of transit; the development of clear norms of access by all claimants to appropriate judicial systems and processes; mutually beneficial professional development, training and research initiatives; and co-operation with the United Nations agencies and other regional agencies, that are concerned with the promotion of better understanding of refugee, complementary protection, statelessness and migration law issues.

A key event in the IARMJ calendar is its World Conference. It has been held approximately biennially since 1995 to make the most of the potential for continuing judicial cooperation across the world in regard to the administration of the law relating to refugees and migrants. The 14th World Conference will be held in Nairobi, Kenya under the theme **‘Protecting the Integrity of the Refugee and Migration Systems’**. This contextually relevant theme will be examined through an in-depth legal analysis and discussions about:

- The methods and techniques that undermine the integrity of international, regional and municipal refugee and migrant systems;

- The loopholes and lacunae in the legal and regulatory frameworks governing refugees and migrants that undermine the integrity of these systems and make them susceptible to abuse by claimants and governments;
- The role of judicial systems, processes and jurisprudence in upholding the integrity of refugee and migrant systems;
- The institutional frameworks for the guarding the integrity of refugee and migrant systems and the effect of inadequate integrity on the credibility of the wider protection;
- The importance of the criminal justice system (consider human trafficking, smuggling of migrants, and other relevant cross border crimes) in guarding the integrity of refugee and migrant systems;
- The role of the Judiciary in reform of refugee and migrant systems;
- Case law, adjudicative decisions, evidentiary standards, case backlog, decisional timeframes, and their effects on the integrity of immigration systems;
- Detention standards and their deterrent effects on both process abuse and as obstacles for genuine claimants;
- Lessons and best practices in strengthening immigration system integrity and the creation of more resilient legal protection systems and processes that are designed to protect legitimate asylum seekers while maintaining program quality and integrity.
- Break out sessions on false documents, burden sharing, child claimants, credibility findings and manipulation of social media evidence.

There are two additional specific issues that shall be discussed alongside the core theme:

- The potential of artificial intelligence in strengthening judicial processes on refugee, complementary protection, statelessness and migration law issues.
- The challenge of climate change as a driver of migration.

Conference Objectives

1. To provide a forum for sharing knowledge, experiences, jurisprudence and engaging in dialogue on the abuse of the refugee and migration systems;
2. To contribute to the deepening of judicial knowledge and scholarship around issues concerning the integrity of refugee and migrant systems.
3. To provide space for the ongoing exploration of good/best legal and judicial practices in upholding the integrity of the refugee and migration systems
4. To contribute to an awareness of the role of judiciaries and judicial practice in strengthening the integrity of the refugee and migration systems and the role of judges and judiciaries in policy design and legal and regulatory reforms
5. To showcase research, teaching and innovation and promote collaboration on refugee, complementary protection, statelessness and migration law issues generally and guarding the integrity of refugee and migration systems in particular.
6. To highlight and discuss the emerging issues and challenges raised in the judicial, legal and regulatory frameworks related to refugees and migrants by the climate crisis.
7. To share opportunities, good practices and challenges in leveraging artificial intelligence in judicial practice generally and in refugee, complementary protection, statelessness and

migration law in particular.

8. To provide a forum for the advancement of the work of the IARMJ Working Parties, including publication of reports, meetings and the formulation of objectives and projects.

Conference Date

Monday 17th November 2025 to Wednesday 19 November 2025 (two and a half days)

Post-Conference Workshops Dates

Thursday 20 November and Friday 21 November 2025

The conference will be succeeded by advanced workshops in aspects of refugee and migration law, with a focus on practical skills, treaty interpretation, recent jurisprudential developments and critical analysis. Workshop sizes will be kept small, to encourage and facilitate participation and discussion and will be led by internationally renowned experts in their fields.

Proposed Venue

The venue of both the Conference and Workshops will be the **Mövenpick Hotel and Residences, Westlands, Nairobi, Kenya.**

Participants

This World Conference is intended for IARMJ members and judges, magistrates and jurists of all levels working with, or interested in, refugee, complementary protection, statelessness and migration law issues. To enable in-depth discussion, participants are expected to come prepared to participate in the plenary sessions. Selected institutions, experts and commentators may be invited to participate in select sessions to provide their experiences and insights in working in the relevant field.

Conference Format

All workshops and plenary sessions will be conducted in English with simultaneous translation in French. The program for this conference is divided into three parts: Plenary and Break-out Sessions – Chapter Meetings – IARMJ Annual AGM.

Exhibition

It is proposed, subject to logistics, to have institutional stakeholders, government and non-government, donor agencies and multinational institutions, invited to exhibit their roll-ups, banners, souvenir booths, information desks, publications etc. at the space allotted.