**International Association of Refugee and Migration Judges (IARMJ)**
**Africa Chapter Conference**

**2 December – 04 December 2026**

**Pretoria, South Africa**

# Celebrating 75 years of Protection and 20 years of the IARMJ Africa Chapter

| | **Conference Day 1 – Wednesday 02 December 2026** |
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| | **Ceremonial Opening Session** |
| Moderator | Catherine Koutsopoulou (IARMJ Europe Chapter President, Judge, United Nations Dispute Tribunal (UNDT) and President, Administrative Court of First Instance of Athens |
| 9:00-9:45 | • Welcome: Deputy Chief Justice Dunstan Mlambo, President Africa Chapter, IARMJ<br>• Dr. Slindokuhle Shamase, SAJEI<br>• Ms Vanja Karth, Director, Judicial Institute for Africa<br>• Ms Barbara Kilei, Country Manager, IDLO<br>• Ms Kavita Belani, UNHCR Representative in South Africa<br>• Ambassador Kristian Schmidt, European Union Delegation to South Africa<br>• Justice Isaac Lenaola, Supreme Court, Kenya, Immediate Past President IARMJ |
| Moderator | Deputy Chief Justice Dunstan Mlambo |
| 9:45-10:45 | Keynote Addresses:<br>• Dr Leon Schreiber, MP, Minister of Home Affairs, Republic of South Africa<br>• Ms Mamoloko Kubayi, MP, Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Chair of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Migration<br>• Justice Mandisa L. Maya, Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa |
| **10:45-11:15** | **Group photo and coffee break** |
| **11:15-12:15** | **The 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1969 OAU Convention** |
| Moderator | Justice Isaac Lenaola, Supreme Court, Kenya |
| | • Ms Kavita Belani, UNHCR Representative in South Africa<br>• Mr Sky Kruger, Judicial Institute for Africa, Researcher, South Africa<br>• Justice John Mativo, Kenya |

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| **12:15-13:15** | **Context and Challenges in Africa** |
| Moderator | Judge President Aubrey Ledwaba, South Africa |
| | • Mr Mandla Madumisa, Chief Director of Asylum-Seeker Management, (South Africa)<br>• Judge Mukete Tahle Itoe, Cameroon<br>• Justice Jane Frances Obodo, Principal Judge, Uganda |
| 13:15-14:15 | Lunch |
| **14:15-15:30** | **Externalisation and the principle of non-refoulement** |
| Moderator | Justice Abida Ali-Aroni, Kenya |
| | • Justice Edward Asante (Ret.), ECOWAS Court of Justice, Ghana<br>• Ms Natasha Arnpriester, Open Society Justice Initiative<br>• Dr Nicola Palmer, Senior Lecturer, University of Cape Town<br>• Justice Professor Redson Kapindu, Malawi |
| 15:30-16:00 | Coffee break |
| **16:00-17:00** | **Strengthening protection and solutions in the context of mixed movements of refugees and migrants** |
| Moderator | Justice Kayobera, President, East Africa Court of Justice, Burundi |
| | • Commissioner Selma Sassi, Special Rapporteur on Refugees, Asylum-Seekers, IDPs and Migrants in Africa<br>• Judge Mohammed Errazagui, Morocco<br>• Magistrate Raymond Venance Kaswaga, Tanzania |

Official Gala Dinner - 19:00 - Pretoria Country Club - 241 Sidney Avenue, Waterkloof, Pretoria

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| | **Conference Day 2 – Thursday 03 December** |
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| 9:00-10:00 | **Human Rights and the obligations of States in respect of Climate Change** |
| Moderator | Ms Carole Simone Dahan, Senior Legal Advisor, Division of International Protection and Solutions, UNHCR |
| | • Mr Benjamin Ng'aru, East African Centre for Forced Migration & Displacement, Kenya<br>• Ms Monica Namanya, University of Galway<br>• Dr George Skem, Researcher, Kabarak Law School, Kenya |
| 10:00-10:30 | Coffee break |
| 10:30 -12:30 | **Judicial Independence, Resilience and the Rule of Law** |
| Moderator | Justice Professor Dandi Gnamou, Presidente de la Haute Cour de Justice, Benin |
| | • Professor Margaret Satterwaithe, UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers, USA<br>• Ms Kaajal Ramjathan-Keogh, International Commission of Jurists, South Africa<br>• Judge Sylvester Kalembera, Malawi<br>• Justice Vincent Siloka, Zambia<br>• Justice Jamila Mohammed, Kenya |

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| 12:30-14:00 | Lunch |
| 14:00-15:30 | **The 1961 Convention on the Prevention of Statelessness at 65 and the Right to a Nationality** |
| Moderator | Judge President Bruno de Castro, Mozambique |
| | • Ms Thandeka Chauke, Southern Africa Nationality Network, South Africa<br>• Mr Clement Mavungu, Pan-African Parliament, Democratic Republic of Congo<br>• Justice Kenneth Mulife, Constitutional Court, Zambia<br>• Professor Ogwezzy Michael Chukwujindu, Nigeria<br>• Ms Nicola Irving, Legal Practitioner, South Africa |
| 15:30-17:00 | **Socio-Economic Rights** |
| Moderator | Judge Stuart Wilson, Gauteng High Court, South Africa |
| | • Ms Nomzamo Zondo, Socio-Economic Rights Institute, South Africa<br>• Justice Zione Ntaba, Malawi High Court<br>• Justice Kate Savage, Constitutional Court, South Africa |

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| | **Conference Day 3 – Friday 04 December 2026** |
| 9:00-10:30 | **Crim-migration, Detention and Freedom of Movement** |
| Moderator | Magistrate Mohammed Moolla, South Africa |
| | • Dr Sarah Mabeza, Legal Advisor, International Committee of the Red Cross, Southern Africa<br>• Ms Chetna Singh, Senior Magistrate, South Africa<br>• Professor Amor Boubakri, University of Sousse, Tunisia<br>• Ms Nabeelah Mia, National Director, Lawyers for Human Rights, South Africa<br>• Justice Letizia Watchira, High Court, Kenya |
| 10:30-11:30 | **Access to Asylum: Inadmissibility and Sur Place Claims** |
| Moderator | Judge Deidre Kusevitsky, High Court, South Africa |
| | • Dr Chiara Scissa, University of Bologna, Italy<br>• Justice Jody Kollapen, Constitutional Court, South Africa<br>• Dr Tafadzwa Luke Mupingashato, University of South Africa, Zimbabwe |
| 11:30-12:00 | **Closing session** |
| Moderator | Ahmed Arbee, Past President of the Africa Chapter, IARMJ |
| | • Presentation and adoption of Conference Declaration, DCJ Mlambo |
| 12:00-13:00 | Lunch |

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