

AFRICAN UNION

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UMOJA WA AFRIKA



UNION AFRICAINE

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The African Union Commission presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions of all Member States to the African Union and has the honour to refer to the membership of the African Court on Human and Peoples Rights (AfCHPR).

The Commission wishes to inform the esteemed Permanent Missions that the terms of office of the following Judges of the AfCHPR shall expire in February 2027:

NO.	NAME	COUNTRY	TERM OF OFFICE
1.	Ms. Iman D. ABOUD	Tanzania	Re-elected in February 2021 for a 6-year term
2.	Mr. Rafea BEN ACHOUR	Tunisia	Re-elected in February 2021 for a 6-year term
3.	Mr. Dumisa Buhle NTSEBEZA*	South Africa	Elected in February 2021 for a 6-year term
4.	Mr. Modibo SACKO*	Mali	Elected in February 2021 for a 6-year term

** Judges listed at Nos. 3 and 4 are eligible for re-election.*

Consequently, the Commission would like to draw the attention of the esteemed Permanent Missions to the fact that the election and appointment of the **four (4) new Judges** will be conducted during the 50th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council, scheduled for January 2027.

Against the above, the Commission invites eligible STATES PARTIES to the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (the Protocol) to submit their **candidatures/nominations, accompanied by the curricula vitae (CVs) of the candidates, either in a SEALED ENVELOPE ADDRESSED AND DELIVERED TO THE OFFICE OF THE LEGAL COUNSEL, AU COMMISSION**, or submitted to the Office of the Legal Counsel registry via the following email address: OLC-Elections@africanunion.org, with a copy to Fikerteb@africanunion.org **ON OR BEFORE 30 NOVEMBER 2026**.

The Curriculum Vitae (CV) should be single-spaced, not more than three (3) pages long and should be submitted in at least two (2) working languages of the Union. A model format of the Curriculum Vitae is attached hereto for ease of reference. Additionally, the CV should be submitted in soft copies (Word format).

In this regard, the Commission would also like to draw the attention of the esteemed Permanent Missions to the following specific provisions of the Protocol:

Article 11 of the Protocol on Composition:

- “1. The Court shall consist of eleven judges, nationals of Member States of the OAU (AU), elected in an individual capacity from among jurists of high moral character and of recognized practical, judicial or academic competence and experience in the field of human and peoples’ rights.*
- 2. No two judges shall be nationals of the same State.”*

Article 12 of the Protocol on Nominations:

- “1. State Parties to the Protocol may each propose up to three candidates, at least two of whom shall be nationals of that State.*
- 2. Due consideration shall be given to adequate gender representation in the nomination process.”*

Article 14 of the Protocol on Elections:

....

- “2. The Assembly shall ensure that in the Court as a whole there is representation of the main regions of Africa and of their principal legal traditions.*
- 3. In the election of the judges, the Assembly shall ensure that there is adequate gender representation.”*

Accordingly, States Parties may nominate their own nationals, within the limits prescribed by Article 12. However, no candidates can be nominated from Member States that already have judges in the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights, namely, **Algeria, Cameroon, Congo (Rep), Ghana, Malawi, Nigeria and Uganda**

Additionally, where a State Party nominates a candidate who is not its national, the candidate must be a national of a State Party that is not subject to intermediate or comprehensive sanctions. This is consistent with Rule 36 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, which bars Member States subject to such sanctions from having their nationals appointed to elected or non-elected positions.

State Parties to the Protocol are further reminded to give due consideration to adequate gender representation in their nominations and to take into account the foregoing provisions, as well as Decision EX.CL/907 (XXVIII)Rev.1 on the Modalities on the Implementation of the Criteria of Equitable Geographical and Gender Representation in AU Organs and Institutions, adopted by the Executive Council in January 2016. Paragraph 2 of the said Decision reads as follows:

- “i) *The regional representation, where applicable, shall be East (2), Central (2), North (2), South (2) and West (2), except in cases in which a region which has been duly informed has not presented candidates;*
- ii) *Where applicable, one (1) seat shall be floating and will rotate among the five (5) regions;*
- iii) *At least one (1) member from each region shall be a woman;*
- iv) *The modalities shall become effective immediately.”*

In light of the above, the Commission would like to inform the Permanent Missions that the regional and gender representation at the AfCHPR after the end of the terms of the four (4) above-mentioned Judges will be as follows:

a) Regional representation

Central	:	Two (2)
East	:	One (1)
North	:	One (1)
South	:	One (1)
West	:	Two (2) [One (1) occupying the floating seat]¹

b) Gender representation

Female Judges :	Four (4)
Male Judges :	Three (3)

In view of the foregoing, eligible² **States Parties to the Protocol from the Eastern, Northern, Southern and Western Regions** are kindly requested to submit their **candidatures/nominations** to the Office of the Legal Counsel as per the above-stated requirements and deadline as follows:

- **Eastern Region:** One (1) female candidate
- **Northern Region:** One (1) male candidate
- **Southern Region:** One (1) male candidate
- **Western Region:** One (1) male candidate

The Commission further recalls that, under Article 11(1) of the Protocol, nominated candidates should be of “...high moral character and of recognized practical, judicial or academic competence and experience in the field of human and peoples' rights.”

Candidates should also have experience in at least one of the principal legal traditions of Africa, including civil law, common law, Islamic law and African customary law.

¹ The Floating seat is currently occupied by Justice Dennis Dominic ADJEI (male from Ghana), elected for a 6-year term in July 2022.

² Not subject to sanctions for Unconstitutional Change of Government or intermediate or comprehensive sanctions.

The Commission further wishes to draw the attention of the esteemed Permanent Missions to Article 18 of the Protocol on Incompatibility, which provides as follows:

“The position of judge of the court is incompatible with any activity that might interfere with the independence or impartiality of such a judge or the demands of the office, as determined in the Rules of Procedure of the Court.”

Rule 5 (2) of the Rules of Court further provides:

“Judges may not, in particular, hold political, diplomatic or administrative positions or function as government legal advisors.”

By way of guidance on incompatibility, the Advisory Committee of Jurists on the establishment of the Permanent Court of International Justice (PCIJ), now the International Court of Justice (ICJ), observed that:³

“[A] member of government, a Minister or under-secretary of State, a diplomatic representative, a director of a ministry, or one of his subordinates, or the legal adviser to a foreign office, though they would be eligible for appointment as arbitrators to the Permanent Court of Arbitration of 1899, are certainly not eligible for appointment as judges upon our Court.”

Accordingly, eligible States Parties are requested to ensure that their nominees provide detailed biographical information outlining their judicial, practical, academic, professional and other relevant experience in the field of human and peoples' rights. Such information should also disclose political and other associations relevant to assessing eligibility and any potential incompatibility. Nominees should also submit statements explaining how they fulfil the eligibility criteria contained in the Protocol.

The esteemed Permanent Missions should kindly note that the Commission will not be able to process any submission that does not comply with the mandatory requirements set out above.

In addition to the above-mentioned mandatory requirements, States Parties may wish to also consider the following recommendations submitted to the Commission by civil society organisations:

- a) the procedure for nominating candidates should meet, at minimum, the standards applied to appointments to the highest judicial office in the State Party;
- b) States Parties should encourage participation in the selection of nominees by judicial and other State bodies, bar associations, academic and human rights organisations, women's groups, and other civil society organisations; and

³ See PCIJ/Advisory Committee of Jurists. *Procès-Verbaux of the Proceedings of the Committee. June 16-July 24 1920*, 693, 715-716 (1920)

- c) States Parties should employ a transparent and impartial national selection procedure to promote public trust in the integrity of the nomination process.

The African Union Commission avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Missions of all Member States the assurances of its highest consideration. H.G.

Addis Ababa, 16 October 2026



**To: Permanent Missions of all Member States
to the African Union
Addis Ababa**

AFRICAN UNION JOB APPLICATION FORMAT

POST:

1. PERSONAL DATA

- 1.1 NAME**
- 1.2 CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS**
- 1.3 PERMANENT ADDRESS**
- 1.4 EMAIL ADDRESS**
- 1.5 GENDER**
- 1.6 NATIONALITY**
- 1.7 DATE OF BIRTH (DD/MM/YYYY)**

2. EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

3. SUMMARY OF PROFESSIONAL SKILLS AND EXPERTISE

4. SUMMARY OF RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

5. LIST OF PUBLICATIONS (IF ANY)

6. LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY (ARABIC, ENGLISH, FRENCH, PORTUGUESE, SPANISH, KISWAHILI)

7. OTHER RELEVANT & SUPPORTING INFORMATION

8. HOBBIES

9. REFEREES (MAXIMUM 3)