


AFRICAN UNION		AFRICAN UNION
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## DRAFT AGENDA

### WEBINAR ON POPULARIZATION OF SOFT LAWS UNDER THE MANDATE OF THE SPECIAL RAPPOREUR ON THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN IN AFRICA OF THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS

6 TO 7 JUNE 2023

DAY ONE-Tuesday (6 June)		
OPENING CEREMONY		
Time	SESSION ONE- OPENING CEREMONY	Speakers/Participants
09:00 – 09:30	Opening Statements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Hon. Commissioner Janet Ramatoulie Sallah-Njie</b> (Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa (SRRWA)) -10 mns</li> <li>➤ <b>Ms. Victoria Maloka</b>, Head of Division (Women, Gender, Development and Youth Directorate (WGYD) at African Union Commission (AUC))-10mns</li> <li>➤ <b>Ms. Awa Ndiaye Seck or Representative</b> (UN Women Special Representative in Ethiopia Liason for the AUC and the Economic Commission for Africa)-10mns</li> </ul>
SESSION TWO- A BRIEF ON THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS (ACHPR) & MANDATE OF THE SPECIAL RAPPOREUR ON THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN IN AFRICA (SRRWA)		
09:30-09:50	Presentation on the ACHPR and mandate of the SRRWA	<b>Hon. Commissioner Janet Ramatoulie Sallah-Njie</b> (20 mns)
09:50-10:15	<b>Interventions/Q&amp;A</b>	<b>Participants</b>
SESSION THREE- THE STATE REPORTING PROCEDURE OF THE ACHPR		
10:00-10:30	Presentation on the State Reporting Procedure and Guidelines on State Reporting under the African	<b>Dr. Mohamed Djalel Eddine Benabdoun</b> (State Reporting Focal Person of the ACHPR) & <b>Irene Mbengue</b> (SLO)- 40 mins

	Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Maputo Protocol and other Guidelines	
10:30-11:00	<b>Interventions/Q&amp;A</b>	<b>Participants</b>
11:00-11:15 <b>Tea/Coffee Break</b>		
<b>SESSION FOUR: DISCUSSION ON GENERAL COMMENTS NO.1 ON ARTICLE 14 (1) (D) AND (E) OF THE MAPUTO PROTOCOL</b>		
11:15-11:30	Presentation on General Comment No- 1 on Article 14 (1) (d) and (e) of the Maputo Protocol	<b>Susan Mutambasere (Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria)-15mns</b>
11:30-11:45	<b>Interventions/Q&amp;A</b>	<b>Participants</b>
<b>SESSION FIVE: DISCUSSION ON GENERAL COMMENT NO. 2 ON ARTICLE 14 (1) (A), (B), (C) AND (F) AND ARTICLE 14 (2) (A) AND (C) OF THE MAPUTO PROTOCOL &amp; BRIEF ON THE DECRIMINALISATION OF ABORTION CAMPAIGN</b>		
11:45-12:00	Presentation on General Comment No.2 on Article 14 (1) (a), (b), (c) and (f) and article 14 (2) (a) and (c) of the Maputo Protocol: <i>"Safeguarding women and girls' reproductive health rights and choices"</i>	<b>Mr. Erick Mundia (IPAS-Alliance)-15mins</b>
12:00-12:05	Brief on Decriminalisation of Abortion Campaign  <i>"The journey towards decriminalization of abortion in Africa."</i>	<b>Mr. Erick Mundia (IPAS-Alliance)-5 mins</b>
12:05-12:40	<b>Interventions/Q&amp;A</b>	<b>Participants</b>

12:40-13:40  
**Lunch Break**

**SESSION SIX DISCUSSION ON JOINT GENERAL COMMENT OF THE AFRICAN COMMISSION AND THE AFRICAN COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD (ACERWC) ON ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE.**

13:40-13:55	A brief on the Joint General Comment on Child Marriage: Best Practices and Challenges	Hon. Dr. Hermine Kembo, Member & Special Rapporteur on Ending Children Marriage and other Harmful Practices (African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child)-15mns
13:55-14:30	<b>Interventions/Q&amp;A</b>	Participants

**END OF DAY ONE**

**DAY TWO- Wednesday (7 June)**

**SESSION SEVEN: DISCUSSION ON GENERAL COMMENT NO.6 ON ARTICLE 7(D) OF THE MAPUTO PROTOCOL ON THE RIGHT TO PROPERTY DURING SEPARATION, DIVORCE OR ANNULMENT OF MARRIAGE**

09:00-09:15	Bridging the gap between theory and Practice: Perspectives from General Comment No. 6 on Article 7(d) of the Maputo Protocol	Sylvia Noagbesenu (IGED-Africa)-15mns
09:15-09:30	<b>Interventions/Q&amp;A</b>	Participants

**SESSION EIGHT: DISCUSSION ON GUIDELINES ON COMBATING SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND ITS CONSEQUENCES IN AFRICA (NIAMEY GUIDELINES)**

09:30-09:45	Combating Sexual Violence and its Consequences in Africa: <i>“Applying existing normative frameworks on Human Rights &amp; Violence Against Women (VAW) with a focus on regional perspectives.”</i>	Kayan Leung, Head of Strategic Litigation Programme at the Lawyers for Human Rights (FIDH)-15mns
09:45-10:00	<b>Interventions/Q&amp;A</b>	Participants

<b>SESSION NINE: BRIEF ON THE SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE AFRICA REGIONAL PROGRAMME OF THE AUC</b>		
10:00-10:15	Brief on the Spotlight Initiative and AU Accountability Framework for ending HTP and VAW, its impact; and challenges	<b>(Department of Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development Directorate of Social Development, Culture and Sports, AUC)-15mns</b>
10:15-10:30	<i>Interventions/Q&amp;A</i>	Participants
<b>SESSION TEN: MECHANISMS IN THE UN SYSTEM IN PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS: REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES</b>		
10:30-10:45	Best practices in the UN System in ensuring the domestic implementation of soft laws on women's rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ms. Awa Ndiaye Seck or Representative (UN WOMEN)-7mns</li> <li>➤ Ms. Meskerem Geset Techane- Co-Chair of The Platform of Independent Expert Mechanisms on Discrimination and Violence against Women (EDVAW Platform)- 7mns</li> </ul>
10:45-11:00	<i>Interventions/Q&amp;A</i>	Participants
11:00-11:15 <b>Tea break</b>		
<b>SESSION ELEVEN: DISCUSSION ON BEST PRACTICES, CHALLENGES AND THE WAY FORWARD:</b>		
11:15-11:30	Best practices at the domestic level to ensure the implementation of the Maputo Protocol and soft laws on women's rights.	<b>Ms. Deborah Nyokabi (Program Officer-Regional &amp; International Mechanisms-Network of African National Human Rights Institutions-NANHRI)- 15mns</b>
11:30-11:45	Challenges in the domestication and implementation of the Maputo Protocol and soft laws of the ACHPR, with particular focus to Soft Laws on Women's Rights.	<b>Ms. Suzan Felix Loro (Deputy Director for Gender at the Ministry of Gender, Child, and Social Welfare, Republic of South Sudan) – 15mns</b>
11:45-13:20	<b>The way forward:</b>	<b>Guided Conversation with Hon. Commissioner</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ How do we foster synergies, and strengthen cooperation at the global and regional level, towards harmonized strategies in the protection of the rights of women and girls?</li> <li>➤ How do we ensure that the Soft laws are increasingly utilized by the legislative and judicial organs to enable greater cooperation and inclusivity in our societies?</li> <li>➤ How do we ensure that the principles outlined in the Soft Laws become widely accessible, including to rural communities?</li> <li>➤ What Activities could be proposed by Partners of the Soft Laws and other Participants which could inform collaboration with the Mechanism of the SRRWA in the short and long term (Roadmap/Workplan) ?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Sallah-Njie and Participants</b></p>
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**SESSION TWELVE: CLOSING CEREMONY**

13:20-13:30	Closing remarks	Hon. Commissioner Janet Ramatoulie Sallah-Njie
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**END OF DAY TWO & END OF WEBINAR**