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INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA



WHO'S WHO

New Appointments 2026

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WHO'S WHO

New Appointments 2026

New Experts – ACERWC

The African Union has elected seven experts to the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC). Members serve renewable five-year terms and play a key role in advancing and monitoring children's rights across the continent.



Satang Nabaneh



Satang Nabaneh is an interdisciplinary scholar and human rights practitioner specialising in gender equality and children's rights. She serves as a Research Professor at the University of Dayton and contributes to advancing legal scholarship and policy in Africa.



Wilson Almeida Adao



Wilson Almeida Adao is an academic, lawyer, and human rights advocate with a PhD in International Law. His work spans legal education, governance, and human rights within African Union frameworks.



Dr. Wael Mohamed



Dr. Wael Mohamed Awad is a policy expert in child and maternal welfare and currently serves as Secretary General of Egypt's National Council for Childhood and Motherhood. He has led national initiatives on child protection, maternal health, and welfare systems.



Robert Doya Nanima



Robert Doya Nanima is an Associate Professor specialising in criminal justice and children's rights. He is actively engaged in research and policy work on human rights and governance in Africa.



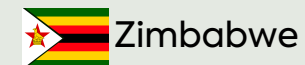
Albab Tesfaye Ayalew



Albab Tesfaye Ayalew is a human rights expert with experience across the African Union, the United Nations, and national institutions. Her work focuses on human rights monitoring, investigations, and advocacy, particularly in conflict and post-conflict settings, with an emphasis on child protection.



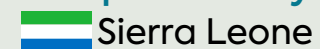
Anne Musiwa



Anne Musiwa continues her work as Special Rapporteur on children without parental care, focusing on strengthening protection systems and advocacy for vulnerable children. She has a background in public health and child care.



Joseph Sunday Sinnah



Joseph Sunday is a child protection specialist with extensive experience in promoting children's rights in Africa. He has served as Special Rapporteur on Child Justice and contributed to developing child protection frameworks, leading policy reforms, and advocating for stronger child safeguarding laws in Sierra Leone.

The newly elected members will be sworn in during the 47th Ordinary Session in Maseru, Lesotho, from 17–25 April 2026.

African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights



Blaise Tchikaya



Republic of Congo

The African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights has elected Judge Blaise Tchikaya of the Republic of Congo as its new President. He was elected on February 24, 2026, by a bench of 11 judges during a plenary session. His election comes as the Court prepares to mark its 20th anniversary, a milestone seen by many as an opportunity to reinforce legal frameworks, improve operational efficiency, and strengthen the Court's role within Africa's human rights system. Judge Tchikaya was first elected to the bench in July 2018 for a six-year term and served as Vice President from June 2021 to July 2023. He holds a Doctorate in International Public law from Paris X-Nanterre University and is a Professor and Senior Lecturer in international public law, international litigation, and human rights at universities throughout Europe, the Caribbean, and Africa.



Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone



Isaac Lenaola



Kenya

Judges of the at the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone (RSCSL) have elected Isaac Lenaola as President during a plenary session held in The Hague. Lenaola has served as a judge of the RSCSL since 2013 and currently sits on the Supreme Court of Kenya.

Lenaola completed a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Nairobi before completing the Advocates Training Programme at the Kenya School of Law. He was admitted to the Kenyan Bar in 1991 and practiced as an advocate before being appointed a judge of the High Court of Kenya in 2003. He later served as a commissioner at the Judicial Service Commission of Kenya and has also held the position of Deputy Principal Judge of the East African Court of Justice.

During a session, judges elected Andrew Hatton as Vice President of the Court. Hatton practiced criminal law in England and Wales from 1987 to 2011 and later served as an international criminal judge in Kosovo before becoming a Circuit Judge. He has also held leadership roles in the Judicial College of England and Wales. Additionally, Tonia Barnett was appointed as Staff Appeals Judge. Barnett has been part of the Sierra Leone judiciary since 2006, holding various positions, including Justice of the High Court and Acting Judge of the Court of Appeal since 2020. She holds degrees from Fourah Bay College and Harvard Law School.



Tonia Barnett



Sierra Leone



Andrew Hatton



United Kingdom