



#CCJAWomen2026

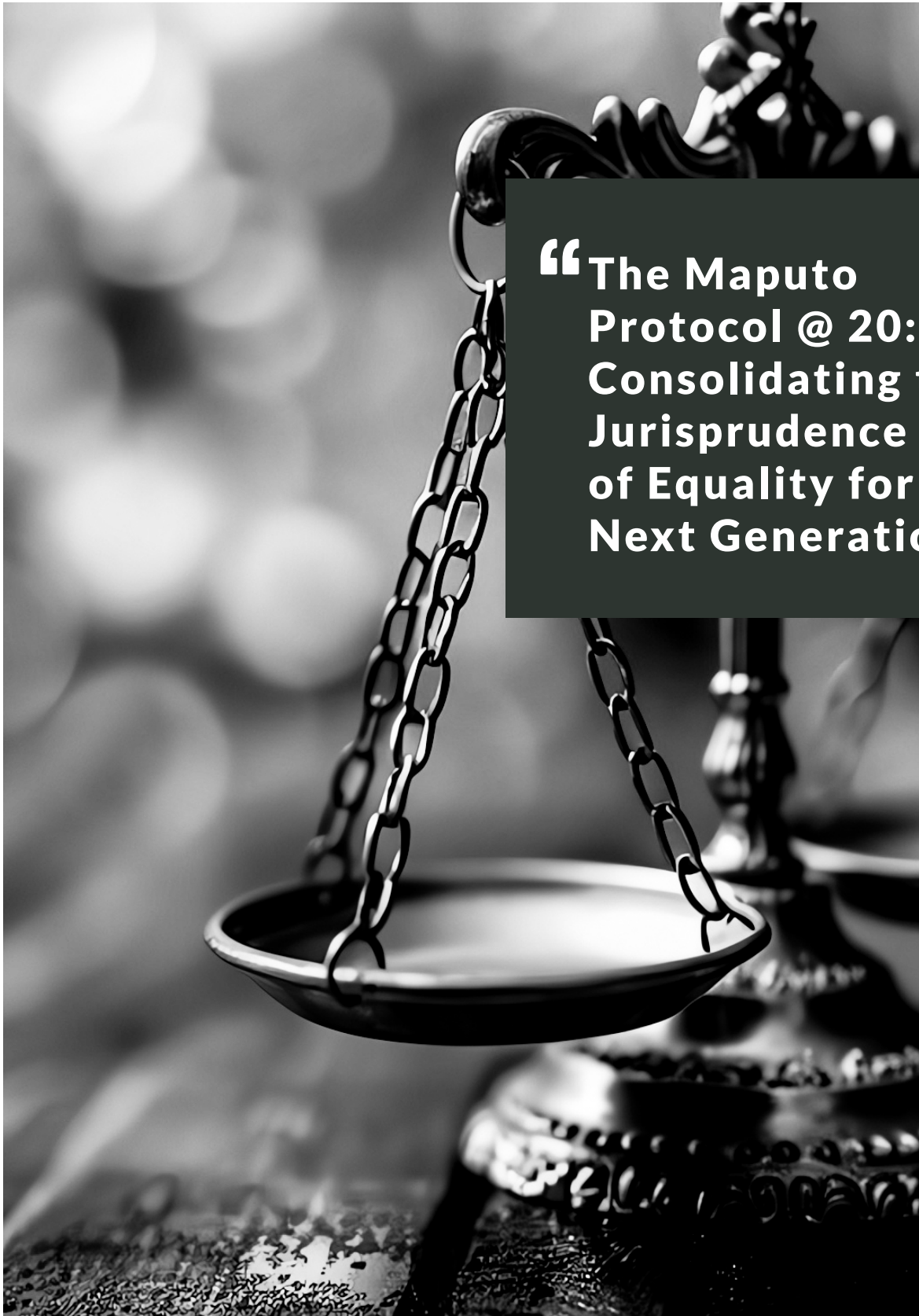
2ND HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF WOMEN JUDICIAL LEADERS OF AFRICA

Theme: “The Maputo Protocol @ 20: Consolidating the
Jurisprudence of Equality for the Next Generation”

PROGRAMME

20 - 24 APRIL 2026

www.judiciary.org.za/ccjawomen2026



“The Maputo Protocol @ 20: Consolidating the Jurisprudence of Equality for the Next Generation”

Welcome Message

It is with great pleasure to welcome you all to the Republic of South Africa for the 2nd High-Level Meeting of Women Leader Judicial Officers of Africa.

We are deeply honoured, as the Judiciary of the Republic of South Africa, to host this important gathering in partnership with the Conference of Constitutional Jurisdictions of Africa. Your presence here affirms a shared commitment to strengthening constitutional democracy, the rule of law, and the vital role of the judiciary across our continent.

This meeting builds on the foundation laid during the inaugural gathering in Libreville in 2023, and stands as a testament to the growing recognition of women judicial officers as key drivers of justice, transformation, and institutional integrity in Africa.

It also reflects our collective commitment to advancing gender equality, as envisioned in both international and regional instruments, and to ensuring that our courts continue to uphold the rights and dignity of all people.

As we convene over the coming days, may this platform foster meaningful dialogue, strengthen collaboration, and inspire bold and practical steps toward enhancing the role of women in judicial leadership.

We trust that your time in South Africa will be both productive and enriching.

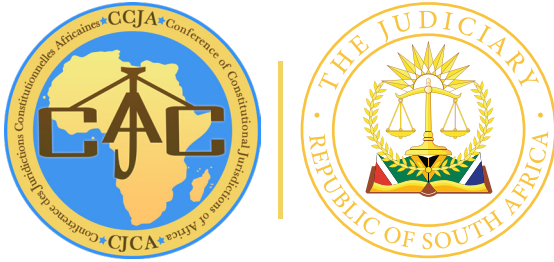
Once again, welcome.



**Chief Justice
Mandisa Maya**

Chief Justice of the Republic
of South Africa

About The Event



The Judiciary of the Republic of South Africa, in partnership with the Conference of Constitutional Jurisdictions of Africa (CCJA), convenes the 2nd High-Level Meeting of Women Leader Judicial Officers of Africa. This gathering builds on the momentum of the inaugural meeting held in Libreville, Gabon, in 2023, which marked a significant step in advancing dialogue and collaboration among women in judicial leadership across the continent.

The CCJA, an independent body comprising Supreme Courts and Constitutional Jurisdictions in Africa, plays a vital role in promoting constitutionalism, strengthening the rule of law, and safeguarding the integrity of democratic institutions within member states.

This meeting aligns with continental and global commitments to gender equality and the advancement of women's rights, as articulated in key instruments such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), the Maputo Protocol, the African Union's Agenda 2063, and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Bringing together women judicial leaders from across Africa, this second high-level meeting aims to strengthen networks, share experiences and best practices, and advance the role of women in shaping constitutional justice. It provides a platform to reflect on progress, address persistent challenges, and promote inclusive judicial leadership that supports equality, accountability, and the rule of law across the continent.

Sponsors



WEDNESDAY, 22 APRIL 2026

CONSTITUTIONAL JURISPRUDENCE AND THE MAPUTO PROTOCOL

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR:

South Africa - Justice Nonkosi Mhlantla, Constitutional Court

09:00 – 10:30

Official Opening Ceremony

Playing of the South African National Anthem and African Union Anthem

Speeches:

Opening and Welcoming: Programme Director: Justice Nonkosi Mhlantla (10 minutes)

Message of Support: Honourable Ms Thoko Didiza, MP, Speaker of the National Assembly (15 minutes)

Address: Honourable Ms Mmamoloko Kubayi, MP, Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development (15 minutes)

Address: Honourable Lady Justice Chafika Bensaoula, the Vice-President of the African Court on Human and People's Rights (15 minutes)

Keynote address: Chief Justice Mandisa Maya, Republic of South Africa (30 minutes)

10:30

Group photo

11:00 – 11:30

Tea break

11:30 – 11:45

Session 1: From Libreville to Johannesburg, a reflection on the resolutions of the 1st meeting

Speaker: Justice Moussa Laraba, Secretary General of the CCJA

Technical report on the inaugural Meeting in Gabon: Progress made since Libreville (10 minutes)

11:45 – 13:00

Session 2: Adjudicating Violence and Harassment Against Women

Topic: *“Adjudicating Violence and Harassment Against Women: Interpreting laws on domestic violence, femicide, the protection and harassment of women and other harmful practices (e.g., Article 4 of the Maputo Protocol)”*

Session Chairperson: Mozambique – President Lúcia da Luz Ribeiro, Constitutional Council of Mozambique (5 minutes)

Speakers:

- Algeria – Justice Ourdia Nait Kaci, Constitutional Court (15 minutes)
- Zimbabwe – Justice Antonia Guvava, Supreme Court (15 minutes)
- South Africa – Justice Zukisa Tshiqi, Constitutional Court (15 minutes)

Deliberations: (20 minutes)

Session resolutions: (10 minutes)

13:00 – 13:50

Lunch

13:50 – 15:10

Session 3: Economic Justice and Women’s Empowerment

Topic: *“Landmark rulings on women’s rights to property, inheritance, and financial inclusion (e.g., Articles 13, 19, 21)”*

Session Chairperson: Nigeria represented by Justice Kudirat Kekere-Ekun, Chief Justice of Nigeria (5 minutes)

Speakers:

- Angola – Vice President Victória Izata, Constitutional Court (15 minutes)
- Zimbabwe – Deputy Chief Justice Elizabeth Gwaunza, Supreme Court (15 minutes)
- Gabon – Judge Owondault Berre, Constitutional Court (15 minutes)

Deliberations: (20 minutes)

Session resolutions: (10 minutes)

Agenda

15:10 – 15:30

● Movement break

15:30 – 16:50

● Session 4: Sustainable Environment Participation and Representation

Topic: *"The Judiciary's role in ensuring that women live in a healthy environment (e.g., Article 18)"*

Session Chairperson: The Republic of Gambia - Justice Naceesay Salla-Wadda, President of the Court of Appeal

Speakers:

- South Africa - Justice Nambitha Dambuza, Constitutional Court (15 minutes)
- Second Speaker to be confirmed (15 minutes)
- Third Speaker to be confirmed (15 minutes)

Deliberations: (20 minutes)

Session resolutions: (10 minutes)

Overview of the proceedings of the day - Programme Director: Justice Nonkosi Mhlantla Closing for the day

THURSDAY, 23 APRIL 2026

EMERGING FRONTIERS & FUTURE-FOCUSED JURISPRUDENCE

09:00 – 10:20

Session 5: Artificial Intelligence, the Digital Frontier & Women's

Session Chairperson: South Africa - Justice Kate Savage, Constitutional Court (5 minutes)

Speakers:

- Mozambique represented by President Lucia da Cruz Ribeiro, Constitutional Council (15 minutes)
- Liberia - Associate Justice Jamesetta Wolokolie, Supreme Court (15 minutes)
- UNESCO - Ms Bedette van Loggerenberg, University of Oxford, and Ms Eunice Smith, Head of Office and UNESCO representative to Namibia. (15 minutes)

Deliberations: (20 minutes)

Session resolutions: Chairperson (10 minutes)

10:20 – 11:00

Tea break

11:00 – 11:25

Presentations by the United Nations Development Programme

Algerian project dedicated to promoting the careers of women Judges represented by Meriem Alaoui, Rule of Law Programme Analyst - UNDP (5 minutes)

The Arab Women Judges Network represented by Samah Ahmed, Rule of Law Associate Specialist, UNDP (10 minutes)

Announcement of the launch of a new dashboard on the representation of women in the Judiciary - UNDP represented by Victoria de Mello, Policy Specialist - Rule of Law, Security and Human Rights, UNDP Africa (10 minutes)

Agenda

11:25 - 12:30

Session 6: Leadership for Women Judicial Officers – Interactive Session

Moderators: South Africa - Judge President Thoba Poyo-Dlwati and Judge President Segopotje Mphahlele

Participants - All Delegates

Deliberations: (20 minutes)

Session resolutions: (10 minutes)

12:30 - 13:30

Lunch

13:30 - 14:30

Presentation of Draft Johannesburg Declaration

Facilitator: President Mahube Molemela

Present on stage:

- Nigeria - Chief Justice Kuridat Kekere-Ekun
- Mozambique - President Lucia da Cruz Ribeiro
- South Africa - Chief Justice Mandisa Maya

14:30 - 15:00

Closing ceremony

Programme Director: Justice Nonkosi Mhlantla

Closing address: Chief Justice Mandisa Maya

16:00 - 17:00

Media briefing

