



**AFRICA GROUP**

FOR JUSTICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY



# Members of the Africa Group for Justice and Accountability



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The Africa Group for Justice and Accountability works to

- Champion Justice and Accountability,
- Enhance Complementarity by Building Capacity,
- Support the International Criminal Court and Universal Ratification of the Rome Statute,
- Promote Facilitation, Mediation and International Cooperation,
- Foster Transparency and Open Dialogue.

## MISSION STATEMENT

“The Africa Group for Justice and Accountability (AGJA) supports efforts to strengthen justice and accountability measures in Africa through domestic and regional capacity building, advice and outreach, and enhancing co-operation between Africa and the International Criminal Court.”





## History

African nations and communities have been important players in the global struggle for the rule of law and the fight against impunity for international and transnational organised crimes. For decades, African states, diplomats, and community leaders have played critical roles in the development of international criminal justice. In recent years, however, the relationship between African states, the African Union and the international tribunals like the International Criminal Court (ICC) have become strained, the result of conflicting perceptions about the Court's role and broader justice and accountability measures in Africa. To date, however, there has been no systematic effort to identify and develop means to overcome such challenges or to engage with the diverse concerns of African states.

The Africa Group came together in November 2015 to advance justice and accountability measures in Africa and focus on contentious issues such as the current ICC-Africa relationship. The Africa Group also aims to strengthen local accountability measures, such as domestic crime units for international crimes, hybrid courts, and regional justice initiatives.

One of the Africa Group's unique features is its independence from governments, the ICC, and other organisations. This has been indispensable to the Group's mandate.

The Wayamo Foundation acts as the Group's secretariat and convener.



## Achievements

AGJA has:

- consolidated its role as a credible player that fosters and enables dialogue among diverse justice-related sectors;
- established itself as a new, African-led voice to promote international justice in Africa;
- grown significantly in terms of popular recognition, being cited in local, regional and international news items, and has been consistently raising its social media profile;
- emerged as a key interlocutor for like-minded groups and civil society organisations working in the field of human rights and international justice resulting in important players (the ICC, African Union, civil society organisations) expecting AGJA to play a facilitating, mediating and diplomatic role;
- contributed to a changed narrative regarding justice and accountability on the African continent. Following the withdrawal announcements of Burundi, The Gambia and South Africa, AGJA members engaged in backdoor diplomacy and approached the respective Foreign and Justice Ministers to convince them to publish public statements of support for the ICC;
- engaged with AU officials and diplomats in multiple meetings. The AU has opened its doors to AGJA by receiving a delegation in Addis Ababa;
- held side events at the Assembly of States Parties of the ICC hosted by several African states;
- provided advice for The Gambia's Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission and completed its first mission, including consultations with key actors, at the invitation of the Minister of Justice;
- contributed to a series of behind-the-scenes meetings on contentious issues;
- actively engaged in capacity-building workshops for investigators and prosecutors in West and East Africa;
- contributed to the vanguard of international criminal justice; recent highlights include the appointment of Navi Pillay as an ad hoc judge at the International Court of Justice, Betty Murungi's appointment to the UN Commission of Inquiry on the 2018 protests in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the selection of Richard Goldstone, Hassan Bubacar Jallow and Mohamed Chande Othman as members of the "Independent Expert Review of the ICC".