Appreciation

AFRICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION DU BARREAU AFRICAIN
رابطة المحامين الأفارقة
AFBA
www.afribar.org *"The fearless voice of the Legal Profession"*

2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SAL, CABO VERDE

20th - 24th September, 2026

Theme: Resilient Africa's Roadmap for Sustainable Development:

Addressing and Strengthening Issues of Military, Security and Economic Stability



OA CV ORDEM DOS ADVOGADOS DE CABO VERDE
CAPE VERDE BAR ASSOCIATION

Oasis Atlantico Belorizonte
CP, 63, Santa Maria, Ilha do Sal, Cabo Verde

Our Partners

The African Bar Association is immensely grateful for the support of our ever dependable partners

CABO VERDE BAR ASSOCIATION

Strengthening the rule of law in Africa

FEDERAL AIRPORTS AUTHORITY OF NIGERIA

NIGERIA REVENUE SERVICE

IADL

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FAMILY WATCH INTERNATIONAL

National Conference of Black Lawyers

FAMILY WATCH INTERNATIONAL

Standing for the Family Worldwide

Family Watch International

"Promoting Family-Based Solutions to World Problems"

Mission

To protect and promote the family as the fundamental unit of society through education, pro-family advocacy, and family-based humanitarian aid.

Unique Approach

The positions Family Watch takes on social policy are based on scientific research, social science data, and what has been proven across cultures to produce the best outcomes for men, women, and children, and thus, for society.

UN Status

Family Watch holds special consultative status at the United Nations. This enables us to participate in UN conferences and proceedings and influence the development of UN policies impacting families worldwide.



FamilyWatch.org FWI@familywatch.org

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President of the Supreme Court of Justice of Cabo Verde

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Minister of Justice of Cabo Verde
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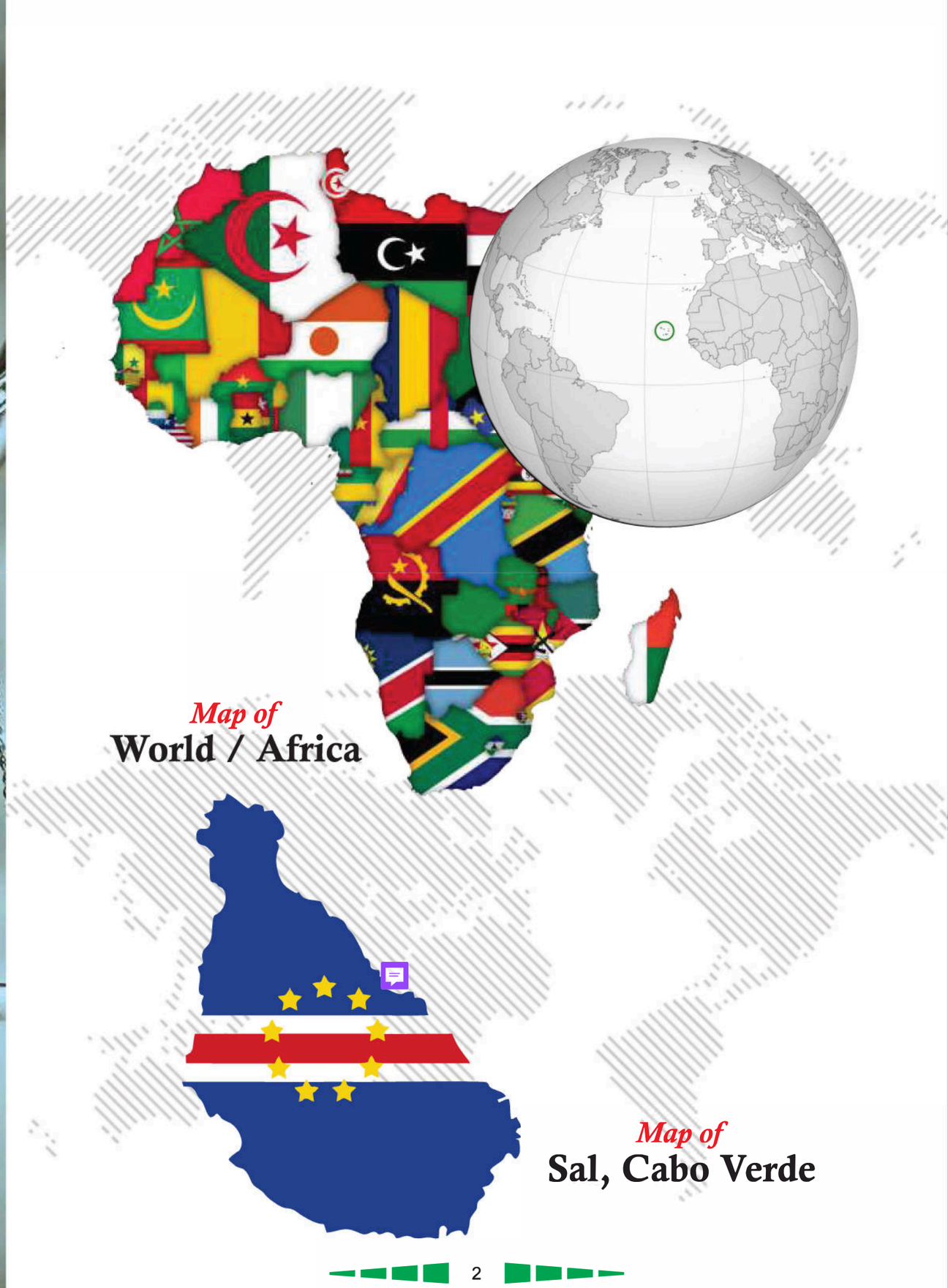
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Appreciation—





Map of
World / Africa

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Sal, Cabo Verde

The Secretariat of the

AFRICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
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Welcomes you to

SAL, CABO VERDE

20th - 24th September, 2026





venue of the
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of the AFRICAN BAR ASSOCIATION.

Enjoy your stay

Dr. Prudence Acirokop
AFBA Secretary General





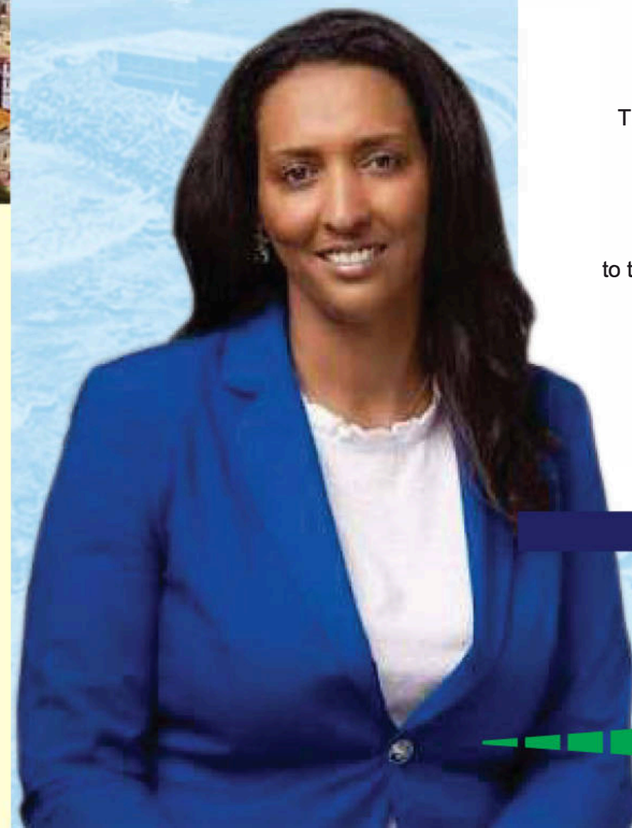
The President of the
CONSTITUTIONAL COURT
Judge José Manuel Avelino De Pina Delgado
on behalf of the Judiciary of Cabo Verde

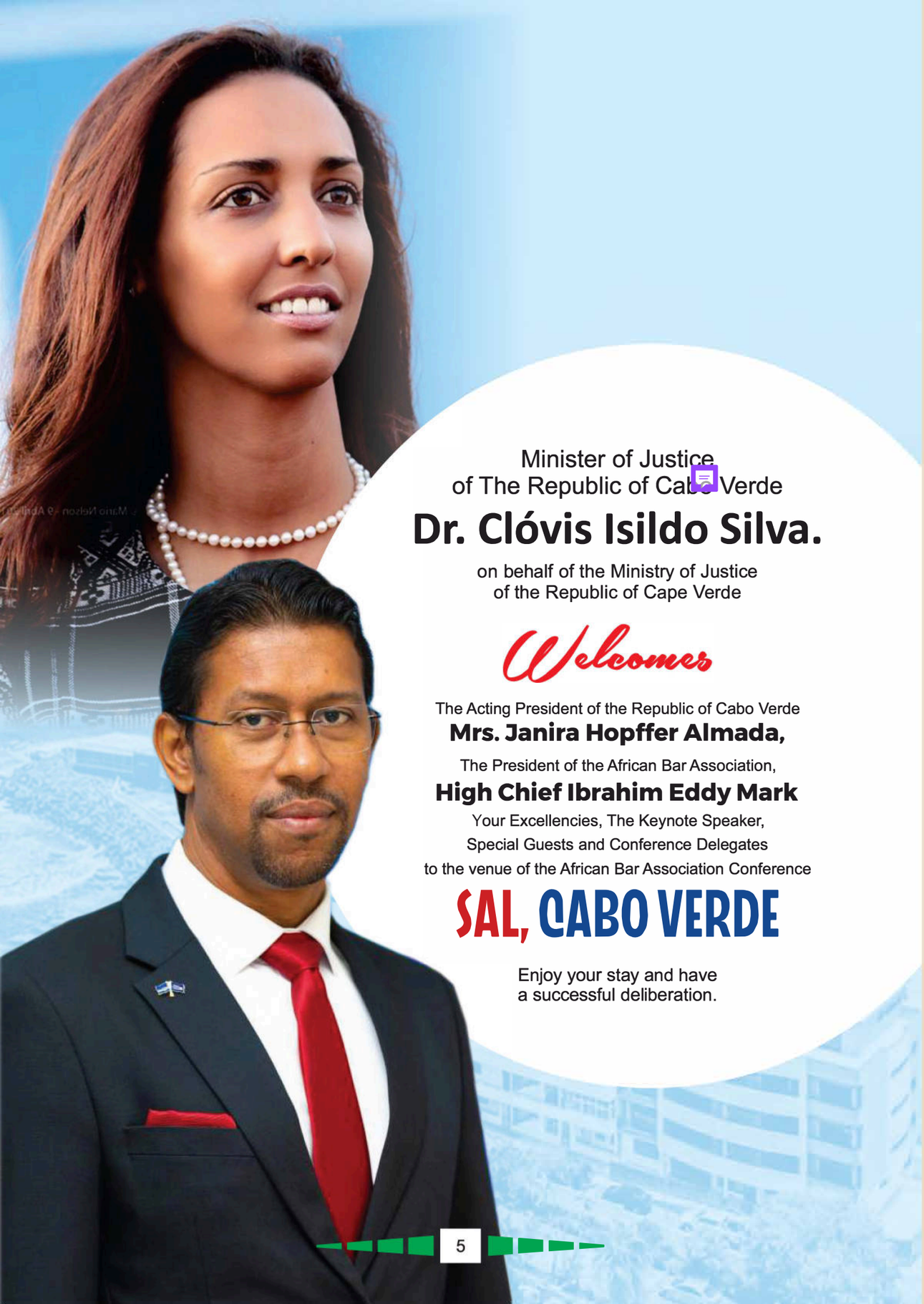
Welcomes

The Acting President of the Republic of Cabo Verde
Mrs. Janira Hopffer Almada,
Your Excellencies, Your Lordships,
all Guests and Conference Delegates
to the venue of the African Bar Association Conference

SAL, CABO VERDE

Enjoy your stay and have
a successful deliberation.





Minister of Justice
of The Republic of Cabo Verde

Dr. Clóvis Isildo Silva.

on behalf of the Ministry of Justice
of the Republic of Cape Verde

Welcomes

The Acting President of the Republic of Cabo Verde
Mrs. Janira Hopffer Almada,

The President of the African Bar Association,
High Chief Ibrahim Eddy Mark

Your Excellencies, The Keynote Speaker,
Special Guests and Conference Delegates
to the venue of the African Bar Association Conference

SAL, CABO VERDE

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a successful deliberation.

The President and members of the

OA CV ORDEM DOS ADVOGADOS DE CABO VERDE

CAPE VERDE BAR ASSOCIATION

Welcomes

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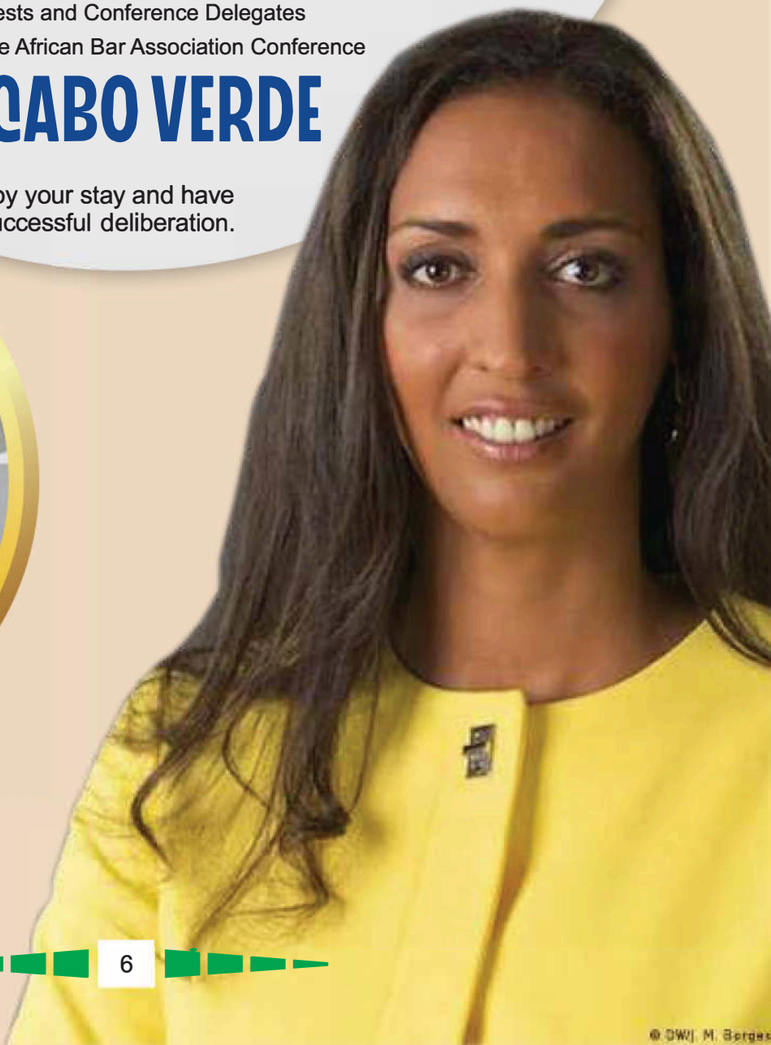
SAL, CABO VERDE

Enjoy your stay and have
a successful deliberation.



Adv. Júlio César Martins

President,
Cape Verde Bar
Association



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The President of the

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ASSOCIATION DU BARREAU AFRICAIN

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HIGH CHIEF IBRAHIM EDDY MARK

on behalf of the Executive Council

Welcomes

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Your Excellencies, Your Lordships,
all Guests and Conference Delegates

to the venue of the African Bar Association Conference

SAL, CABO VERDE

Enjoy your stay and have
a successful deliberation.

Wishing you a successful deliberations!



The Members of the

INTERNATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

of the 2026 Annual Conference

Welcomes

The Acting President of the Republic of Cabo Verde

Mrs. Janira Hopffer Almada,

The President of the African Bar Association,

High Chief Ibrahim Eddy Mark

Your Excellencies, The Keynote Speaker,
Special Guests and Conference Delegates

to the venue of the African Bar Association Conference

SAL, CABO VERDE

Thank you for coming. We value your support and participation.

Hon Mohammed Ndayako SAN
Chair

Prof. Ernest Abotsi
Alternate-Chair



Mrs. Janira Hopffer Almada

Acting President of the Republic of Cabo Verde

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Judge José Manuel Avelino De Pina Delgado

The President of the Constitutional Court, Republic of Cabo Verde



Her Excellency, Justice Zaida Lima

Honorable Judge of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Cabo Verde

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Dr. Clóvis Isildo Silva.

Hon. Minister of Justice and Parliamentary Affairs,
Republic of Cabo Verde



Hon. Justice Ricardo Claudio Monteiro Goncalves

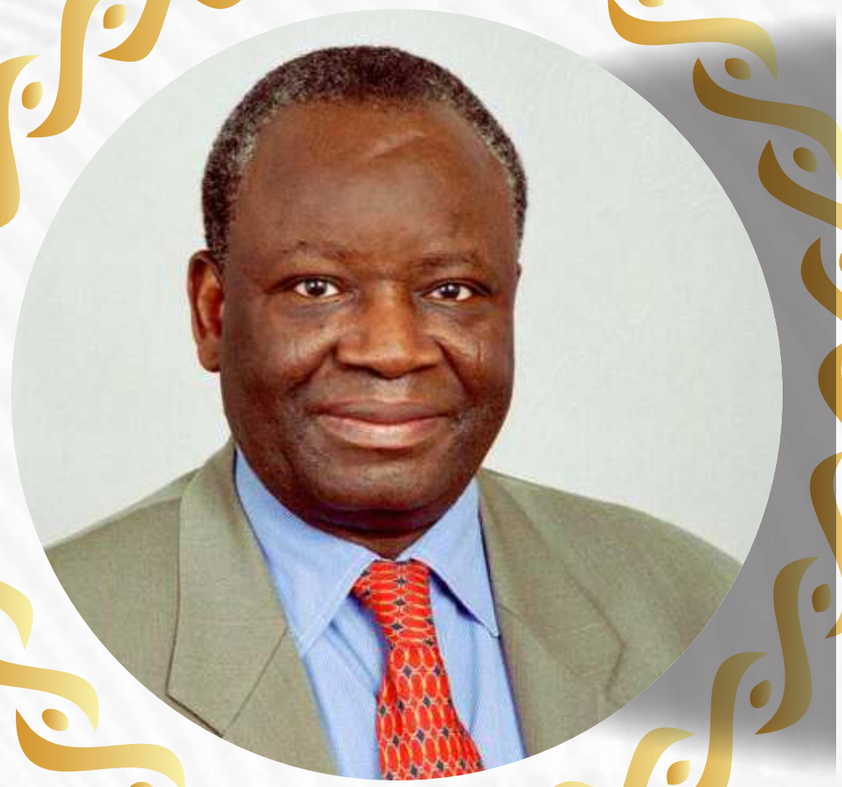
President, ECOWAS Court

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High Chief, Ibrahim Edmund Mark

President of the African Bar Association



Prof. Ibrahim Agboola Gambari, CFR

Keynote Speaker, 2026 AFBA Conference

PROFILE OF THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Professor Ibrahim Agboola Gambari is a renowned scholar-diplomat who has played a significant role in the area of diplomacy and conflict resolution. He was the former Chief of Staff to President Buhari (2020-2023) and Minister of External Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (1984-1985).

Internationally, Professor Gambari became Nigeria's longest-serving Ambassador to the UN, New York, from January 1990 to October 1999. He chaired the UN Special Committee Against Apartheid between 1990 and 1994, during which time he was able to build trust and confidence with governments and policymakers in member countries of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) by working closely with African governments to coordinate UN policy to eradicate apartheid. During the tenure of Kofi Annan as UNSG, Professor Gambari was appointed as the first United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Africa (1999-2005). In that capacity, he worked closely with Heads of Government, key policymakers as well as institutions on the continent to develop the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). At this time, he also served as the Resident Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Mission to Angola between 2002 and 2003. He helped to bring the peace process under the Lusaka Protocol to a successful conclusion.

UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, appointed Professor Gambari as Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs in 2005. He held that position concurrently as United Nations Special Envoy on Myanmar, Cyprus and Zimbabwe.

In 2007, Professor Gambari was appointed by the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, as Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Iraq Compact. Between 2010 and 2012, he served as the Joint Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Chairperson of the African Union Commission UN-AU Hybrid Mission in Darfur (UNAMID). At the time, UNAMID was the world's largest international peacekeeping mission. Professor Gambari also served as Chairperson of the UN Special Committee on Peace-Keeping Operations from 1990-1999. Recently, he headed the ECOWAS Electoral Observation Mission to the Presidential Election in the Republic of Senegal (2024) and High-Level Political Mission to the Republic of Liberia (2025). He is also recently appointed to the membership of the High-Level Panel for the Review of the Africa Union Peace and Security Framework.

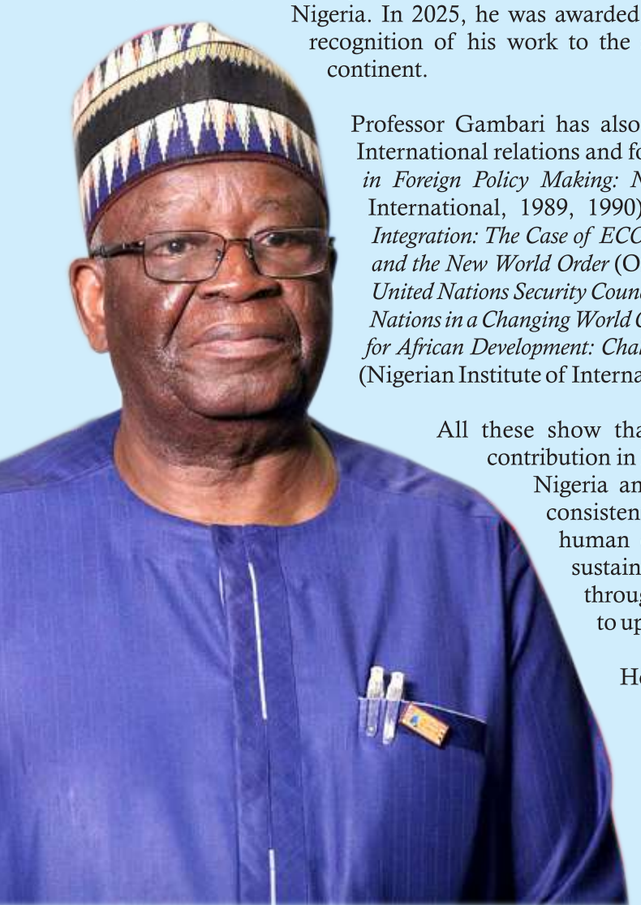
Professor Gambari was also the Co-Chair with US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, of the Commission on Global Security, Justice and Governance, which was created to focus on understanding and addressing common global threats that require collaborative action at all levels of governance. He also founded the Savannah Centre for Diplomacy, Democracy and Development (SCDDD), a non- governmental think-tank on research and policy studies on conflict prevention and resolution as well as democratization and development in Africa.

Professor Gambari was born in Ilorin on 24th November 1944. He received his BSc degree from the London School of Economics in 1968, and his MA and PhD in Political Science in 1970 and 1974, respectively, from Columbia University in the USA. He was a professor at Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Nigeria, where he Headed the Department of Political Science (1982-1983)

and initiated Bachelor of Science Degree in International relations. He was also the Director-General of the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (1983-1984). Professor Gambari was the first Chancellor of Kwara State University (KWASU), Nigeria, between 2013 and 2020; and was the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the Board of the Governing Council of Bayero University, Kano, Nigeria. He is currently a member of the Advisory Council of the International Security Conference on Africa (ICSA); the Chancellor of Crescent University, Abeokuta and Philomath University, Abuja; and Pro-Chancellor, Phoenix University, Agwada, Nasarawa State.

Professor Gambari was the first African to be conferred with the title of Honorary Professor by Chugsan University, China, in 1985. He was awarded a Doctor of Humane Letters degree (honoris causa) by the University of Bridgeport (Connecticut, USA) in 2002 and Farleigh Dickinson University (New Jersey, USA) in 2006; an Honorary Doctor of Public Service, Chatham University, in May 2008; and Honorary Doctor of Letters (DLitt), University of Ibadan, Nigeria, in 2011. Professor Gambari has also received Honorary Doctorate degrees from Kwara State University (2021) and Nasarawa State University (2023), Nigeria; and University of Johannesburg, South Africa (2023). Johns Hopkins University elected Professor Gambari to the membership of the University's Society of Scholars in 2002. This society honours individuals who have achieved professional or scholarly distinctions in their fields.

In 2003, the Government of Nigeria awarded Professor Gambari the national honour, Commander of the Federal Republic (CFR). Other awards he has received include the Special Recognition for International Development and Diplomacy Award conferred by the Africa-America Institute (September 2007), the Distinguished (Foreign) Service Award by the Federal Government of Nigeria (April 2008), the International House Harry Edmonds Award for Lifetime Achievement, New York (May 2009), and the Campaign Against Genocide Medal in 2010 by the Republic of Rwanda. In 2012, the South African Government also awarded Professor Ibrahim Gambari the Order of the Companions of OR Tambo (OCORT), for his solidarity and friendship shown to the South African people. In 2023, the Government of Japan awarded Professor Ibrahim Agboola Gambari The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star (ORSGSS) for his significant contributions to strengthening bilateral relations between Japan and Nigeria. In 2025, he was awarded the Peace and Development Medal of Angola, in recognition of his work to the stability and progress of Angola and the Africa's continent.



Professor Gambari has also authored several books and scholarly articles on International relations and foreign policy, including the books, *Theory and Reality in Foreign Policy Making: Nigeria after the Second Republic* (Humanities Press International, 1989, 1990); *Political and Comparative Dimensions of Regional Integration: The Case of ECOWAS* (Humanities Press International, 1991); *Africa and the New World Order* (Oxford University Africa Society, 1992); *Nigeria at the United Nations Security Council 1994-1995* (Sungai Books, 1998); *Africa at the United Nations in a Changing World Order; Selected Speeches* (2007); and *The New Partnership for African Development: Challenges and Progress in Organizing International Support* (Nigerian Institute of International Affairs, 2004).

All these show that Professor Gambari has made an exceptional contribution in his long and illustrious public life, both nationally in Nigeria and globally, in many important portfolios. He has consistently demonstrated commitment to improving the human condition and to resolving conflicts and building sustainable peace in the 20th and 21st centuries, either through peacebuilding, solidarity-building or other efforts to uplift, especially African, societies.

He is happily married with children and grandchildren.



Advocate Julio Cesar Martins

President, Cabo Verde Bar Association

AFBA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



High Chief Ibrahim Eddy Mark
President



Maitre Amina Faisi
Senior Vice President



Muhammed Ndayako SAN
VP (Budget & Finance)



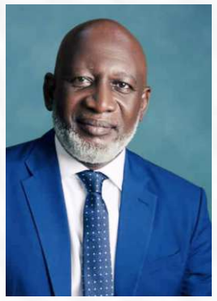
Rudolf Ezeani
VP (Admin) Executive Director



Dr. Prudence Acirokop
Secretary General



Edwina Edjera Barchue
Deputy Secretary General



Afam Okeke
Director of Treasury



Owoicho Adejo-Ogiri
Director of Membership



Nicholas Soumba
Director of Information & Protocol



Elvis T. Enoh Esq
Director of Legal Services



Uzoma Achigbue
Director of Special Projects



Charles Kihara
Vice President
(East Africa)



Stanislaus A. Ajong
Vice President
(Central Africa)



Cllr. Sylvester D. Rennie
Vice President
(West Africa)



Kingsley Jesuorobo
Vice President
(North America)

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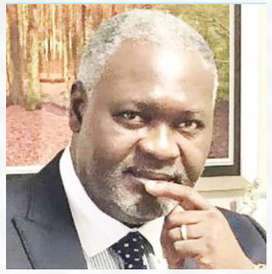
BAR LEADERS



Mr. Joseph B. Daudu, SAN



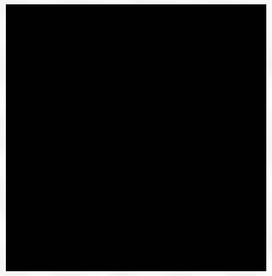
Iyom Josephine Anenih



Hon. Joseph Kamara



Edward Luke II



Mr. Seydou Doumbia



George C. Igbokwe, SAN



Hernani Soaris



Maj Gen Yusuf Shalangwa



Brid Gen (Prof) Dan Kuwali



Oumarou Boubacar



Mbah Eric Mbah



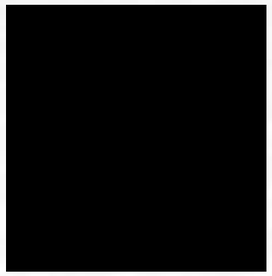
Her Honour Justice Eva Morgan



Prof. Jerry Agbo Madaki Phd



Mrs. Akpeiyi Uwala Murphy



Julius Nkafu



Anthony Ojukwu, SAN

SPECIAL ADVISERS



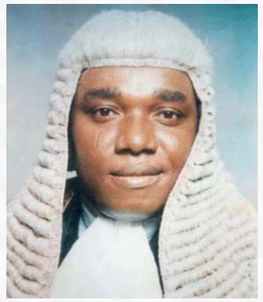
Chief Charles Taku
Special Adviser, Reparations



Dr. A. J. Beredugo
Special Adviser,
Research/Documentation



H.E. Sen. Aminu Tambuwal CFR
Special Adviser,
Parliamentary Affairs



**High Chief Prof.
Charles Edosonwan**
Special Adviser, Artifacts



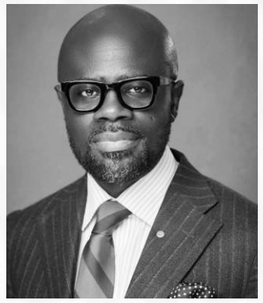
Lady Lydia Lubega
Special Adviser,
East Africa Region



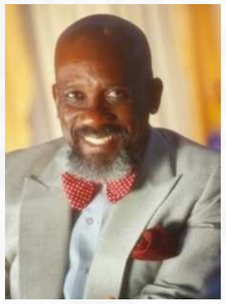
Lady Vimbai Nyemba
Special Adviser,
Southern Africa Region



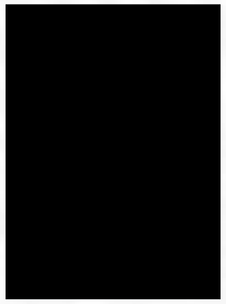
Mama Fatima Singhateh
Special Adviser,
Gender Matters



Prof. Ernest Abotsi
Special Adviser,
Trade/Investment



Prof Lennox Hinds
Special Adviser,
Diaspora Matters



Tharcisse Gatarama
Special Adviser,
NGO/Development
Agencies



**Prof. Isa Hayatu
Chiroma, SAN**
Special Adviser,
Special/Higher
Education



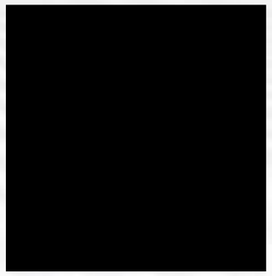
Moses Alfred Ebute SAN
Special Adviser,
Legal Services



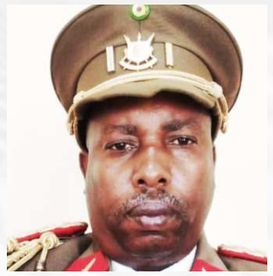
Dr. Musa Aliyu SAN
Special Adviser,
Financial Crime/
Asset Recovery

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BAR LEADERS



Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN



Col Desire Hakorimana



Rhoda Sufian Kargbo Nuni



Richard Kakeeto



Monday Ubani, SAN



Hon. Moses Paegar



Prof. TuKishi Manamela



Sonnie Ekwuwosi

COUNTRY CHAIRS



Foluke Akinmoladun
(Nigeria Forum)



Osato Eugene Uwamere
(USA Forum)



Nathalie Seya Tshama
(DR Congo Forum)



Tejan Ahmed Israel Jah
(Sierra Leone Forum)



Charles Kanjama SC
(Kenya Forum)



Ibtissem Miuhous-Benkara
(Algeria Forum)



Mohammed Moulay,
(Saharawi Arab Republic Forum)



Samuel Tabi Mbianyor,
(Cameroun Forum)



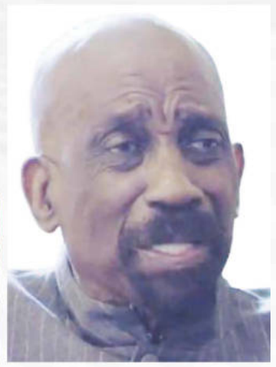
Lylie Ngninkeu,
(Canada Forum)

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COMMITTEE CHAIRS



Chief Charles Taku
(Reparations)



Prof Lennon Linds
(Access to Justice)



Rhoda S Kargbo Nuni
(Women Forum)



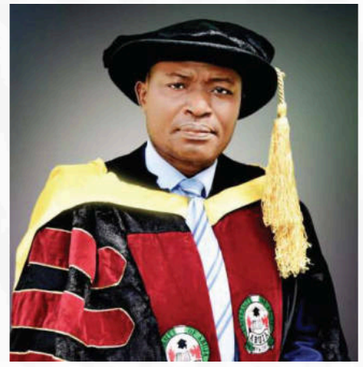
Abu Ocheme
(Taxation)



Mrs. Bridget Iwinise Gold
(Aviation)



Julius Nkafu
(Chair, ADR)



Dr. Friday Agbo
(Medical Law & Ethics)



Charles Kanjama SC
(Family Law)

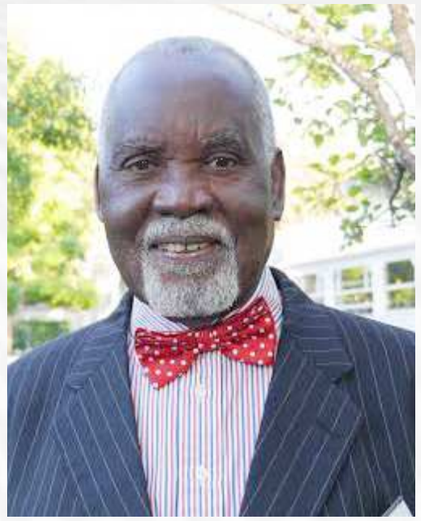


Michelle Oliel
(Child Rights)

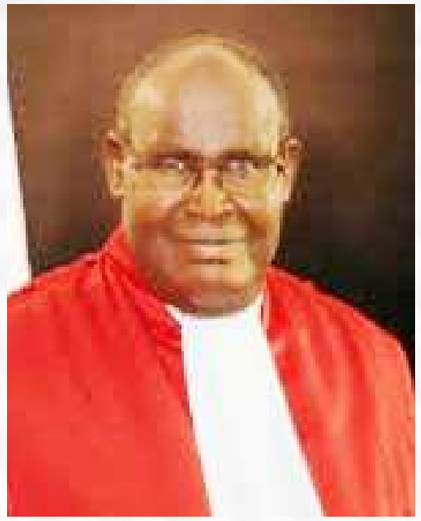


Prof. Ugoji Adanma Eze Ph. D
(Human Right)

SOME PAST PRESIDENTS



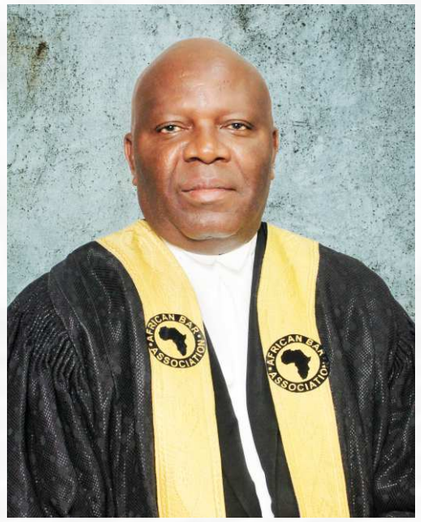
Dr. Rodgers Chongwe (SC)



Hon. Lee Muthoga (SC)



Mr. Charles Idehen



Dr. Hannibal Egbe Uwaifo, SAN

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PAST KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



H.E. Judge Navanethem Pillay
Rtd UN Diplomat, 1st Woman of Colour
Judge in South Africa (2016 Harare, Zimbabwe)



H.E. Dr. Jakaya M. Kikwete
Fmr. President of Tanzania
(2017, Port Harcourt, Nigeria)



H.E. Prof. Benedict Oramah
President, Afrexim Bank - Cairo
(2018, Nairobi, Kenya)



Mr. Karim Khan QC
Chief Prosecutor, ICC
(2019, Monrovia, Liberia)



H.E. Rt Hon.
Aminu W. Tambuwal
Governor of Sokoto State, Nigeria
(2020 VC, Niamey, Republic of Niger)



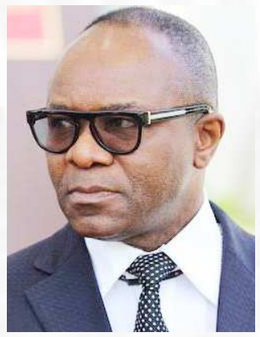
H.E. Dr. Goodluck E. Jonathan
Fmr. President of Rep. of Nigeria
(2021, Niamey, Republic of Niger)



H.E. Sen. Dr.
Jewel Howard Taylor
Vice President of the Rep. of Liberia
(2022, Lilongwe, Malawi)



Hon. Justice
Desmond Edwards, CJS
Hon. Chief Justice of the
Republic of Sierra Leone
(2023, Johannesburg, South Africa)



Prof. Emmanuel Ibe Kachikwu
Fmr. Minister of State for Petroleum Resources
of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
Fmr.. Manging Director, NNPC
(2024, Lusaka, Zambia)



Prof. Patrick Utomi
Professor of Political Economic
and Management Expert
Chairperson PAFTRAC
(2025, Accra, Ghana)



AFBA PROGRAMME FOR OPENING CEREMONY

9:00am – 9:30am:	Arrival of Participants
9:30am – 9:50am:	Arrival of AFBA Leaders and Special Guests
9:50am – 9:55am:	Arrival of their Lordships and Ministers
9:58am:	Arrival of the Special Guest of Honour & Excellencies.
10:00am:	The National Anthem of the Republic of Cabo Verde
10:05am - 10:15am	RITES OF TRANSITION OF AFBA FLAG from GHANA BAR ASSOCIATION TO THE CABO VERDE BAR ASSOCIATION
10:15am - 10:20am	Welcome remarks by the Chairman L.O.C.
10:20am - 10:25am	Welcome remarks by the President of the Cabo Verde Bar Association - Dr. Julio Martins Junior
10:25am - 10:35am	Speech by the President of the African Bar Association, High Chief Ibrahim Eddy Mark
10:35am - 11:20am	TRIBUTES/GOODWILL MESSAGES
	ATTORNEY GENERAL AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE, NIGERIA
	ATTORNEY GENERAL AND MINISTER OF JUSTICE, UGANDA
	REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE OF GUINEA BISSAU
	REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GAMBIA ARMED FORCES

2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

SAL, CABO VERDE

20th - 24th September, 2026

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF BLACK LAWYERS

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF DEMOCRATIC LAWYERS

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT BAR

DARFUR DIASPORA ASSOCIATION

STAND FOR OUR PARENTS

11:20am - 11:30am	Speech by His Excellency, The Honourable Judge of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Cape Verde, Hon. Justice Zaida Lima
11:40am - 12:10pm	KEYNOTE ADDRESS _ Prof. Ibrahim Agboola Gambari, CFR OCORT
12:10pm - 12:40pm	Awards for Service to AFBA
12:40pm - 1:00pm	Decoration of recipients of the 2026 AFBA Medals of Merit in Leadership & Presentation of Appreciation Plaques. Otunba Dele Oye Serges Martin Zangue, SG Mrs. Ligia Dias Fonseca
1pm - 1:20pm	Address and Conference Opening by the Special Guest of Honour by the Minister of Justice and Parliamentary Affairs of the Republic of Cabo Verde, Clovis Silva
1:30pm	NATIONAL ANTHEM OF THE REPUBLIC OF CABO VERDE & DEPARTURES.



HIGH CHIEF IBRAHIM EDDY MARK ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT, AFRICAN BAR ASSOCIATION DURING THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE ASSOCIATION 2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE HOLDING AT SAL CABO VERDE FROM 20TH -23RD SEPTEMBER 2026

It is with great honour and a profound sense of responsibility that I welcome you to this Annual Conference of the African Bar Association here in the beautiful Republic of Cabo Verde. I express our sincere appreciation to the Government and people of Cabo Verde for their warm hospitality and for providing us with this important platform for dialogue and reflection.

Our theme, **"Resilient Africa's Roadmap for Sustainable Development: Addressing and Strengthening Issues of Military, Security and Economic Stability,"** is both timely and urgent. Africa stands at a defining moment. Our continent possesses enormous human and natural resources, a youthful population, remarkable entrepreneurial energy and immense economic potential. Yet we continue to confront armed conflicts, terrorism, insecurity, economic instability, democratic reversals, poverty, youth unemployment, irregular migration and barriers to intra-African trade and movement.

The question before us is simple but profound:

What kind of Africa do we want to leave for the next generation?

And, as lawyers, we must ask:

What role must the law play in building that Africa?

THE RULE OF LAW AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

Ladies and Gentlemen,

There can be no sustainable development without the rule of law.

There can be no credible democracy without constitutionalism.

There can be no sustainable investment without confidence in our courts and institutions.

And there can be no lasting peace where justice is denied.

The African Bar must therefore remain a strong and independent defender of the rule of law, judicial independence, human rights and constitutional governance.

Democracy must be more than periodic elections. It must include credible elections, accountable institutions, transparency, respect for constitutional limits, freedom of expression, civic participation and peaceful transitions of power.

We must deepen democratic institutions and restore public confidence in governance.

Where institutions are weak, our response must be to strengthen them—not abandon them.

SECURITY AND PEACE

African Bar Association has received reports of the unending genocidal actions in Darfur, Cameroon and the Great Lakes.

African Bar Association calls for an end to these conflicts and for accountability for the harm caused to victims.

African Bar Association calls on African Countries to ratify the Malabo Protocol granting jurisdiction to African Court of Justice and Human rights to investigate and prosecute international crimes defined in the Protocol in the continent.

We deeply express our concerns about unconstitutional change of Governments in Africa, including by coup d'etat fraudulent elections and corruptive tendencies.

Our continent cannot develop sustainably while communities remain trapped in conflict, terrorism and violent extremism.

We need stronger African cooperation in intelligence sharing, counter-terrorism, border management, cybercrime prevention, judicial cooperation and conflict resolution.

But we must also insist that security operations remain subject to the rule of law.

National security and human rights are not enemies. They are complementary responsibilities of a legitimate state.

We must equally reaffirm that military institutions have an important role in protecting nations, but constitutional civilian authority must remain supreme.

The solution to weak democracy cannot be military intervention.

The answer to poor governance must be better governance.

The answer to flawed institutions must be stronger institutions.

AFRICAN TRADE AND ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

Distinguished colleagues,

Africa cannot achieve its full potential while our economies remain excessively fragmented. The African Continental Free Trade Area offers us a historic opportunity to build a genuinely integrated African market.

But agreements must translate into practical benefits.

We must reduce unnecessary trade barriers, harmonise regulations, improve infrastructure, facilitate cross-border payments and strengthen mechanisms for resolving commercial disputes.

The African lawyer has an important role here.

We must develop expertise in cross-border transactions, arbitration, investment law, digital trade, intellectual property and regional economic integration.

Let us move from treaties to transactions, from declarations to implementation, and from fragmented markets to an integrated African economy.

TOWARDS A VISA-FREE AFRICA FOR AFRICANS

There is also a fundamental contradiction in speaking about African unity while Africans face significant barriers to travelling within their own continent.

We should aspire to an Africa where Africans can progressively travel, work, study, invest and conduct legitimate business across African borders with minimal visa restrictions. I therefore call for renewed commitment to the vision of a visa-free Africa for Africans. This does not mean ignoring security concerns. It means using technology, intelligent border management, identity systems and stronger cooperation to distinguish legitimate movement from criminal activity.

Our borders should protect our people, not prevent our people from knowing one another.

MIGRATION WITH DIGNITY

Migration must also be addressed with humanity and realism.

We must combat human trafficking, migrant smuggling and exploitation while creating safe and regular pathways for legitimate migration.

We must recognise migration as both a human-rights issue and an economic-development issue. Most

importantly, we must create opportunities at home so that our young people are not forced to undertake dangerous journeys in search of a future.
Migration should be a choice, not a desperate escape from hopelessness.

THE AFRICAN CHILD
Ladies and Gentlemen,
If we want to know whether our development policies are succeeding, we should look at the African child. Every child deserves education, healthcare, identity, protection from violence and exploitation, and the opportunity to realise his or her full potential.
Children affected by conflict, displacement, poverty and trafficking require particular protection.
We must never forget: The African child is not merely the beneficiary of our development. The African child is the reason for it. We must build an Africa that our children will be proud to inherit.

THE ROLE OF THE AFRICAN BAR
It is historic and heartwarming to announce that African Bar Association has been granted a special consultative status by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations. This instantly translates to more responsibility for African Bar Association and her work will reach all nooks and crannies of the African Continent.
African Bar Association recognizes our partners, International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL), National Conference of Black Lawyers (NCBL), International Criminal Court Bar (ICC-BAR) who in years past has worked with us to achieve our modest aims and objectives. With International Association of Democratic Lawyers, we shared the common objectives in promoting and protecting the international rule of law against racism, colonialism, imperialism, aggressive wars, unilateral coercive measures, attacks on the independence of judicial institutions, judges, lawyers and prosecutors, particularly the politicization of justice at the International Criminal Court (ICC).
The African Bar cannot be a passive observer of Africa's transformation.
We stand at the intersection of law, governance, commerce, human rights and justice.
We must defend the independence of the profession.
We must promote access to justice.
We must strengthen professional ethics.
We must prepare our lawyers for emerging areas including artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, climate change, digital commerce and cross-border investment.
But above all, we must have the courage to defend justice when it is inconvenient.
African Bar Association decry the undue reliance by African countries after about 60 years of independence on their former colonial foreign powers and organizations for their professional, specialist national security and economic needs. AFBA has the expertise in which they can partner with them to provide the most competitive international standard
The practice of law is not merely a profession. It is a public trust.
The African Bar should become a stronger platform for cooperation among African lawyers, sharing legal knowledge, strengthening cross-border practice and supporting continental integration.

A CALL TO ACTION
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,
Let this Conference produce more than speeches.
Let us develop practical commitments around:
Rule of law and constitutionalism.
Peace and security.
Good governance and democracy.
African trade and economic integration.
Freedom of movement for Africans.
Dignified migration.
Protection of children's rights. And a stronger, more united African legal profession.
History will judge our generation not simply by the challenges we inherited, but by what we did with them.
We inherited borders.
Let us turn them into bridges.
We inherited fragmented economies.
Let us build integrated markets.
We inherited conflict.
Let us build peace.
We inherited institutional weaknesses.
Let us strengthen the rule of law.
We inherited young people searching for opportunity.
Let us build an Africa where opportunity exists at home.
And we inherited children whose future depends upon the decisions we make today.
Let us give them a continent worthy of their dreams.

CONCLUSION
Fellow Africans,
Africa's future is not predetermined.
We are not condemned to conflict.
We are not condemned to poverty.
We are not condemned to political instability.
We are not condemned to fragmented economies.
We have the capacity to change our story.
But we need courage.
We need leadership.
We need strong institutions.
And we need the rule of law.
As lawyers, we have a special responsibility.
Let us build an Africa where the rule of law is stronger than the rule of force; where democracy is deeper than elections; where security protects citizens; where trade crosses borders; where Africans can move freely across Africa; where migrants are treated with dignity; where children can dream without fear; and where young people can build prosperous lives at home.
Standing here in Cabo Verde, let us renew our commitment to an Africa that is peaceful, democratic, prosperous, integrated and just.
Let our laws become bridges.
Let our institutions become instruments of trust.
Let our profession become a force for justice.
And let our generation be remembered as the generation that transformed African integration from an aspiration into a reality.

One-Africa.
One-destiny.
One future.
May God bless Africa.
May God bless the people of Cabo Verde.
May God bless the African Bar Association.
And may God bless all those who dedicate their lives to justice, peace and human dignity.
I thank you.

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Theme:

Resilient Africa's Roadmap for Sustainable Development:
Addressing and Strengthening Issues of Military, Security and Economic Stability

Oasis Atlantico Belorizonte
CP, 63, Santa Maria, Ilha do Sal,
Cabo Verde

CONFERENCE TIME TABLE

CONFERENCE TIME TABLE

DAY	DATE	9-9.30AM	9.30-10AM	10-10.30A	10.30-11AM	11.00-11.30AM	11.30-12PM	12-12.30PM	12.30-1.00PM	1.00-1.30PM	2.00-2.30-PM	2.30-3.00PM	3.00-3.30PM	3.30-4.00PM	4.00-4.30PM	4.30-5.00PM	5-5.30PM
SUN/DAILY	9/20/2026	REGISTRATION															
MON	9/21/2026	OPENING CEREMONY								LUNCH					**SESSION NO 1**: Women Forum Session: Harnessing Artificial Intelligence- Women as Catalysts for Security Reform, Economic Stability and Sustainable Development in Africa.		
TUESDAY	9/22/2026	**Session No 2: Human Rights** Venue- Hotel Odjo d'Agua			COMFORT BREAK	**SESSION NO 4**: Human Rights. Venue- Hotel Odjo d'Agua			LUNCH		**SESSION NO 6**: Aviation Venue- Hotel Odjo d'Agua			TEA BREAK	**SESSION NO 8: Access to Justice** Venue- Hotel Odjo d'Agua		
		Session No 3: MILITARY TRAINING WORKSHOP 1 Venue- Hotel Belorizonte				**SESSION NO 5: MILITARY TRAINING WORKSHOP** Venue- Hotel Belorizonte					**SESSION NO 7: Security in the Great Lakes Region as a Critical Pathway to Africa's Sustainable Development Part 1** Venue- Hotel Belorizonte				**SESSION NO 9: Security in the Great Lakes Region as a Critical Pathway to Africa's Sustainable Development Part 2.** Venue- Hotel Belorizonte		
WEDNESDAY	9/23/2026	**SESSION NO 10: Taxation** Venue- Hotel Odjo d'Agua				**SESSION NO 12: Artificial Intelligence and Data Privacy.** Venue- Hotel Odjo d'Agua					**SESSION NO 14: REPARATIONS** Venue:-Hotel Belorizonte				**SESSION NO 15:Rule of Law** Venue- Hotel Belorizonte		
		SESSION NO 11: Emerging Subjects Affecting Africa's Resilience 1 Venue- Hotel Belorizonte				**SESSION NO 13: Emerging Subjects Affecting Africa's Resilience 2.** Venue- Hotel Belorizonte											
THURSDAY	9/24/2026	FREE DAY				FREE DAY					FREE DAY						

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Hon. Dele Kelvin Oye, Esq.
Ex- Bencher, MCIArb, FICMC



Mrs. Lígia Dias Fonseca
First Female President of
Cabo Verde Bar Association &
Fmr. First Lady, Cabo Verde



Barrister Serges Martin Zangue SG
Managing Partner of
Zangue & Partners (“Z&P”)

Profile of 2026 AFBA Awardee

Hon. Dele Kelvin Oye, Esq.

Ex-Bencher, MCIArb, FICMC

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Accomplished legal practitioner, economic advocate, and business leader with over 35 years of experience in law, corporate governance, mining, policy advocacy, investment facilitation, a strong commitment to reforms, trade facilitation, taxation, and youth/women empowerment.

LEADERSHIP AND BOARD ROLES

- Honorary Life Vice-President, Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines, and Agriculture (NACCIMA) (2023– June 19, 2025)
- Chairman, Organised Private Sector of Nigeria (June 19, 2025)
- Chairman, Nigerian-Türkiye Business Council
- Board Member, National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA)
- Board Member, Nigerian Education Loan Fund (NELFUND)
- Governing Council Member, Institute of Chartered Mediators and Conciliators (ICMC)
- Vice Chairman, FG Committee on Segilola Mining and Tax Dispute (2024–2025)
- Lead Prosecutor, Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee (13 years)

EDUCATION

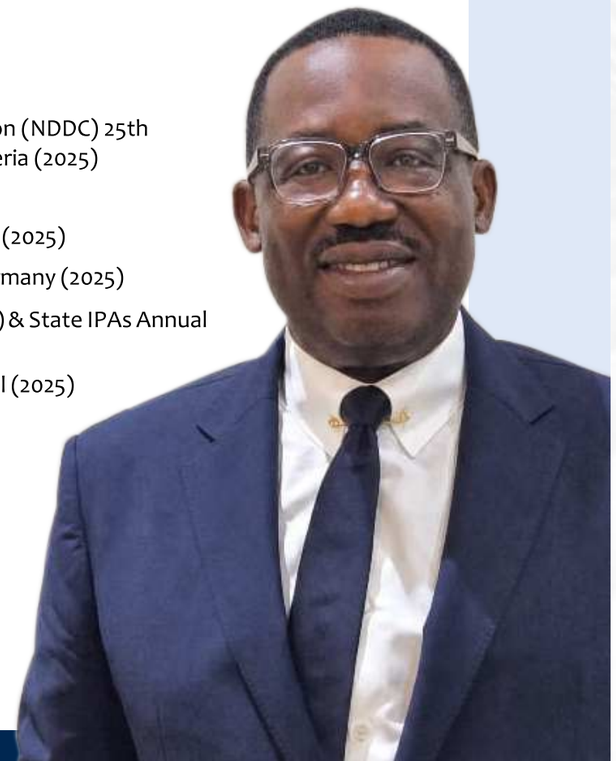
- LL.B (Hons), Obafemi Awolowo University, 1988
- B.L, Nigerian Law School, Lagos, 1989

ALUMNI LEADERSHIP

- National President, Obafemi Awolowo University Alumni Association (2000–2004)
- Chairman, Conference of Alumni Associations of Nigerian Universities (2002–2004)

SOME KEYNOTE/SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS (SELECTED)

- Speaker NBA Annual Conference (2026) – Panelist
- Keynote Speaker Abuja Economic Dialogue (2026)
- Panelist, EU Nigeria Business Forum (2026)
- Keynote Speaker, Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) 25th Anniversary Public Lecture for Women and Youth, Nigeria (2025)
- Speaker, Mining on Top Africa, Paris (2025)
- Chairman, Vanguard Annual Economic Summit, Nigeria (2025)
- Speaker, Giessen-Frenberg IHK Annual Conference, Germany (2025)
- Speaker, Nigerian Investment Promotion Council (NIPC) & State IPAs Annual Conference (2025)
- Speaker, Türkiye-Africa Business Forum & Expo, Istanbul (2025)
- Keynote at all Nigerian Editors Conference
- Keynote Speaker, Vanguard Annual Economic Summit, Nigeria (2024)
- Speaker, Mining Week Nigeria (2023, 2024)
- Panelist, World Chambers Congress, Geneva (2023)



AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Full list available on request.

Profile of 2026 AFBA Awardee



H.E. Mrs. Lígia Arcângela Lubrino Dias Fonseca

Lígia Arcângela Lubrino Dias Fonseca is a distinguished legal practitioner, institutional reformer, and human rights advocate whose career embodies unwavering commitment to the rule of law, gender equity, and constitutional justice.

A graduate of the Faculty of Law at the University of Lisbon, Mrs. Fonseca established herself early as a legal mind dedicated to institutional building and regulatory excellence. Her career reached a milestone when she was elected as the first female President of the Cabo Verdean Bar Association (Ordem dos Advogados de Cabo Verde – OAC). In this role, she pioneered critical structural reforms, elevated standards of legal practice, broadened access to legal aid, and championed independence within the legal profession across the archipelago.

Following her tenure leading the organized Bar, Mrs. Fonseca served as First Lady of Cabo Verde (2011–2021). Leveraging her platform with grace and legal acumen, she spearheaded national initiatives focused on social inclusion, legal protection for women and vulnerable populations, civil society empowerment, and civic engagement. Her public advocacy consistently bridged formal legal frameworks with grass-roots social justice, establishing her as an influential legal voice in West Africa and beyond.

In recognition of her trailblazing leadership of the organized Bar, her lifelong

Profile of 2026 AFBA Awardee

Barrister Serges Martin Zangue

Barrister Serges Martin Zangue is the Managing Partner of Zangue & Partners ("Z&P"). He has a strong academic background. He is holder of a Master's Degree in private law. Barrister Serges Martin Zangue has been in legal practice since the year 2000 and was called to the Cameroon Bar Association in May 2001.

He founded Z&P in July 2014, after 15 years of intense practice during which he developed his skills and gained experience in legal advisory and litigation services through various trainings in different law firms in Cameroon including 9 years of hard work and determination as a senior associate at the Marie -Andrée Ngwe law firm.

This expertise and experience acquired over the years through hard work and patience together with a determined and dynamic legal staff with similar backgrounds, have permitted Z&P to distinguish and impose itself in the legal market by being able to assist its clients with cutting-edge services. In addition, Z&P has built networks of first-rate correspondents all over Cameroon and strategic points in Africa in order to meet all expectations and/or difficulties that clients may encounter. Z&P strives to offer its clients productive output.

Z&P provides both consultancy and litigation services. On consultancy services, the firm provides a broad range of services on general commercial and corporate law. Z&P is a member of the African Business Law Firms Association.



Barrister Serges Martin Zangue has a solid foundation and expertise in several fields of law including, but not limited to project finance, banking and finance, M&As, oil and gas law, mining law, energy law, corporate law, investment law, debt recovery, arbitration, etc.

Since the inception of Z&P, he has played vital roles in landmark construction projects. Just to name a few, advising Douala Retail and Convention Centre, a subsidiary of Actis, in the development and construction of the Douala Grand Mall (the largest mall in Central Africa), advising EXIM BANK Turkey on financing the State of Cameroon for the construction of the Douala-Japoma football stadium, advising BMCE International Bank PLC on financing the State of Cameroon for the construction of the Roumde Adjia football stadium, advising Standard Chartered Bank on financing the State of Cameroon for the construction of the Reunification stadium in Douala etc.



J-K GADZAMA LLP

OVERVIEW

J-K Gadzama LLP is a leading Law Firm in Nigeria. Established in 1989 by Joe-Kyari Gadzama, OFR, MFR, SAN, our Firm has, in over three decades, developed an enviable portfolio of clients and lawyers with broad experience in National and International legal services. Our Firm's experience spans commercial and financial transactions, corporate legal services, capital market operations, privatization, telecommunications, maritime law, constitutional law, oil and gas law and litigation. In our 33 years of operation, our Firm has handled over 1,500 briefs and novel cases that have contributed to the development of our legal system and major reforms in Nigeria.

CAPACITY

Our Firm's staff strength spreads across five offices in Nigeria and three associate offices, one in London, United Kingdom, the other in Dubai, United Arab Emirates and the third in South Florida, United States of America comprising of leading lawyers who are experts in various areas of law and practice, being led by seasoned Senior Advocates of Nigeria and experienced academicians. Our Firm has working and associate relationships with leading International Law Firms particularly in the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Tel: +234 (0) 818 765 1999, +234 (0) 706 819 4334

Email: info@j-kgadzamallp.com - Website: www.j-kgadzamallp.com

J-K GADZAMA LLP



NIGERIAN LAW SOCIETY

NIGERIAN LAW SOCIETY

The Nigerian Law Society (NLS), as a corporate member of the African Bar Association (AFBA), is a leading professional association for legal practitioners in Nigeria. We are a Society of lawyers enrolled as Barristers and Solicitors of the Supreme Court of Nigeria under the Legal Practitioners Act of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Led by a Council of elected representatives from across the country, the Nigerian Law Society is committed to upholding the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, and excellence within the legal profession, while promoting the interests of its members and contributing meaningfully to the advancement of the wider legal community.

Membership of the Nigerian Law Society provides access to a range of professional benefits and opportunities designed to support your legal career and continuous professional development. These include continuing legal education, networking and professional engagement opportunities, access to legal resources and publications, and opportunities to connect and collaborate with legal practitioners across the country. Through these initiatives, the Nigerian Law Society continues to foster professional excellence, strengthen the legal profession, and promote the rule of law in Nigeria.

The Nigerian Law Society envisions a future where the rule of law is firmly entrenched in Nigeria and justice is accessible to all. We believe that the legal profession has a vital role to play in achieving this vision. By championing excellence, professionalism, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to justice, we seek to strengthen the legal profession and contribute to building a better future for all Nigerians.

Join the Nigerian Law Society and become part of a community dedicated to professional excellence, justice, and the advancement of the rule of law.

Chief Mela Audu Nunghe, SAN, Bencher
President

Dr. Lilian Uche
National Publicity Secretary

Nigerian Law Society (NLS)
79 Ebitu Ukiwe Street, Jabi 900108, Abuja, FCT, Nigeria.
info@nls.org.ng
https://members.nls.org.ng/register

Congratulations to the African Bar Association on UN ECOSOC Consultative Status

Dear President and Distinguished Members of the African Bar Association,

On behalf of HerSafeNetwork, I extend our warmest congratu'ations to the African Bar Association on the grant of Special Consultative Status by the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

Key Affirmations:

- The African legal profession has the standing and responsibility to shape global conversations on justice, human rights, and the rule of law.

A Platform for African Voices:

- A seat at the ECOSOC table is a platform to carry African priorities into critical global deliberations.

With admiration and best wishes,
Director

Winnie To

Director, HerSafeNetwork

HER SAFE NETWORK | ECOSOC Economic and Social Council

ALGERIA FORUM

AFRICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION DU BARREAU AFRICAIN
رابطة المحامين الأفارقة
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Welcomes

The Acting President of the Republic of Cabo Verde
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High Chief Ibrahim Eddy Mark,
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The Keynote Speaker, all Guests and Conference Delegates to the

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CAMEROUN FORUM



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DR CONGO FORUM

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GHANA FORUM

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Gambia Forum

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LIBERIA FORUM

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MALAWI FORUM

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NIGERIA FORUM

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SIERRA LEONE FORUM

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Uganda Forum

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TANZANIA FORUM

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2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
SAL, CABO VERDE
20th - 24th September, 2026

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