



**Pan African Lawyers Union**  
Union Panafricaine des Avocats  
União Pan-Africana dos Advogados  
اتحاد المحامين الأفارقة



**Press Release**  
**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026**

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2026 will be remembered as a phenomenal day in the journey towards a very meaningful Advisory Opinion on Climate Change, from the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR). The Court sent a flurry of correspondence to various parties, all copied to the Applicant on record, the Pan African Lawyers Union (PALU), some of whose highlights are: -

- (1) **To 4 Member States**, informing them that it had **extended the time** for them to file their Submissions (Observations) by a further 45 days from their receipt of the letter i.e. till Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July (which means Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July, at the very earliest). These are: Burkina Faso; Mauritius; Nigeria; and Sierra Leone.
- (2) **To 7 Member States, acknowledging receipt** of their filed Submissions (Observations). These are Comoros; Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC); Ghana; Namibia; Senegal; Somalia; and the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR).
- (3) **To 2 AU Organs/ Institutions**, acknowledging receipt of their filed *Amicus* Briefs. These are: -
  - African Committee of Experts on the Rights & Welfare of the Child (ACERWC)
  - African Commission on Human & Peoples' Rights (AComHPR)
- (4) **To the following Institutions/ Officials acknowledging receipt** of their filed *Amicus* Briefs: -
  - Commission of Small Islands States on Climate Change & International Law (COSIS)
  - Organisation of African, Caribbean & Pacific States (OACPS)
  - United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons (UNSR on IDPs)
  - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Representative to the African Union and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
  - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Chair in Education Law in Africa
- (5) **To the following UN Institutions/ Officials, admitting them as *Amici Curiae*, and RETROSPECTIVELY DEEMED** their *Amicus* Briefs as having been duly filed: -
  - United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention
  - United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment



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(6) To the following UN Institutions/ Officials, **admitting them as *Amici Curiae***, and **granting them 45 days** to file their *Amicus* Briefs: -

- United Nations - Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN-OHCR)
- United Nations Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of Human Rights in the context of Climate Change
- United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development

(7) In respect of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs) and individuals (including scholars and researchers), the Court:

- Acknowledged receipt of 50 *amici* briefs;
- Admitted at least 19 more as *Amici Curiae*, and RETROSPECTIVELY DEEMED their *Amicus* Briefs as having been duly filed;
- Admitted at least 38 more as *Amici Curiae*, and granted them 45 days to file their *Amicus* Briefs

Once filed, the *amici* briefs will come to a total of 107 submissions filed under this Advisory Opinion.

These developments mark another important milestone in what is rapidly becoming one of the most consequential legal processes in the history of the African human rights system. The Request seeks authoritative guidance from the Court on the obligations of African States concerning climate change, environmental protection, human rights, intergenerational equity, and the rights of communities disproportionately affected by the climate crisis.

Taken together, these developments illustrate the extraordinary level of engagement from African States, African Union institutions, United Nations bodies, civil society organizations, academia, and international experts. The diversity of participants underscores the far-reaching implications that the Advisory Opinion is expected to have for climate governance, environmental protection, human rights, sustainable development, and climate justice across Africa and beyond.

PALU remains committed to ensuring that this process is inclusive, transparent, and responsive to the lived realities of African peoples and communities on the frontlines of the climate crisis. We continue to closely monitor the proceedings and engage with stakeholders across the continent, and internationally, to support meaningful participation in the process.

In light of the significant number of interested participants and the importance of the issues before the Court, PALU also continues to encourage consideration of a public hearing process that would allow for broader engagement, visibility, and public understanding of the critical questions under consideration by the Court.

As the proceedings advance, PALU will continue to provide updates and analysis on key developments. We also look forward to engaging many of the participating States, institutions, experts, practitioners, and civil society actors during PALU's forthcoming Annual



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Conference, taking place in **Cairo, Egypt (31 August to 2 September)** where climate justice, human rights, and strategic climate litigation are expected to feature prominently in discussions on the future of law and justice in Africa.

The African Court's eventual Advisory Opinion presents a historic opportunity to strengthen Africa's legal and normative framework for addressing one of the defining issues of our time.

ENDS

**NOTES TO EDITORS:**

The Pan African Lawyers Union (PALU) is the premier continental membership forum of and for individual African lawyers and lawyers' associations in Africa. It was founded in 2002 by African Bar leaders and eminent lawyers, to reflect the aspirations and concerns of the African people and to promote and defend their shared interests. Its membership comprises of the continent's over five regional lawyers' associations, over 54 national lawyers' associations and over 1,000 individual lawyers spread across Africa and in the Diaspora.

The African Climate Platform (ACP) brings together a broad coalition of more than 100 African civil society organizations, grassroots climate defenders, human rights lawyers, Indigenous communities, women's groups, and youth movements working to amplify African voices in climate policy and justice. The Network and its membership have a goal of advancing a shared, progressive, and justice-driven African voice in the global fight against climate change.

**ISSUED BY:**

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