



Institute for African Women in Law

The IAWL
**Gender
Scorecard**
2025

International Courts & Tribunals



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www.africanwil.org

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Executive statement

The Gender Scorecard provides statistics on the representation of women in international and regional courts worldwide. The IAWL Gender Scorecard on International Courts and Tribunals assesses the progress of African women judges in these courts.

Men have traditionally dominated the judicial field, resulting in women's underrepresentation in many courts globally. However, in numerous African courts, women judges are making significant strides in accessing leadership positions. An increasing number of African women serve on international benches, with the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights achieving parity much earlier than long-established courts. At the International Criminal Court (ICC), African women judges constitute the largest group of female judges from all world regions.

International Courts and the African Woman Judge: Unveiled Narratives (Dawuni & Kuenyehia, 2018) is a pioneering book examining the symbolic and substantive representation of African women in international courts and tribunals. Data on the number and diversity of African women in international courts and tribunals can be found on the Institute for African Women in Law's website.

The IAWL *Women in Law and Leadership Reports* (2023) outline various factors that contribute to the gender gap within judiciaries, such as the lack of support systems and mentorship, as well as negative stereotypes of women. These reports further recommend that for women to overcome these challenges, certain interventions must be considered and implemented, including:

- Advocacy by civil society groups for female nominees,
- Targeted skills development, leadership training, and mentorship,
- Enforce constitutional and legal instruments on equality.

The Gender Scorecard project is essential to IAWL's vision of promoting gender equality in law. Its findings offer insights into gender imbalances in international courts. The scorecard serves as a foundational document for initiatives aimed at advancing women judges in these courts and is an important tool for implementing gender-inclusive strategies in court compositions worldwide. The information for this project was gathered through desktop research, utilizing publicly available data from the courts' websites.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Data disclosure



The information referenced in this edition was gathered at the end of February 2025. As a result, some details may not reflect the most current numbers since the data were obtained. While we strive to ensure accuracy and reliability, we acknowledge that data and insights may evolve over time. We assume no responsibility for outdated websites or sources.

We encourage you to reach out if you have credible updates, corrections, or additional verified information. Your contributions help us maintain accuracy and improve the quality of our content.

For any updates or clarifications, please contact us at
info@africanwil.org



WHO

African women in International Courts.



WHAT

Statistics on the representation of African women in international courts and tribunals.



SOURCE

Publicly available data on the websites of the courts profiled.



GENDER

Visual gender representation of the binary male and female and not the self-identified gender identity of the individuals.

AT A GLANCE



7
International Courts



96
Judges



35
Female



61
Male



21
African Female Judges

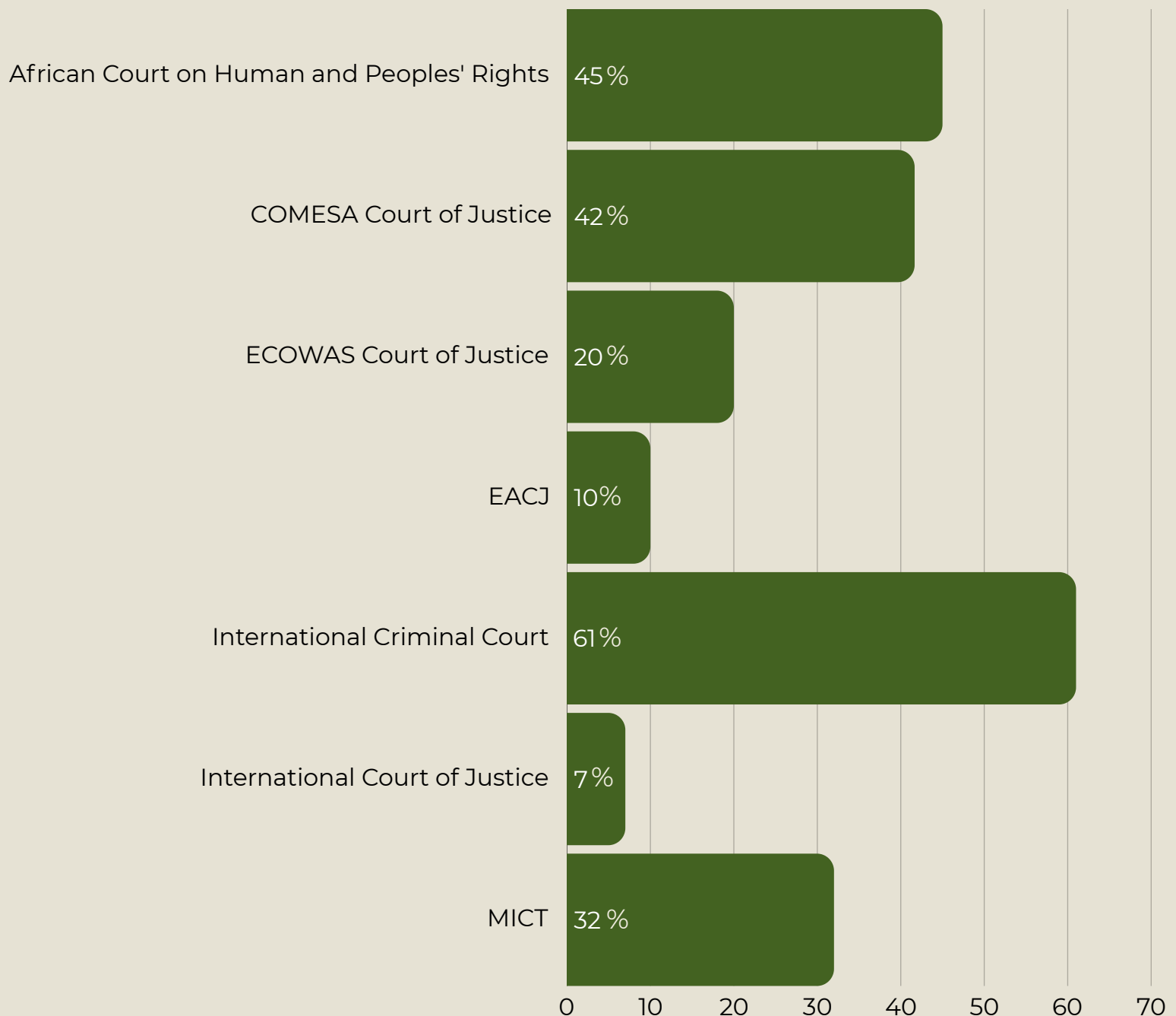


34
African Male Judges



DATA AT A GLANCE

Percentage of African women in international courts & tribunals



African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights



Established: 1998

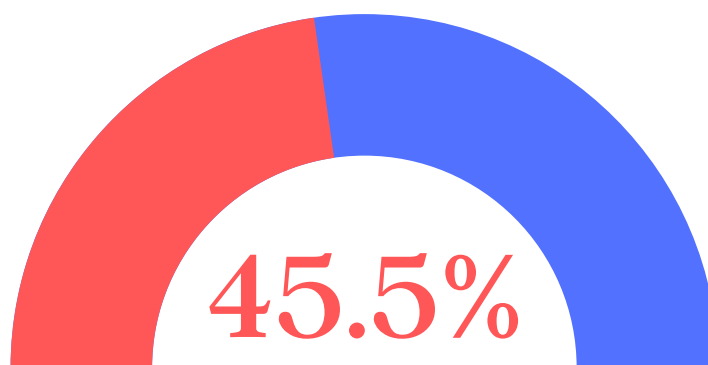
Number of judges: 11

Number of judges from inception: 33

Female judges:



Male judges:



Female 5/11

Male 6/11

African judges:



Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)



Established: 1994

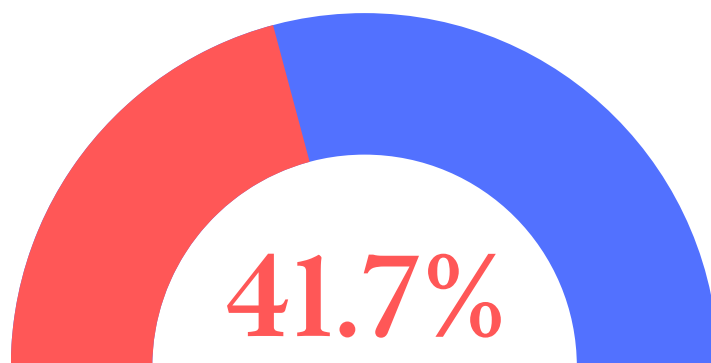
Number of judges: 12

Number of judges from inception: 24

Female judges:



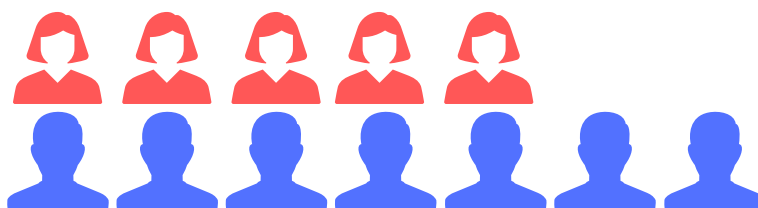
Male judges:



Female 5/12

Male 7/12

African judges:



Economic Community of West African States Court of Justice



Established: 1993

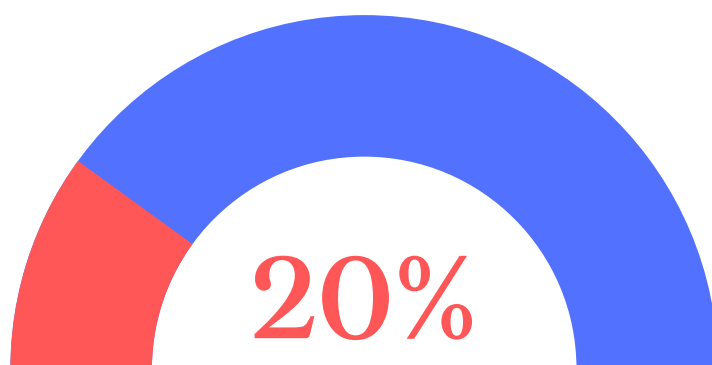
Number of judges: 5

Number of judges from inception: 27

Female judges:



Male judges:



Female 1/5

Male 4/5

African judges:



East African Court of Justice



Established: 2001

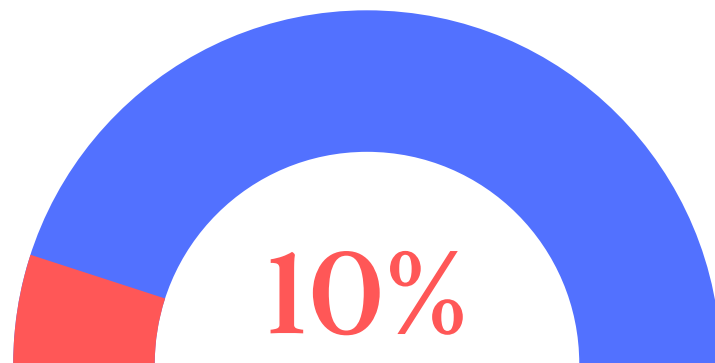
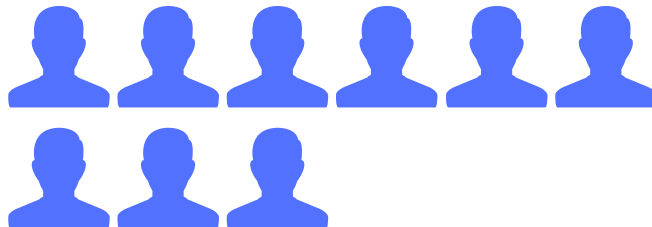
Number of judges: 10

Number of judges from inception: Not available

Female judges:



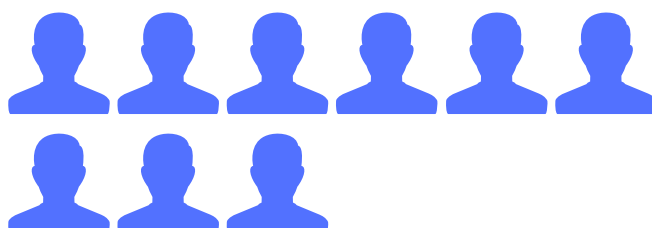
Male judges:



Female 1/10

Male 9/10

African judges:



International Criminal Court



Established: 2002

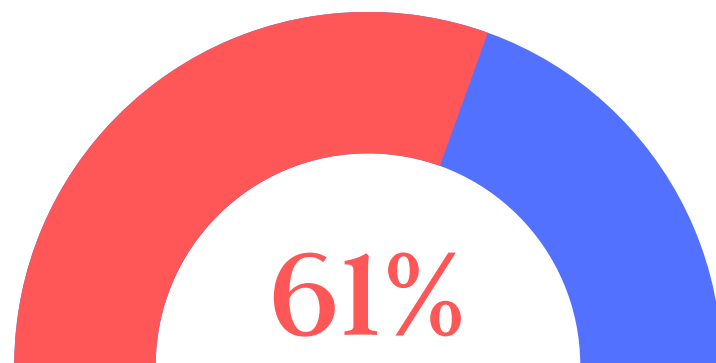
Number of judges: 18

Number of judges from inception: 59

Female judges:



Male judges:



Female 11/18

Male 7/18

African judges:



International Court of Justice



Established: 1945

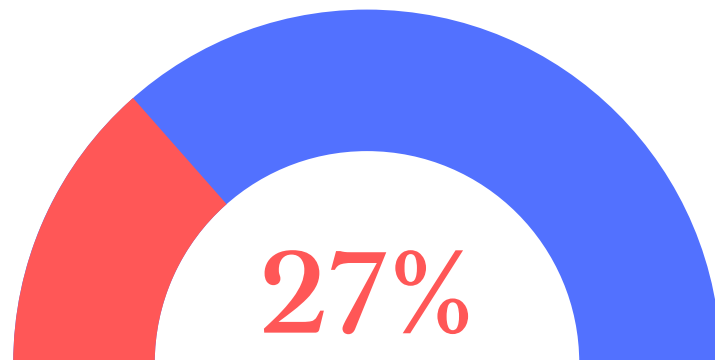
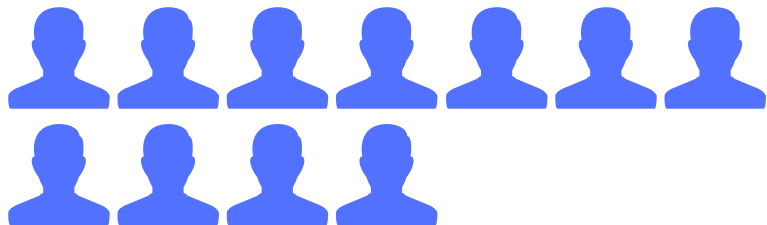
Number of judges: 15

Number of judges from inception: 115

Female judges:



Male judges:



Female 4/15

Male 11/15

African judges:



The Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals



Established: 2010

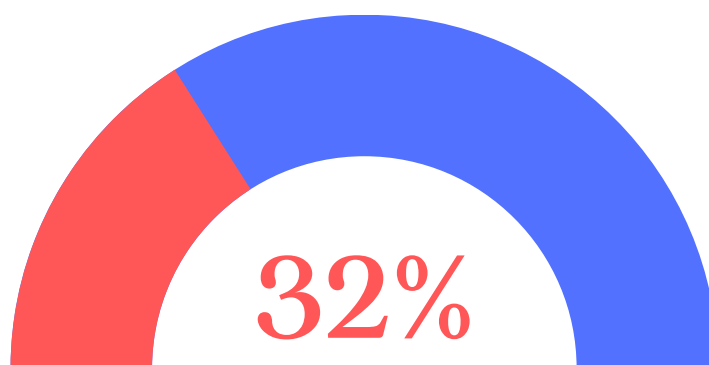
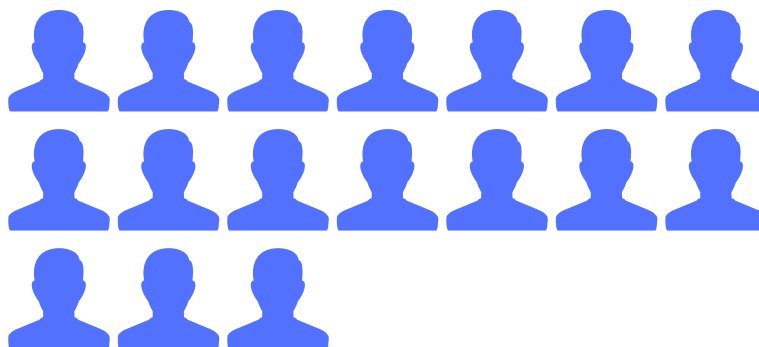
Number of judges: 25

Number of judges from inception: 36

Female judges:



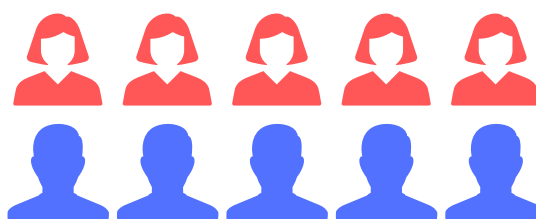
Male judges:



Female 8/25

Male 17/25

African judges:



AFRICAN WOMEN IN INTERNATIONAL COURTS

Current & Former Judges (WOMEN)



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Current Judges (Women)

International Court of Justice



Julia Sebutinde

Uganda

2012 - Present

Position: Vice President



Current Judges (Women)

International Criminal Court



Solomy Balungi Bossa

Uganda

2018 - Present



Reine Alapini-Gansou

Benin

2018 - Present

Position: Second Vice-President



Miatta Samba

Sierra Leone

2021 - Present

Former Judges (Women)

International Criminal Court

#	Name	Country of Origin	Years served	Position(s) held
1	Navanethem Pillay	South Africa	2003-2012	N/A
2	Fatoumata Dembele Diarra	Mali	2003-2014	N/A
3	Akua Kuenyehia	Ghana	2003-2015	First Vice President
4	Sanji Monageng	Botswana	2009-2018	First Vice President
5	Joyce Aluoch	Kenya	2009-2018	First Vice President



Current Judges (Women)

African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights



Imani Daud Aboud

Tanzania

2018 - Present

Position: President

Current Judges (Women)

African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights



Ntyam Ondo Mengue

Cameroon

2016 - Present



Bensaoula Chafika

Algeria

2017 - Present



Tujilane Rose Chizumila

Malawi

2017 - Present



Stella Isibhakhomen

Anukam

Nigeria

2018 - Present

Former Judges (Women)

African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights

#	Name	Country of Origin	Years served	Position(s) held
1	Kelello Justina Mafoso-Guni	Lesotho	2006-2010	N/A
2	Sophia A. B. Akuffo	Ghana	2006-2014	Vice President, President
3	Elsie Nwanwuri Thompson	Nigeria	2010-2016	N/A
4	Solomy Balungi Bossa	Uganda	2014-2020	N/A
5	Marie Thérèse Mukamulisa	Rwanda	2016-2022	N/A



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Current Judges (Women)

ECOWAS Court of Justice



Dupe Atoki

Nigeria

2018-2022

2022-Present

Former Judges (Women)

ECOWAS Court of Justice

#	Name	Country of Origin	Years served	Position(s) held
1	Awa Nana Daboya	Togo	2009-2014	President
2	Amina Mallé Sanogo	Mali	2001-2009	President
3	Hansine N. Donli	Nigeria	2001-2009 2009-2014	President
4	Maria Do Ceu Silva Monteiro	Guinea Bissau	2014-2018	President
5	Clotilde Médégan Nougbodé	Benin	2009-2014	N/A
6	Januária Tavares Silva Moreira Costa	Cape Verde	2018-2022	N/A



Current Judges (Women)

East African Court of Justice



Anita Mugeni

Rwanda

2021-Present

Position: Vice President

Former Judges (Women)

East African Court of Justice

#	Name	Country of Origin	Years served	Position(s) held
1	Solomy Balungi Bossa	Uganda	2001-2003	N/A
2	Stella Arach - Amoko	Uganda	2006-2014	N/A
3	Emily R. Kayitesi	Kenya	2008-2013	N/A
4	Monica Kalyegira Mugenyi	Uganda	2013-2020	N/A
5	Sauda Mjasiri	Tanzania	2019-2023	Vice President



Current Judges (Women)

Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa



Lombe P. Chibesakunda

Zambia

2015 - Present

Position: President



Mary Kasango

Sudan

2025-Present



Clotilde Mukamurera

Rwanda

2015-Present



Salohy Randrianarisoa

Madagascar

2021 - Present



Current Judges (Women)

Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa



Qinisile Mabuza

Eswatini

2016 - Present



Former Judges (Women)

Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)

#	Name	Country of Origin	Years served	Position(s) held
2	Hortense Rabenjarivelo neé Rakotomena	Madagascar	N/A	N/A



Current Judges (Women)

Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (MICT)



Judge Florence Rita Arrey
Cameroon
2024 - Present



**Judge Prisca Matimba
Nyambe**
Zambia
2024 - Present



**Judge Aminatta Lois
Runeni N'gum**
Gambia
2024 - Present



**Judge Fatimata Sanou
Touré**
Burkina Faso
2024 - Present



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Current Judges (Women)

Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (MICT)



Judge Lydia Mugambe

Uganda

2024 - Present

Former Judges (Women)

Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (MICT)

#	Name	Country of Origin	Years served	Position(s) held
1	Judge Solomy Balungi Bossa	Uganda	2012 - 2018	N/A
2	Judge Elizabeth Ibanda-Nahamya	Uganda	2018-2023	N/A



Disclaimer We recognize that gender is socially constructed and the meaning of the term “gender” varies between societies and changes over time. While acknowledging expansive gender identities, this project uses the binary division of male and female to classify the representation of men and women on the scorecards. For this project, we use the visual gender representation of the binary male and female and not the self-identified gender identity of the individuals.

The Gender Scorecard presents data collected at the end of February 2025. Therefore, some of the information presented may not reflect the updated numbers after the data were collected.



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