

**THIRD CONTINENTAL JUDICIAL DIALOGUE:  
“IMPROVING JUDICIAL EFFICIENCY IN AFRICA”**

**9 - 11 November, 2017**

**Arusha, Tanzania**

**Opening Ceremony**

**STATEMENT BY HONOURABLE DR. CLEMENT JULIUS  
MASHAMBA,  
MEMBER OF THE AFRICAN COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON RIGHTS  
AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD**

- Honourable Ferdinand Wambali, Principal Judge of the High Court of The United Republic of Tanzania,
- Honourable President, Vice President and Judges of the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights,
- Honourable Chief Justices and Presidents of Supreme and Constitutional Courts of the African Union Member States,
- Honourable representatives of continental and regional judicial and quasi-judicial institutions of the African human rights system,
- Distinguished Representatives of organs of the African Union,
- Excellency the Representative of the European Union Delegation to the African Union,
- Distinguished Representative of GIZ at the African Court,
  
- Dear Partners, Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

***All Protocol observed***

On behalf of the Chairperson of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, **Prof. Benyam Mezmur**, I would like, first and foremost, to thank the President of the African Court and the organisers for inviting the Committee to participate in the third Continental Judicial Dialogue. ***Asanteni sana!***

***Mr. President and Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,***

It is the Committee's belief that this Dialogue will be fruitful in the sense that it will contribute to ***improving judicial efficiency in Africa***. This belief is founded in the fact that the participation of the Honourable Chief Justices and Presidents of Supreme and Constitutional Courts of the African Union Member States represents the highest judicial authorities of the continent.

***Mr. President and Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,***

As was envisaged at the first dialogue, a stage has been set for fruitful interactions between national and international courts, with a view to maintaining constant dialogue with national Judges across the continent, to discuss ways and means to promote and protect human rights.

***Mr. President and Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,***

In fulfilling the general objective of this Judicial Dialogue, i.e. to explore ways of enhancing judicial efficiency in Africa, the Committee finds it pertinent to state that its recent engagement

of national actors in the implementation of its decisions, particularly through amicable settlement, has proved fruitful in two matters: once concerning the Kenyan Nubian children and the amendment of the Constitution of the Republic of Malawi.

***Mr. President and Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,***

To say the least, the Committee believes that in order for decisions of continental judicial and quasi-judicial bodies to be implemented at the national level, national judiciaries have to play a central role. This is principally because national judiciaries form the inner core of the protection of human rights at the domestic level.

***Mr. President and Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,***

It is on this note of hope that I conclude, while wishing us full success in our discussions as well as fruitful deliberations,  
***Asanteni Na Karibuni sana!***

*Honorable Dr. Clement Julius Mashamba*

*Member, African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child*