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**THE AFRICA GENDER EQUALITY MOOT COURT COMPETITION**  
**2021**  
**ANGLOPHONE COMPONENT**  
**COMPETITION RULES**

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## **1. DEFINITIONS**

- a) “Competition” means the current Inaugural Africa Gender Equality Moot Court Competition.

- b) “Competition Case” means the official hypothetical problem which has been drafted and published for use in the Competition.
- c) “Memorial” means the written arguments submitted on behalf of both the Applicants and Respondents.
- d) “Oral Pleading” means a team member's individual presentation in an Oral Round.
- e) “Oral Round” means a match consisting of pleadings of both Applicant and Respondent speakers, submitted orally in front of adjudicators virtually.
- f) “Administering Committee” means the administrators of the authoritative body of the competition.
- g) “Rules” means these official Competition Rules and any applicable supplements to these Rules published by the Administering Committee.
- h) “Team Number” means the number assigned to each registered team by the Administering Committee.

## **2. ADMINISTERING COMMITTEE**

- a) The Competition is organised by the Africa Office of Equality Now. There shall be an authoritative body, called the Inaugural Africa Moot Court Administering Committee (“the Administering Committee).
- b) The Administering Committee shall be responsible for all administrative matters concerning the Competition and shall provide all necessary information to participating teams.
- c) The official email for all correspondence with the Administering Committee is [genderequalitymoot@equalitynow.org](mailto:genderequalitymoot@equalitynow.org).
- d) The composition of the Administering Committee for the Competition Year will be communicated to all Moot Court participants. The Administering Committee will have the exclusive authority to interpret the Rules contained herein in the interests of fairness and competitiveness. The Administrative Committee may deviate from these Rules when necessary and with sufficient notice to participants in the interests of fairness and competitiveness. This discretion shall also apply to circumstances not covered by the rules.
- e) All decisions of the Administering Committee shall be final and binding.

### 3. COMPETITION FORMAT

- a) The Inaugural Africa Gender Equality Moot Court Competition shall be composed of two rounds:
  - i. The First Round (also known as the Memorials Round) whereby all applications to participate in the Competition shall be evaluated and scored according to the guidelines articulated in the “JUDGING MEMORIALS” section below.
  - ii. The Second Round (also known as the Mooting Round) whereby teams that have been selected during the First Round will be judged and scored according to the guidelines articulated in the “JUDGING AND SCORING ORAL PLEADINGS” section below.
- b) The Second Round shall take place virtually over the course of 2 days. Teams shall compete in an elimination round and the two teams to advance to the finals shall compete for the overall prize. In case of a tie, the average memorial score for each team and the score of the highest oralist in each team shall be considered, in that order, until at the point a clear winner is identified.

### 4. QUALIFYING FOR AND PARTICIPATING IN THE MOOT COURT

- a) The Competition is open to students enrolled in a university located in an eligible country, and are currently pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree in Law.
- b) Eligible countries in (a) above include Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.
- c) All teams shall consist of no more than two (2) members.
- d) **Registration**
  - The University shall be responsible for choosing participants to participate in the Competition. The University must provide the team with an authorization form containing details of the name and title of the university moot coach as well as a stamp or a seal of the institution. The participants will also fill out the registration form containing the participant’s names, their current academic programme(s), university, and other contact information for all team members.

- The Registration Form as well as the Authorization Form shall be provided by the Administration Committee to the University and must be submitted via **email to the Administration Committee by 23 April, 2021 00.00 EAT.**
- After registration, participating teams will be provided with a Team Number, which will serve as their unique identifier both for Memorials and at the Oral Rounds.

## 5. CLARIFICATION QUESTIONS

- a) The Competition Case is designed to be immediately understandable to Law students at all levels of study. Participating teams are encouraged to take time to understand and internalize the case before attempting to draft memorials.
- b) Participating teams may submit requests for clarification of the Competition Question via email to the Authorizing Committee. Requests for clarifications in the form of leading questions shall not be responded to.
- c) No requests for clarification regarding the Competition Case shall be admitted after **9 April 2021 00.00 EAT.**

## 6. DRAFTING AND SUBMITTING MEMORIALS

- a) All memorials shall be written in English.
  - b) The Memorial scores will contribute to deciding the outcome of the Competition.
  - c) Each participating team must prepare memorials for both the Applicant and Respondent side.
  - d) No other person may assist the team with researching, writing, editing or otherwise constructing arguments to be presented during the competition. Failure to observe this rule may result in penalisation or disqualification by the Administering Committee.
  - e) All memorials must adhere to the format provided below.
- I. Unless otherwise indicated, Memorials must be sent via official email to the Administering Committee [genderequalitymoot@equalitynow.org](mailto:genderequalitymoot@equalitynow.org) by **22 April 2021 00.00 EAT** in PDF formats. It is the responsibility of the teams to ensure that there are

no technical problems with the attached files. Delays of any kind will not be condoned and may lead to disqualification.

- II. Each Memorial should be contained in a single file with the allocated team number followed by the first letter of the party whose arguments are presented in that Memorial, an R for Respondent and A for Applicant. For example: Team number 114, Respondent Memorial file shall be named “114R”.
- III. Any Memorial which is not contained in a single file shall be penalised.
- IV. No changes of any kind may be made after submission of Memorials to the Administering Committee.
- V. Late submissions of electronic materials shall incur a penalty of one mark per memorial deducted for every hour after the later submission of the documents. Documents received 12 hours after the lapse of the deadline shall not be considered for the competition.

## **7. FORMAT OF THE MEMORIALS**

- a) Each memorial should be electronically submitted in PDF format. Electronic documents submitted must contain no information or features other than those required by this rule (e.g. no comments, track changes, etc.). Breach of this provision will be penalized with a deduction of penalty points from the Memorial pursuant.
- b) Each Memorial shall contain the following sections in the following order:
  - i. Front Page
  - ii. Table of Contents
  - iii. List of Abbreviations
  - iv. List of Sources/Authorities
  - v. Questions Presented
  - vi. Summary of Arguments
  - vii. Arguments
  - viii. Prayer/ Relief Sought
- c) The text of all parts of the Memorial must be in Times New Roman, font size 12 and 1.5 spacing.
- d) Headings and sub-headings throughout the Memorials may be in a different font size, underlined and/ or highlighted.

- e) Footnotes must be single-spaced, Times New Roman, font size 10 with a 12 pt space between separate footnotes.
- f) Participating teams must not include the names of their team members, their university name or country on any portion of their Memorials. Participating teams must only include their team numbers in accordance with the competition rules.
- g) Participating teams will be penalised for failure to adhere to the formatting requirements.
- h) The Front Page of the Memorial must have only the following information, which should be in the following order (this information should be centred, except where stated otherwise):
- In the top right-hand corner of the page, the team number allocated by the Administering Committee followed by “A” if an Applicant Memorial or “R” if a Respondent Memorial (e.g. Team Number 113 would put “113A” in the top right-hand corner of the Applicant Memorial cover page).
  - The name and the year of the Competition (i.e., “The 2021 Inaugural Africa Gender Equality Moot Court Competition)
  - The name of the Case
  - The title of the document (i.e., “Memorial for Respondent” or “Memorial for Applicant”)
  - The number of words in the Arguments section. The number of words must be stated in the bottom right on the front page.
- i) For the purpose of the Competition, “questions presented” shall mean the legal questions the Court is being called upon to decide in the context of the case. Participating teams must present these questions in a precise and neutral manner and should not state their position on the questions raised in this section. Each question should ideally not be more than a sentence.
- j) Arguments must constitute substantive, affirmative legal argument, or legal interpretation of the facts of the Case. The Arguments section shall not exceed 4000 words. This page-count requirement includes headings, subheadings and footnotes.
- k) Participating teams must use the Oxford Standard for Citation of Legal Authorities (OSCOLA, 4th edition) to cite sources or authorities. The inclusion of any information in the footnotes that is not related to the identification of an authority or source (such

arguments) is not allowed. Footnotes may not include additional legal arguments. Endnotes are not permitted.

## 8. JUDGING MEMORIALS

- a) Each Memorial shall be assessed individually and independently by the judges. Where necessary, a fewer number of judges may assess the memorials. In such instances, the Administering Committee will vary the rules to ensure fairness and competitiveness.
- b) Every memorial will be marked on a maximum of one hundred (100) points by each judge. Negative points will be awarded in the manner prescribed under the rules contained herein. A team's total Memorial score shall be the average of points awarded for the Applicant Memorial and points awarded for the Respondent Memorial.
- c) Scoring shall be based on the following criteria:
  - Correct legal analysis and its application to facts;
  - Quality and extent of research: relevant treaties, customs, case law, regional judgments, academic writings;
  - Recognition of problems: complete and correct recognition and weighting of problems;
  - Correct primary and alternative submissions;
  - Clarity and logic of argument;
  - Creativity;
  - Evidence of original thought; and
  - Overall Presentation: Language, structure, format, citations.
- d) Non-compliance with rules concerning formatting and submission of Memorials will result in a deduction from the allocated points. Irrespective of the actual penalties incurred, no more than 15 points can be deducted for each Memorial for non-compliance with procedural requirements. This rule does not apply to penalties for late submission as outlined herein.
- e) Teams that have qualified the first round and are proceeding to the Oral Pleadings will be notified on **3 May, 2021**.

## 9. ORAL PLEADINGS

- a) Oral pleadings must, without exception, be conducted in English.
- b) Oral Pleadings shall be conducted virtually. The Authorizing Committee shall provide the participating teams with further details pertaining to the manner in which the virtual proceedings shall be conducted as well as the platform to be used.
- c) The Participants in each team may make the submissions from different locations given that the oral pleadings will be conducted virtually.
- d) Oral Pleadings count for 50% of the total score per team.
- e) All participating teams are expected to prepare Oral Pleadings on behalf of **both** the Applicant and the Respondent.
- f) Each team shall have thirty (30) minutes to present their arguments, including time for answering questions from the adjudicators and rebuttals or sur-rebuttals.
- g) The order of the pleadings in each Oral Round at all levels of the Competition will be: Applicant 1, Applicant 2, Respondent 1, and Respondent 2 followed by the Applicant's (any one oralist) rebuttal and then the Respondent's (any one oralist) sur-rebuttal.
- h) The first team member presenting must inform the bailiff of the manner in which the team wishes to divide its thirty (30) minutes between its (i) first Oralist, (ii) second Oralist, and (iii) the rebuttal (for Applicant) or Surrebuttal (for Respondent). The time allocation informed to the bailiff may under no circumstances be rearranged.
- i) Each team's Oral Pleadings cannot exceed thirty (30) minutes, including the rebuttal or surrebuttal.
- j) No more than 20 minutes may be allocated to one speaker in each team.
- k) The Respondent team may use the time set aside for surrebuttal only if the Applicant team exercises its right to rebuttal.
- l) If a team fails to reserve time for a rebuttal or surrebuttal at the start of an Oral round it may not then request that such time be added during the course of the round.
- m) Judges may, at their discretion, extend the time for an Oral Pleadings. Judges may also, at their discretion, determine how such extended time impacts the total time allocation. Judges cannot change the order of presentation of an Oral Round.
- n) During an Oral Round, oral communication is limited to the judges and the Oralist presenting a team's arguments. Communication between team members during the particular team's presentation is prohibited. Communication between team members when not presenting must take place in writing through the virtual chat and in a manner

that avoids interrupting or destructing the opposing team's presentation.. Participants may be penalised for behaviour that interrupts or destructs the competition's proceedings.

- o) All Rounds should be open to the public who may attend the oral pleadings virtually as an audience. The Administering Committee has the legal rights to all recordings and dissemination of such recordings whether audio, video, or other forms of recording which take place during the Competition.

## **10. JUDGING AND SCORING ORAL PLEADINGS**

- a) In each oral round, the Administering Committee shall employ up to three (3) judges whenever possible. Under special circumstances, the Administering Committee may authorize a panel of fewer judges. Each oral pleading will be marked on a maximum of one hundred (100) points by each of the judges.
- b) Each oralist can be awarded a maximum of one hundred (100) points per oral pleading based on, but not limited to, the following criteria:
  - Correct legal analysis and its application to facts;
  - Relevant treaties, relevant customs, case law, regional judgments, legal scholars, other sources made use of;
  - Recognition of problems: complete and correct recognition and weighting of problems;
  - Clarity and logic of argument;
  - Correct primary and alternative submissions;
  - Evidence of original thought;
  - Overall presentation;
  - Ability to communicate with judges: persuasiveness and fluency;
  - Rebuttal or surrebuttal: ability to respond to opposing side's arguments.
- c) The Administering Committee reserves the right to allow Oral Round judges of the Advanced Rounds to determine the winner of the match by consultation rather than using the above procedure.

## 11. COMPETITION PENALTIES

VIOLATION	PENALTY
Late submission of memorials	1 point per hour of violation (up to 5 points)
Deviation from the structure of the memorial outlined in the “FORMAT OF THE MEMORIALS” Section above	1 point per violation
Incorrect ordering of sections of the memorial as outlined in the “FORMAT OF THE MEMORIALS” Section above	1 point per violation (one-time deduction)
Incorrect font size	1 point (one-time deduction)
Incorrect spacing	1 point (one-time deduction)
Breach of memorial anonymity	5 points (one-time deduction)
Missing or unnecessary information on the front page	1 point (one-time deduction)
Substantive legal argument outside the arguments section	2 points (one-time deduction)
Exceeding the word limit of the arguments section	2-point deduction for every 100 words over the word limit
Text in footnotes	1 point per violation (up to 5 points)
Use of endnotes	2 points (one-time deduction)
Re-submission of memorial not contained in single file	2 points (one-time deduction)

## 12. TRANSPARENCY PROVISIONS

- a) All teams have the right to inspect Oral Pleadings score sheets before the advancing teams are announced.
- b) Irrespective of the stage of the competition, no team will be given access to score sheets concerning matches in which the said team was not involved.

### **13. COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE**

- a) In the event of a complaint about the proceedings during the competition, contact the members of the Administering Committee as soon as possible by sending an email.
- b) The decision taken by the Administering Committee to resolve the complaint will be final and binding upon all participants, judges, and coaches in the competition.

### **14. COMPETITION SCORING AND PRIZE**

- a) Awards shall be given to the following:
  - The Overall Best Team to win the Final Match of the Moot Court Competition.
  - The Overall First Runner-Up Team to emerge second in the Final Match of the Moot Court
  - Overall Best Speaker based on the average Oral Pleading scores of all speakers participating in the second round of the competition.
  - Overall First Runner-Up Speaker based on the average Oral Pleading scores for all speakers participating in the second round of the competition.
  - Overall Best Memorial based on the average score of all participating teams' memorials (both applicant and respondent) throughout the competition.
  - Overall First Runner-Up Memorial based on the average score of all participating teams' memorials (both applicant and respondent) throughout the competition.

For any clarifications, please contact the Administration Committee at:

[genderequalitymoot@equalitynow.org](mailto:genderequalitymoot@equalitynow.org).

### **SAMPLE MEMORIAL COVER PAGE**

113A

**THE CASE OF AMAPIA'S FAILURE TO UPHOLD STATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR  
THE WOMEN AND GIRLS OF UBE**

**MEMORIAL FOR THE APPLICANT**

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WORD COUNT: 1987 WORDS