



**AFRICAN REGIONAL GROUP
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JUDGES**

**SUMMARY REPORT
OF THE MEETING
8 - 10 MAY 2022**

The meeting was chaired by Ms Marcelle Kouassi, President of the African Group, with the participation of the Secretary General of the IAJ, Mr. Giacomo Oberto, the Deputy Secretary General of the IAJ, Mr. Raffaele Gargiulo, and the following countries, representing their respective national associations, which are members of the International Association of Judges and the African Regional Group:

Algeria (Mr. Yassad Mabrouk; Mr. Boufenaya Adel)
Angola (Mr. Iuri MVD da Cunha)
Benin (M. Hounsou M. Jacques)
Gabon (Mr. NGUEMA Ella Germain; Mr. JUSTE Ambourouhet OGANDAGA)
Guinée Conakri (Mr. Mohamed Diawara; Ms. Aikatou Sakho)
Guinea Bissau (Mr. Bacar Sané; Ms. Rosario Cabral Antonieta)
Ivory Coast (Mr. Ndri Mathurin; Mr. Kone Wawota Justin)
Liberia (Mr. Blamo Adio Dixon; Ms. Ceaineh D. Clinton-Jhonson)
Mali (Mr. Boeuriama Konaté; Mr. Ibrahim Djibrilla)
Maroc (Mr. Mohamed Redouane; Mr. Bounailat Youssef)
Niger (Mr. Moussa Mahamadou)
Republique Democratique du Congo (Mr. Piepie Mukuna; Ms. Akatsi Okassa Noella; Ms. Luvangu Nkense Therese)
Sénégal (Mr. Ousmane Chimare Diouf; Mr. Founé Camara Touré)
South Africa (Mr. Daniel Thulare)
Togo (Mr. Affo Lamine Baba Yara; Mr Thiakoura Saneka)
Tunisie (Mr. Anas Hemdi, Ms. Aicha BenBelhassem; Mr Hilali Adel; Mr. Amir Kambaa; Mr. Hwida Litigi; Mr. Hamdi Abbes)
Rwanda (observer) (Mr. Kadingwa Pashongare)

1. Opening and Welcome.

Mr. Oberto welcomed all colleagues to the first face-to-face meeting after the pandemic. He showed the printed copy of the brochure concerning the promotion of the creation of judges' associations. He explained that it was only written in English because French speaking countries already have judges associations. He distributed a copy to the associations present, inviting them to contact judges in neighbouring countries that do not have an association.

Ms. Kouassi thanked the colleagues for their presence, the members of the

General Secretariat of the IAJ and the Tunisian colleagues for the perfect organisation of the meeting.

2. Approval of summary report of the Group's meeting held in May 2021

Ms. Kouassi went on to examine the points on the agenda of the meeting. He asked whether delegates in attendance had remarks on this subject. No delegation presented an observation. He then asked if there were remarks on the minutes of the meeting of the Group on line in May 2021, distributed beforehand by the Secretariat. No remark was sent to the Presidency, or the Secretariat.

The minutes of the last meeting of the African Group in May 2021 were approved unanimously.

3. President's Report.

The President of the Group thanked her colleagues for the confidence they had placed in her as President of the Group and Vice President of the IAJ. She also thanked the former Presidents of the African Group for their work in leading the Group. She thanked Mr Djamel Aidouni, Mr Cagney Musi and Ms Fatoumata Diakité. She welcomed the presence of colleagues from Benin, who had resumed following the meetings, and the colleague from Rwanda, who was present as an observer.

Concerning her activities, she pointed out that she had given the opening speech, by video conference, at the 4th Seminar on the organisation and function of the judiciary in Angola, with the theme "the consolidation and deconsolidation of the rule of law".

At the invitation of the President of the Court of Cassation of Morocco, she went to Rabat to attend the elections of the ten (10) representatives of the Judges within the Superior Council of the Judiciary.

She made a recommendation to support, in her capacity as Vice President of the IAJ, the candidacy of Ms. Mandisa Maya for the post of Chief Justice of South Africa.

On 11 February 2022, she collaborated with the General Secretariat of the IAJ in the declaration made by the IAJ to denounce the dissolution of the Superior Council of the Judiciary in Tunisia and to express her solidarity with her Tunisian colleagues in their struggle for an independent judiciary that guarantees rights and freedoms.

She has carried out actions to renew contact with certain Associations of judges, which have drifted away from the Group, with a view to bringing them back, as the Group does not want to lose any member. At the same time, she contacted some African countries, through the high officials of the judiciary, in order to bring other associations to join the IAJ.

As for the monitoring process, she sent messages to the Associations of Angola, Benin and Egypt, which have not yet responded, but they have not been followed up.

She asked the associations present to respond as soon as possible.

4. African Group member association's reports.

ALGERIA.

Mr. Maabrouk, President of the Association of Judges of Algeria, reminded that this association was the only structure in the country. He was elected towards the end of 2019. He thanked Mr. Aidouni for the work done within the African Group. He stressed that the Association was professional and not political, and held its meetings freely. Judges were the spokespersons for the law.

The work of the association was hard and difficult. The judges worked in difficult conditions, under political pressure. The Association fought for the improvement of living and working conditions and for the independence of the Judiciary.

BENIN.

Mr. Hounsou stressed that the state of the judiciary in Benin had to be assessed at two levels. The independence of the judiciary was clearly affirmed by the Constitution, but in practice, there was as always, the influence of the Executive, sometimes without limit. At the institutional level, he emphasised that in Benin there had been the creation of the Court of Auditors. The installation of this jurisdiction was underway.

As for the situation of justice, he explained that the right to strike had been practically « abolished » for judges. The Association had only ten days of strike per year. In this way there was no possibility of exerting pressure on the executive in case of claims before the authority. The salaries of the judges were not the same between jurisdictions, although they had the same impartial status. He hoped that the IAJ would be able to help his association with its demands.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO.

The Vice-President of the Association of the Democratic Republic of Congo informed the meeting that there had been a small improvement in the country with the new regime. The Prime Minister received the delegation of the Association, which requested that the Minister of Justice worked with the Association of Judges in partnership. The Prime Minister appointed as Minister of Justice a woman judge, who was a member of the Association. This allowed the association to collaborate with the Executive. The judiciary was an independent power, but there was the problem of hierarchy. In terms of salary, there was a big difference between the top hierarchy, the Council of State and the Court of Cassation, and the other judges.

She also reminded that a colleague from Congo, a member of the association, had been appointed to the Common Court of Justice and Arbitration. In terms of security, judges were poorly protected. The Association was trying to improve the working conditions of judges.

GABON

The President of the Association of Gabon stated that his country is a special case. The Constitution states that the powers are independent, but he observed that the

President of the Republic was the President of the High Council for the Judiciary (HCJ) and the Minister of Justice is the Vice-President of the HCJ. The situation is difficult. All decisions taken in general are "political" decisions, because at the head of institutions there were politicians. The judges who intervened in decisions were often co-opted by politics.

Working conditions were complicated. The salary situation of the judges in Gabon was serious, more than in other African countries, and could create problems of corruption. A Judge at the Court of Cassation earned a salary that a judge in a neighbouring country earned at the beginning of his career. This did not allow for true independence. He denounced this situation, because the necessary steps must be taken to modify the statute of the judges and to use other tools to improve the situation.

GUINEA CONAKRY.

Mr Diawara, President of the Association of judges, of Guinea, stated that in his country there are the same problems already raised by African colleagues. A distinction can be made between: 1) the legal framework, 2) the institutional framework, 3) the issue of the independence of the judiciary. According to the legal framework, the Constitution provides for institutes capable of guaranteeing the independence of the judiciary, even during the current transitional regime. An organic law established a special status for judges and a law provided for the establishment of the High Council for the Judiciary (HCJ). From an institutional point of view, the HCJ guaranteed the career of judges. Beyond that, the Association of the judges played an important role in the management of matters concerning judges since the Constitution had given the Association of the judges, as a trade union, the task of defending the moral and material interests of judges. The problem concerned the relationship between the Judiciary and the Executive. The Minister of Justice, through the Prosecutor General, can give orders to the prosecutors and intervene in the judicial environment. The independence of the Prosecution Service is relative. The HCJ, in the exercise of its functions, generally passed all the draft appointments of judges, which were prepared by the Executive. If the HCJ did not play its role, the Association would have to intervene, in accordance with its role, to ensure that things were in conformity with the law. The Association has issued some statements to warn the Executive that the appointment and election of the members of the CSM should be in accordance with the law and to avoid influences on the Public Prosecutor's Office and the Judiciary, with good results. The independence of the judiciary depended on each judge. The judge had not to be manipulated by the Executive. It was important to have courage and adequate training to ensure the independence of the judiciary.

IVORY COAST

Mr. Ndri Mathurin, Secretary General of UNAMACI, reiterated his thanks to the Tunisian colleagues for the perfect organisation of the meeting.

He underlined that the Association had designated Mrs. Kouassi to lead the African Group and with the support of the other associations she would be able to accomplish her work.

As for the situation of the judiciary in Ivory Coast, the Association was very active. His country had three autonomous judicial institutions: the Court of Cassation, the Council of State and the Court of Auditors. There had been criminal and civil reforms since 2019. The High Council for the Judiciary was chaired by the President of the Court of Cassation. Concerning the salary, nn retirement, the judges retained the economic benefits acquired during the exercise of the function. In general, the rule of law was being consolidated through legislative reforms.

LIBERIA.

Ms. Clinton-Johnson thanked the African Group for the opportunity provided to Liberia. The challenges are the same faced by other African colleagues.

She informed that after the intervention of the Association and of the African Group, the Supreme Court decided that judges will get 40% of their salary in case of retirement.

There were still disparities in the conditions of workplaces in some areas, especially in the interior, where there are new courthouses.

The structure of compensation of judges was not fair, because some judges earned a higher salary than others.

The judges could only engage the government through the Chief Justice, otherwise, as a desperate mean, they could sue the government in case it wanted to reduce their salaries.

There was also the risk of attack by representatives of political parties, which made the judges vulnerable

MALI-

Mr. Konaté, President of the Association of Mali and member of the High Council for the Judiciary Mali, thanked his Tunisian colleagues for their warm welcome. He addressed his sincere congratulations to the President of the IAJ and to the President of the African Group, Ms. Kouassi.

The state of justice in Mali was characterised by major changes. The Government has undertaken reform projects at the request of the Association of the judges of Mali. All of its demands were aimed at achieving true independence for the Malian judiciary, in terms of the living and working conditions of judges. All these demands have been met. The Association would like to share its experience with other colleagues in the African Group. In 2016 and 2018, the Association obtained the upgrading of the judicial allowances at 300% and other allowances in the salary grid, The association also obtained the Government's commitment to implement passive and active security measures, to examine the issue of providing judges with an individual weapon, to adopt a new Statute (which was before Parliament), and to provide Malian judges with service and diplomatic passports. The Association of Mali successfully

organised the statutory congress in January 2022. Mr. Konaté was elected President of the Association, replacing Mr. Kassogué (who had become Minister of Justice and Human Rights), and had been leading a Steering Committee for four years.

The Judges of Mali were experiencing the effects of the war imposed on the northern and central part of the country. The courts in these places are temporarily closed and staff had been sent to the country's major cities. The President of one court was kidnapped by the jihadists and then died.

He expressed his gratitude to all colleagues of the African Group who had sent e-mails and messages showing their solidarity. He stressed that this was proof that beyond borders, the Group was a team of brothers and sisters.

He informed the assembly that everything was going much better in Mali than the media had made it out to be. The situation was largely under control.

He submitted Mali's application to host the 2023 meeting of the African Group in Bamako for approval by the Group.

MOROCCO.

Mr. Bounailat, Vice-President of the Court of First Instance of Casablanca and member of the Association, expressed his gratitude, on behalf of the Moroccan delegation, for the warm welcome. He thanked the President of the IAJ, Ms. Kouassi, and the Tunisian colleagues for the organisation of the meeting.

Regarding the current situation of the Judiciary in Morocco, he stressed that since 2008, Morocco has started to reform the judiciary, introducing institutional, legal and practical measures to consolidate the forms of independence and strengthen people's confidence in the judicial system. The 2011 Constitution expressly affirmed the independence of the Judiciary from the other powers, legislative and executive, and established the High Council for the Judiciary (HCJ), placed under the Presidency of the King of Morocco and endowed with full independence. The fundamental law enshrined the rights of litigants and the rules for the proper functioning of justice, as well as guaranteeing access to justice, protecting the presumption of innocence and confirming the right to a fair trial and to a judgment within a reasonable time. In order to implement these constitutional principles, a national justice reform charter was drawn up by judges, lawyers, experts, human rights defenders and justice professionals. A collegial work with a participatory approach allowed the adoption of texts of eminently important laws, the two organic laws concerning the HCJ and the Statute of judges, the law that put the Public Prosecutor no longer under the authority of the Ministry of Justice, but of the King's Attorney General of the Court of Cassation.

NIGER

The Deputy Secretary General of the Union of Judges of Niger thanked the Tunisian Association for the quality of the organisation of the meeting.

The Constitution of Niger of 2010, like most of the Constitutions of the former French colonies, enshrined the principle of the division of powers, so that the Judiciary was independent of the legislative and executive powers. The Constitution enshrined

the independence of judges. In practice, the independence of the judiciary had a number of limits. Firstly, with regard to the principle of the irremovability of judges, enshrined in the Constitution, the statute of judges provided that judges could not be assigned in the exercise of their functions "except for reasons of service". The "reason of service" was the loophole used by the executive to reduce the scope of the principle.

Prosecutors did not benefit from the rule of security of tenure. There was a hierarchical subordination to the executive power.

The law that provided for the statute of the judiciary was an ordinary law and not an organic law, and it did not go through the filter of the Constitutional Court before its promulgation like the organic law.

As regards the limits to the principle of independence, a career plan was missing. This was one of the demands of the Association. There were no objective conditions for appointment. The High Council for the Judiciary, provided for by ordinary and not organic law, approved appointment projects prepared by the Minister of Justice. The Association has called for a reform of the HCJ. A committee was set up to prepare a draft revision of the HCJ. The Committee had finished its work and the text would be going to be delivered.

There had been an improvement in the living conditions and treatment of the judges. The Association fought to obtain some allowances for the judges. The risk allowance was only given to certain jurisdictions. The Congress of the Association called for it to be extended to all the judges, because the risk was the same for all the judges.

SENEGAL.

Ousmand Diouf, President of the Senegalese Association, thanked the colleagues of Tunisia for its perfect organisation. Independence was regulated in the same way in all French-speaking countries, but the fundamental problem, in terms of independence, concerned the relations with the Executive. Justice was disadvantaged in the distribution of the national budget.

He stressed that the working conditions were not very good. Justice was essential and had to have its privileged place.

Regarding the composition of the High Council for the Judiciary, he observed that one could debate whether the Head of State should be President of the High Council for the Judiciary or not, but on the other hand, one had to consider that the other members of this Council were judges and that they had responsibilities in the explanation of their tasks. Each system had its own tradition and the problem had to be considered from a global point of view.

SOUTH AFRICA

Mr. Thulare illustrated the judicial system in his country, referring to his presentation which would be published on the IAJ website.

The Constitution provided for the Constitutional Court, the Supreme Court of Appeal, the High Court of South Africa, which constituted the upper judiciary, and the

Magistrates which constituted the lower judiciary. He explained that the Constitution provided for a single judiciary. His association was trying to modify the current configuration of the Judiciary in order to bring the lower judiciary, historically considered part of the civile service, into a single judiciary. He reminded that “Magistrates” are legally qualified, because they have a degree in law and more than ten years’ experience of practicing law at the time of their appointment. The Constitution regulated only the appointment of the Superior Court Judges, while an act of Parliament regulated the appointment of magistrates. There was a need for a constitutional amendment in this regard. The Judicial Service Commission dealt with the Superior Court Judges, while for the lower judiciary there was the Magistrates Commission.

Mr. Thulare explained that the problem was common to the Commonwealth countries. The South African association has raised the issue and Mr. Thulare hoped that all other countries in the Continent would be united to solve the problem.

TOGO.

The President of the Togo Association thanked the Tunisian Association for the perfect organisation of the meeting. He explained that concerning his association there were no problems. In Togo there were four Associations of judges. The association chaired by him was the most representative in the country. As for the salary, there was a further improvement in 2018, but the problem concerned the situation of the pension of the judges. When a Togolese judge retired, he lost half his salary. There were discussions, through the President of the Supreme Court with the Executive, so that the judges could keep their full economic salary.

Regarding the independence of the judiciary, he stressed that the President of the Supreme Court was the President of the High Council for the Judiciary. In 2019, there was a constitutional reform, which referred the composition and organisation of the HCJ to an organic law. The Association hoped that the organic law would confirm the President of the Court as the President of the HCJ.

The Government renewed the recruitment of judges because they were few in relation to the population.

There are discussions with the Government to solve the problems of the judiciary.

TUNISIA.

Mr. Hmedi thanked all the colleagues for their presence. He welcomed the election of Mr José Igreja Matos as President of the IAJ and Ms. Kouassi as President of the African Group. He also thanked the Secretary of the IAJ, Mr Oberto, for having managed the IAJ and the African Group well in a very difficult period characterised by the spread of Covid 19.

Regarding the situation of the judiciary in Tunisia, he stressed that the Constitution, since the revolution of 2011, had introduced, under the title "Judicial Power", an impartial and honest judicial system at the service of the citizen. The

Constitution also provided for the establishment of the High Council for the Judiciary (HCJ), a democratically elected body independent of the Executive Power, which presided over the career of judges. After a new law concerning the Court of Accounts, in Tunisia there was a judicial, administrative and economic magistracy. The Association had continued its efforts to enrich ordinary and administrative justice.

The Association had tried to improve the salary and the living and working conditions of the judges, also through the digitalisation of Justice.

After February 2022, the Government adopted exceptional measures on the basis of an economic and political crisis, according to the prerogatives foreseen by art. 80 of the Constitution. This provision referred to a danger, but certainly the judge did not constitute a danger for the Executive, or a political opponent. The Association had continued its defence of the rule of law and the sovereignty of the judiciary, against every interference of the President of the Republic in the affairs of judges.

In February 2022, the President of the Republic adopted a decree that dissolved the High Council for the Judiciary. In a unilateral decision, he introduced a Provisional Council, whose members were appointed by the President himself. He could intervene in decisions of this body that he did not agree with. The Association started a protest movement, with sit-ins and press conferences. A shift towards an autocratic state was underway. The conference organised by the Tunisian Association in coincidence with the African Group testified the vivacity of Tunisian society. The Association communicated its situation to the President of the Group and to the Secretariat of the IAJ. The Tunisian Association had referred the matter to the Representative to the United Nations and to all Tunisian associations.

Session of 9 may 2022

The meeting was chaired by Ms. Marcelle Kouassi, with the participation of the Secretary General of the IAJ, Mr Giacomo Oberto, the Deputy Secretary General of the IAJ, Mr Raffaele Gargiulo, as well as the delegates already indicated.

ANGOLA

Mr. Iuri, Vice-President of the Association of Angola, thanked the Tunisian Association for the perfect organisation of the meeting.

He informed the assembly that since Covid-19, which led Angola to a state of emergency for several months, and during the last two years, the country had also undergone a constitutional revision approved by the National Assembly. Both situations had certainly undermined the independence of the judiciary.

After the adoption of the decree establishing the state of emergency, members of the executive as well as members of the National Assembly were allowed to travel in the exercise of their functions, but not members of the judiciary.

After much discussion in different circles, such as radio, television and academic circles, it was agreed that the judge should be allowed to travel in the exercise of his duties despite the state of emergency.

After the decision of a judge concerning an "injunction" in a case of death which was questioned whether it was caused by Covid 19 or not, there was an intervention of the High Council for the Judiciary (HCJ), which had not been foreseen by the law. The Government started to propose constitutional reforms, aimed at reducing the sovereignty of the judiciary.

Some proposals were not approved. The revision consisted in limiting the age of the judges of the Constitutional Court to 70 years and, as soon as he reached this age, the member had to leave this seat. Unfortunately, with this age limit, the former president of the Constitutional Court had to leave his post and the president of the Republic appointed a person who was a member of his political party's higher council. This situation brought the body into disrepute.

For the Angolan Association of judges, the only way to fight for the independence of the judiciary was through social media. Since the government controlled the public and private media, it controlled public opinion. The Association has also organised numerous national and international online conferences, inviting members of the executive to participate and people from different backgrounds to share.

GUINEE BISSAU

A representative of Guinea Bissau, on behalf of the President of the Association, expressed his pleasure at being at the meeting of the African Group and thanked the Tunisian association for the perfect organisation.

He stressed that, according to the Constitution, justice was administered in the name of the people, but on condition that the Government provided the Courts with human, material, financial and security resources. He added that a system of continuous training, the installation of buildings throughout the country, the provision of means of transport and computers was necessary. The Judges had to have a decent salary. The judges must be guaranteed security in the workplace and in his or her private life, and also for his or her family.

As for the external independence of the judiciary, it was guaranteed because the President and Vice-President of the Supreme Court were elected among their colleagues. On the other hand, concerning the situation of internal independence, the High Council of the Judiciary was presided over by the President and the Vice-President of the Supreme Court, but the lawyers were members of the HCJ and this could create problems in disciplinary proceedings against judges.

As regards retirement salary, judges with 15 years of service could retire with 85% of their salary.

Electoral disputes were judged by the Supreme Court. There was only one Supreme Court, which had fulfilled the functions of the Constitutional Court.

RWANDA

A colleague from Rwanda apologised for his delay due to a problem in Doha. He thanked the colleagues from the Republic of Congo, the IAJ, Mrs. Kouassi and the President of the Tunisian Association for the efforts made to enable him to participate in the African Group meeting.

He illustrated the situation in his country. Rwanda was a small country, colonised by the Belgians. After the catastrophe in 1994, when a million people died, the country came out of this situation, using alternative methods to incarceration. At the end of the genocide, there were about 120,000 prisoners, so many that it took 300 years to try them. The state used the traditional method of trial by the village elder, with the aim of re-socialising them, provided that they made reparation for the damage caused, did community service and gave information about the perpetrators of the crimes. Those who had planned the crimes were imprisoned. Others who could be forgiven and had behaved well had the residual punishment cancelled. There was national reconciliation for harmony.

In general, despite the methods provided for by the law and used by judges, to avoid incarcerating offenders, the country had a large prison population.

The Rwanda Judges Association was created in 2010, to join the West African Association and the Commonwealth Judges Association. The associations worked together. The Commonwealth judges association will meet in 2024. In the association there were also clerks. The Association created a cooperative. In order to have a lot of resources, members could take out loans, which helped them to survive. There was also an additional insurance. In case of a pension, the private insurance paid the members. The association was trying to increase salaries.

He underlined that on his return to Rwanda, he would talk with the association to check the possibility of applying for membership of the IAJ.

5. Reform of the African group Statute

Mr. Kouassi reminded that Ms. Aicha had guided a working group and prepared an amendment text to the African Statute, which had been sent to the member associations.

Mr. Oberto raised the problem of the procedure to be followed for the amendment of the Statute. The Statute of the African Group did not provide for a procedure in this respect. Mr. Oberto said that the Group could provide for an ad hoc amendment procedure, by approving a new article in the African Statute, or follow the procedure provided for in Art. 12 of the IAJ Statute, for which the conditions would be met. He recalled that the Statute of the European Group provided for the same procedure to be followed in the IAJ Statute.

The assembly decided unanimously to proceed directly to a vote according to the rule of the IAJ Statute.

The proposal to modify the Statute of the African Group, prepared by the Working Group guided by Mrs. Aicha Benbelhassem, foresaw to add a paragraph 4 to

article 8 of the Statute of the African Group explaining the modality of designation of the college to help the president in his missions:

"When appointing the College of Judges to assist the President in his mission, we will take particular care to ensure the representation of the different geographical areas, the different legal traditions and the different languages of the African group".

This proposal was unanimously approved.

6. Statement/s and resolution/s by the African Group

Mrs. Benbelhassem asked to update the previous statement on Tunisia, taking into account recent events in her country.

Mr Oberto proposed to prepare a draft resolution to be submitted at the meeting on 10 May.

7. Budget

The Secretary General of the IAJ illustrated to the Assembly the situation of the Group's budget: it could count on reserves and an annual assignment for a total amount of more than 22,100 Euros (see Annex 1). He added that, for this year, the Presidency Committee had decided to assign to each Regional Group the regular allocation of 2500.00 Euros.

He added that, according to the Statute, if a country was in arrears in the payment of the contributions for more than three years, it would be excluded from the IAJ, unless the Assembly voted otherwise. He informed the assembly that there were three African countries that were at risk of losing their membership. He informed the meeting that the President of the Group had contacted these associations. The budget was approved unanimously.

8 Venue of the next meeting.

Ms. Kouassi and Mr. Oberto noted the availability of Mali to host the African Group meeting in 2023.

9. Miscellanea

Mr. Oberto announced that the Group should indicate two colleagues who were available to join the Working Group to explore the possibility of providing assistance to judges facing challenges in the performing of their functions, under the leadership of Mr Nicholas Blake. Mr. Thulare (South Africa) and Mr. Boufenaya (Algeria) declared they were available. The Group unanimously approved these nominations.

Mr Oberto presented the new IAJ website with reference to the African Group.

He invited the associations to publish documents, expressions of solidarity, dates of national or international congresses or other information on the website. Administrator of the website is the IAJ Secretariat

Session of 10 may 2022

The meeting was chaired by Mrs. Marcelle Kouassi, with the participation of the Secretary General of the UIM, Mr. Giacomo Oberto, the Deputy Secretary General of the UIM, Mr. Raffaele Gargiulo, as well as the delegates already indicated, except for the representative of Angola.

Mr Oberto invited Mrs. Benbelhassem to read the draft resolution concerning Tunisia. After a discussion the draft resolution was unanimously approved (see Annex 2).

The meeting was closed at 16.00.

The Deputy Secretary-General of the IAJ
Raffaele Gargiulo

The President of the African Group
Marcelle Kouassi