

# West African Human Rights Defender Conference Agenda

## Monday, March 29

13:00 to 13:30 GMT  
(9:00 to 9:30 EST)

### Opening Ceremony & Keynote

*Dr. Michel Yoboue, Chairman of Steering Committee, MRU CSO Platform*

*Muthoni Wanyeki, Regional Director for Africa, Open Society Foundation*

*Dr. Allan Goodman, President & CEO, Institute of International Education*

*Massa Toure, Secretary General, Natural Resources Women Platform*

*Keynote: Prof. Remy Ngoy Lumbu, ACHPR Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders & Focal Point on Reprisals*

### **Voices from the Trenches:** Experiences of Frontline Grassroots Defenders across West Africa and the Sahel

13:30 to 14:45 GMT  
(9:30 to 10:45 EST)

### Panel and Q&A

*Special Remark: Prof. Mary Lawlor, UNSR Human Rights Defenders*

*Presentations from Frontline Defenders from Guinea, Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Liberia, and Niger*

*Journalist Perspective: Mustapha Darboe, Gambian Investigative Journalist*

14:45 to 15:00 GMT  
(10:45 to 11:00 EST)

### Break

### **Countering Extremism:** The Herder – Farmer Conflicts and the Human Rights Implications for Frontline Defenders in West Africa and the Sahel

15:00 to 16:00 GMT  
(11:00 to 12:00 EST)

### Panel and Q&A

*Special Remark: Dr. Anne Charbord, Legal Advisor to UNSR Countering Terrorism*

*Presentations from Frontline Defenders from Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, and Nigeria*

*Journalist Perspective: Adolphus Mawolo, News Editor, West African Democracy Radio*

16:00 to 16:10 GMT  
(12:00 to 12:10 EST)

### Day 1 Closing

## Tuesday, March 30

13:00 to 13:05 GMT  
(9:00 to 9:05 EST)

### Introduction and Recap

13:05 to 14:05 GMT  
(9:05 to 10:05 EST)

### **Protecting Human Rights and the Environment:** Frontline Grassroots Defenders Protecting Peoples and our Planet

### Panel and Q&A

*Special Remark: Prof. David Boyd, UNSR Human Rights & the Environment*

*Foromo Frederic Loua, Les Mêmes Droits pour Tous, Guinea*

	<p><i>Joseph Ansumana, Sierra Leone</i>  <i>Margaret Nigba, Green Advocates, Liberia</i>  <i>Chima Williams, Friends of the Earth Nigeria</i>  <i>Dr. Michel Yoboue, Côte d'Ivoire</i>  <i>Andrea Sanhueza Echeverría, Representante Electa del Público – Acuerdo de Escazú</i>  <i>Journalist Perspective: Ahmed Nasralla, President, Sierra Leone Association of Journalists</i></p>
14:05 to 14:55 GMT (10:05 to 10:55 EST)	<p><b>The Marrakech Declaration and the Duties and Responsibilities of National Human Rights Institutions in West Africa: Responding to Reprisals, Attacks, Stigmatization, and Criminalization Against Grassroots Defenders</b>  Panel and Q&amp;A  <i>Special Remark: Adélaïde Etong Kame, International Service for Human Rights</i>  <i>Presentations from Frontline Defenders on National Human Rights Institutions in Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, and Liberia</i></p>
14:55 to 15:05 GMT (10:55 to 11:05 EST)	<p>Break</p>
15:05 to 16:05 GMT (11:05 to 12:05 EST)	<p><b>Protecting Grassroots Defenders: Responding to Attacks and Reprisals Against Indigenous Women and WHRDs in West Africa and the Sahel</b>  Panel and Q&amp;A  <i>Special Remark: Prof. Francisco Cali Tzay, UNSR Indigenous Peoples</i>  <i>Presentations from Frontline Women Defenders from Sierra Leone, Liberia, Guinea, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, and Mali</i>  <i>Journalist Perspective: Angela Agoawike, Nigerian Journalist</i></p>
16:05 to 16:15 GMT (12:05 to 12:15 EST)	<p>Visualizing Potential Low Hanging Fruit and Next Steps</p>
16:15 to 16:20 GMT (12:15 to 12:20 EST)	<p>Day 2 Closing</p>

**Wednesday, March 31**

13:00 to 13:05 GMT (9:00 to 9:05 EST)	<p>Introduction and Recap</p>
13:05 to 14:05 GMT (9:05 to 10:05 EST)	<p><b>The Situation of Frontline Grassroots Defenders in West Africa:</b>  Presentation of the Baseline Report, Community Protocol, Policy Recommendations, and Next Steps</p>
14:05 to 14:15 GMT (10:05 to 10:15 EST)	<p>Break</p>
14:15 to 15:30 GMT (10:15 to 11:30 EST)	<p>Working Groups  <i>Baseline Assessment Report</i>  <i>Community Based Protocol</i></p>

15:30 to 16:00 GMT  
(11:30 to 12:00 EST)

*Policy Recommendations*  
*Next Steps, Funding, and Business Plan*  
*Sahel / Who is a defender?*  
*Monitoring and Visibility*

Report Back from Working Groups

---

16:00 to 16:30 GMT  
(12:00 to 12:30 EST)

Closing Ceremony