



**WELCOME REMARKS BY HON. JUSTICE BART M. KATUREEBE,  
CHIEF JUSTICE OF UGANDA, AT THE OPENING OF THE FOURTH  
AFRICAN JUDICIAL DIALOGUE AT THE COMMONWEALTH  
RESORT HOTEL MUNYONYO, 30 OCTOBER – 1 NOVEMBER 2019.**

Your Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda,

Your Excellency, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission,

The Rt. Hon. Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda,

The Presidents of Regional and Sub-Regional Human Rights Courts and  
Tribunals,

The Chairpersons of Regional and Sub-Regional Human Rights  
Commissions,

Honourable Chief Justices and Presidents of the Supreme and  
Constitutional Courts of the African Union State Parties,

Honourable Deputy Chief Justices and Vice Presidents of the Supreme  
and Constitutional Courts of the African Union State Parties,

Honourable Ministers Present,

Honourable Justices and Judges from the various Jurisdictions of the  
African Union,

Your Excellences, the Ambassadors and High Commissioners,

Honourable Members of Parliament,  
Distinguished Jurists and Scholars,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to Uganda and to this important occasion of the Fourth African Judicial Dialogue. In a special way, I welcome Your Excellency, Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the President of the Republic of Uganda. I thank you so much for accepting our invitation to grace the opening of the Dialogue.

In the same vein, I wish to welcome you all my colleague Chief Justices and Presidents of the Supreme Courts and Constitutional Courts of the African Union Member States. I also welcome you all our distinguished guests and thank you for attending this very important Dialogue.

Let me express my gratitude to the leadership of the African Union and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights for the confidence bestowed upon Uganda to be the host of this Fourth Dialogue. I also thank Your Excellency and the entire Government of the Republic of Uganda for allowing to host the Dialogue and providing counterpart funding alongside the African Union and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights.

The theme of this Dialogue is **“Tackling Contemporary Human Rights Issues: The Role of the Judiciary in Africa.”** This theme appropriately captures the mood of our current times. Each Judiciary, and indeed each member state, in the African Union has human rights issues to grapple with. Indeed each of our nations has a distinct history concerning human rights and the rule of law. This explains why many African nations have ratified the international and regional covenants and protocols on human rights including, but not limited to, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACPHR).

I take note of the fact that the previous three Dialogues were hosted in Arusha, Tanzania. Uganda is, therefore, the first nation to host this Dialogue outside the headquarters of the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights. As the head of the Ugandan Judiciary, I am privileged and honoured to be the first to host this Dialogue beyond the headquarters of the Court. This also signifies Uganda’s commitment to not only promoting and protecting human rights and the rule of law, but also to fostering international and regional cooperation.

As the Ugandan Judiciary, we shall greatly benefit from the discussion on the topics of the dialogue since they are based on contemporary issues that impact on our country and the African Continent at large. These include issues of forced migration, statelessness, election petitions and terrorism.

We also hope to benefit from the interaction with the other Regional Human Rights Courts, particularly the European Court on Human Rights and the Inter- American Court on Human Rights. These Courts have over time developed good and tested jurisprudence in respect of the protection and promotion of human rights.

I wish to specifically thank the Steering Committee under the stewardship of the Hon. The Principal Judge and the National Organising Committee chaired by the Chief Registrar (Judge Designate) and the Permanent Secretary/Secretary to the Judiciary. You have done a tremendous job and without your tireless efforts, we would not be here.

I once again welcome you all, wish you fruitful deliberations and a pleasant stay in the pearl of Africa.

***KARIBUNI SANA.***

Bart M. Katureebe

**CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA**