



PRESS STATEMENT

AFRICAN HUMAN RIGHTS MOOT COURT COMPETITION OF 2020 GOES AHEAD IN ADJUSTED FORM

16 April 2020

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the organisers of the African Human Rights Moot Court Competition have decided to adjust the format and dates of the 2020 African Moot Competition. The preliminary rounds of the Competition will now take place virtually, and the semi-final and final rounds have been rescheduled to take place in Dakar, in December 2020.

These adjustments have been necessitated by the restriction on movements and the various mitigating measures adopted by several countries on the continent. It became clear that it would not be possible for the Moot to take place in its usual format or on the scheduled dates (3-8 August 2020).

After consultation with our partners and other stakeholders, we have agreed for a postponement and a change of format, as follows:

- **The preliminary rounds will be held virtually – through video conference – in September and October 2020. The exact dates are being finalised and will be communicated in due course.**
- **The semi-final and the final rounds are scheduled to be held in Dakar, Senegal, in the first week of December 2020. The exact dates will be finalised and communicated in due course. (If prevailing circumstances do not allow for in-person semi-final and final rounds in Dakar, these rounds will also have to take place virtually.)**

- **The deadlines for registration and submission of memorials are moved ahead by one month. The deadline for registration is now 15 July, and the deadline for submission of memorials is now 31 July. The submission of travel details will now only be required from teams that qualify for the semi-final round. These details will be finalised as soon as possible after the end of October.**
- **The rules of the Competition will be amended to reflect the above-mentioned changes. The amended rules will be communicated soon.**

As organisers, we regret not being able to organise the Competition on the initially scheduled dates. We also regret that the virtual nature of preliminary rounds may pose difficulties for some universities. However, we feel this is the responsible course of action to take under the current circumstances.

We remain fully committed to ensuring that the Moot Competition, which has been held continuously since its inception in 1992, does not lose momentum, and continues to provide a platform for law students and academics to learn and exchange ideas.

For more information, please see the Moot website, www.chr.up.ac.za/moot or contact:

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