

THE UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL
&
THE AFRICAN OMBUDSMAN RESEARCH CENTRE
(AORC), A RESEARCH AND TRAINING ARM OF
THE AFRICAN OMBUDSMAN AND MEDIATORS'
ASSOCIATION

- Cordially invite you to a webinar -

Ombuds Day 2022

UN Resolution on Ombudsman and Mediators, The Venice Principles and the OR Tambo Declaration

Ombuds Day was first celebrated in 2018 and continues to be recognized annually on the second Thursday in October. The celebration of Ombuds Day transcends sector and political boundaries, highlighting the essential work ombuds do in various ways and globally. The Goals of Ombuds Day include Educating the public about the Ombuds' role, Encouraging more effective use of ombuds programs, Connecting ombuds in their communities, and Uniting the ombuds profession. The theme for Ombuds day 2022 is "Resilience, Respect & Resolve."

To commemorate Ombuds Day 2022, AORC's next webinar is entitled, 'UN Resolution on Ombudsman and Mediators, The Venice Principles and the OR Tambo Declaration on Minimum Standards for an Effective Ombudsman Institution.'

The UN resolution provides a strong endorsement of the Principles on the Protection and Promotion of the Ombudsman Institution (the Venice Principles) and establishes these principles as the new global standard for the Ombudsman for the first time. This is a crucial step to strengthening independent and autonomous Ombudsman and mediator institutions worldwide and raising awareness at the international level for the essential role these institutions play in protecting and promoting human rights. It confirms and reinforces the importance of close cooperation between the United Nations and the International Ombudsman Institute (IOI).

The webinar entitled 'UN Resolution on Ombudsman and Mediators, The Venice Principles and the OR Tambo Declaration on Minimum Standards for an Effective Ombudsman Institution' would discuss how these instruments are used as tools to strengthen, protect, and promote the institution of the Ombudsman.

PLEASE CLICK ON THE RSVP LINK IF YOU WISH TO JOIN THE WEBINAR.

WEBINAR DETAILS

DATE

THURSDAY, 13 OCTOBER 2022

TIME

10H00 – 11H30

SPEAKERS

HON. MARC BERTRAND
OMBUDSMAN FOR WALLONIA AND THE FRENCH COMMUNITY
BELGIUM

MS. CAROLINE MARTIN
NEIGHBOURHOOD CO-OPERATION DIVISION, VENICE COMMISSION
COUNCIL OF EUROPE

&

ADV. JOHN WALTERS
FORMER OMBUDSMAN
NAMIBIA

FACILITATOR

HON. CAROLINE SOKONI
PUBLIC PROTECTOR ZAMBIA & TREASURER OF THE IOI
ZAMBIA

[CLICK HERE TO RSVP](#)

Due to time constraints, there will be no live questions and answers. Participants may however submit relevant questions to [Franky Lwelela \(Lwelela@ukzn.ac.za\)](mailto:Lwelela@ukzn.ac.za) or [Marion Adonis \(adonism@ukzn.ac.za\)](mailto:adonism@ukzn.ac.za) by 10:00 on Wednesday 12 October 2022 or use the Q & A function during the webinar. Time has been allocated to respond to questions raised before and during the session. In case of insufficient time to respond to all questions, answers will be sent to participants after the webinar.

ENQUIRIES ONLY

Marion Adonis

Email : adonism@ukzn.ac.za

OR

Franky Lwelela

Email : Lwelela@ukzn.ac.za

SPEAKER & FACILITATOR PROFILES



Hon. Marc BERTRAND has been the Ombudsman of Wallonia and the Wallonia-Brussels Federation, Belgium, for 10 years. He is the First Vice-President of the Association of Ombudsman and Mediators of the Francophonie (AOMF), a Member of the Board of Directors of the International Ombudsman Institute – Europe (IOI), and President of the Belgian network of Ombudsman. He is a lawyer and previously served as General administrator of the High Council of Justice of Belgium and Director of the European Network of Councils for the Judiciary for 11 years, as well as legal adviser in the Prime Minister's Office for 14 years.

Ms. Caroline Martin is a multidisciplinary lawyer with the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe. She led the drafting process of the "Principles for the Promotion and Protection of Ombudsman Institutions" (the Venice Principles) and their endorsement by all Council of Europe bodies. Ms. Martin is currently responsible for cooperation with the southern Mediterranean countries and the Ombudsman issue. Previously, she has dealt with constitutional law issues, including legislative processes, opposition rights, lobbying, and fundamental rights questions such as freedom of expression, association, conscience, religion, discrimination, and children's rights. Her years in the Constitutional Justice Division have given her excellent knowledge of the latter. Helping to draft the first Convention against money laundering exposed her to intergovernmental work on criminal policy. Caroline started her career at the Council of Europe as a legal officer in the Treaty Division and the Legal Advice Department of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.



Adv. John Walters is the former Ombudsman of Namibia (2004-2021). He obtained the degrees B.A. (1977) and L.L.B. (1980) from the University of the Western Cape in South Africa and was admitted as an advocate of the Supreme Court of South Africa (South West Africa Division; as it was then called) in 1981. Mr. Walters has been a career prosecutor since 1981 and magistrate since 1985. He spent some time in private practice until he was appointed as Acting Prosecutor-General in December 2002 until 31 December 2003. From April 1998 until March 2006, Mr. Walters was the Chairperson of the Transportation Commission of Namibia; he was a member of the Board for Legal Education from 1996 to March 2004 and a member (ex officio) of the Law Reform and Development Commission of Namibia since July 2004 until date. Mr. Walters was also a Board member of the African Ombudsman Research Centre. Mr. Walters was appointed Ombudsman of the Republic of Namibia in July 2004. He succeeded Adv. Bience Gawanas as the third substantive Ombudsman of Namibia. Mr. Walters joined the International Ombudsman Institute (IOI) Board of Directors as African Regional Vice-President in 2009. He was elected 1st Vice-President of the IOI in 2012 and President of the IOI in October 2014. His term of Office as President of the IOI ended in November 2016.



Hon. Caroline Chuma Zulu Sokoni, the current Public Protector of Zambia, has served in the Office of the Country's National Ombudsman for fifteen (15) years. She began her professional career in 1989 as a State Advocate under the then Ministry of Legal Affairs (now known as the Ministry of Justice). She has a Masters of Law in Criminology from Queen Mary and Westfield College, the University of London in the United Kingdom, and served under the Ministry of Justice for fifteen years. She was appointed as Acting Director of Public Prosecutions for the Republic of Zambia in February 2004. She was also appointed as the Task Team leader for the Legal component of the Water Resources Management Project. A policy formulation body tasked to spearhead the Water Resources Management process reform in Zambia. She presided over the Town and Country Planning Tribunal as Vice Chair between 2003 and 2005. In November 2004, she was appointed as the Investigator General for Zambia's National Ombudsman Office. At the time of her appointment, the Office was known as the Commission for Investigations.

