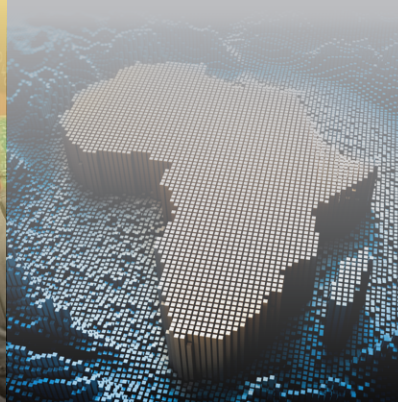




African Policing Civilian Oversight Forum

ANNUAL REPORT

2025



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Abbreviations and acronyms

ACHPR	African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights	IPID	Independent Police Investigative Directorate of South Africa
ALEPH	African Regional Conference on Law Enforcement and Public Health	IPOA	Independent Policing Oversight Authority
APCOF	African Policing Civilian Oversight Forum	JICS	Judicial Inspectorate for Correctional Services
APT	Association for the Prevention of Torture	LEA	law enforcement agency
AU	African Union	MDB	multilateral development bank
AUC	African Union Commission	MISTRA	Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection
CCPCJ	Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice	NACAC	National Anti-Corruption Advisory Council
CLEPH	Centre for Law Enforcement and Public Health	NANHRI	Network of African National Human Rights Institutions
CPF	Community Police Forum	NAP	National Action Plan
CPTA:	Committee for the Prevention of Torture in Africa	NEDLAC	National Economic Development and Labour Council
DJF	Detention Justice Forum	NHRI	National Human Rights Institution
DoJ&CF	Department of Justice and Constitutional Development	NPM	National Preventive Mechanism
EAC	East Africa Community	OGN	Operational Guidance Note
EAPCCO	Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization	OPCAT	Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture
EU	European Union	RRM	Rapid Response Mechanism
FIACAT	International Federation of Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture	SADC	Southern African Development Community
GBV	gender-based violence	SAHRC	South African Human Rights Commission
GCTF	Global Counterterrorism Forum's	SARPPCO	Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Co-operation Organisation
ICNL	International Center for Not-for-Profit Law	SSR	security sector reform
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross	UCT	University of Cape Town
IEC	Independent Electoral Commission	UN	United Nations
ILF	International Legal Foundation	UNCERD	United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
IOM	International Organization for Migration	UPF	Uganda Police Force

About APCOF

The African Policing Civilian Oversight Forum (APCOF) is a non-profit organisation dedicated to enhancing police accountability and governance across Africa. APCOF champions the core values of civilian oversight, which include restoring public trust, fostering a culture of human rights, promoting integrity and transparency within police forces, and nurturing constructive relationships between law enforcement and communities. While APCOF's primary focus is on policing, its initiatives are part of a broader effort to advance democratic governance and uphold the rule of law.

APCOF was founded in 2004 in response to the recognised need for improved police accountability in Africa. The organisation was established as a coalition of police oversight bodies and practitioners and was officially registered as a non-profit company under South African law in 2006. In 2012, APCOF transitioned to a trust, shifting its continental network's role from fiduciary to strategic, thereby allowing for greater flexibility in partnering with new entities while maintaining cost-effective administrative governance through the APCOF Trust.

The objectives of APCOF are to:

- Enhance police accountability;
- Advocate for and support the development of institutions and mechanisms for police oversight;
- Build and sustain public confidence in law enforcement;
- Cultivate a culture of good governance, human rights, integrity, transparency and accountability within police forces; and
- Foster positive relationships between the police, civil society and communities.

APCOF operates at continental, regional and national levels, employing a methodology designed to integrate and reinforce intervention strategies. To achieve its strategic objectives, APCOF employs a combination of the following:

- Research;
- Networking and partnership-building;
- Advocacy;
- Technical support; and
- Training and capacity-building.



Chairperson's report

I am pleased to present the Annual Report for 2025 of the African Policing Civilian Oversight Forum (APCOF).

Despite an increasingly challenging environment, we have successfully identified and adapted to shifting priorities, advancing all our strategic objectives, which include:

- Developing knowledge, conducting and participating in training, building capacity and fostering support among all stakeholders regarding the value and importance of accountable democratic policing;
- Providing tools to support the implementation of human rights standards at the local level;
- Establishing and supporting networks and communities of practice;
- Building evidence of the impact of police oversight on enhancing police performance and effectiveness;
- Advocating for robust legal protections and accountability frameworks; and
- Ensuring that accountability and oversight are integrated into all standards, guidelines, protocols and policies at continental, regional and national levels.

APCOF is proud to have collaborated once again with partners from both state and civil society, as well as various organs of the African Union (AU), to enhance the implementation of human rights, access to justice, and oversight and accountability across the criminal justice system. The AU Commission's (AUC's) Operational Guidance Note (OGN) on Oversight and Accountability for the Security Sector provides the AU with a comprehensive guide for developing and strengthening oversight and accountability in Africa's security sector. The ACHPR (African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights) study on migration and law enforcement explores the complex intersection of securitisation, the criminalisation of migration and the unique powers and responsibilities of law enforcement. Our decade-long efforts to support the ACHPR Guidelines on Conditions of Arrest, Detention and Pre-Trial Detention in Africa were recognised by the Med Kaggwa Award for promoting these guidelines.

At the national level, APCOF's support for the South African National Anti-Corruption Advisory Council (NACAC) and South Africa's National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) underscores our value and credibility in the sector.

I extend my sincere gratitude to my fellow trustees, with special thanks to the APCOF director and staff, who consistently exceed expectations. I also thank our development partners and stakeholders for their continued support and trust in APCOF. Together, we have once again made this year a success.

Ms Annelize van Wyk (*Chair*)

Governance

APCOF is governed by a Board of Trustees comprising:

Ms Annelize van Wyk ■ *Chair*

Past member of the South African National Assembly and past Chairperson of the National Assembly Portfolio Committee on Police. She is now a security-sector reform consultant focusing on parliamentary oversight.

Dr Sandy Africa ■ *Vice-Chair*

Director of Research at the Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection (MISTRA). Previously, she served as the University of Pretoria's Deputy Dean for Teaching and Learning in the Faculty of Humanities. She holds a PhD in Public Management from the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa.

Mr Greg Cronje ■ *Treasurer*

Chartered accountant and registered auditor. He previously served as Finance Director at the Open Society Foundation for South Africa, as a Senior Manager at Ernest and Young and as a Director at Ngubane and Co. He is currently a financial consultant.

Ms Tapiwa Gandidze

Director at TCG Attorneys. She was previously a Director at Norton Rose Fulbright and, before that, at Cheadle, Thompson and Haysom.

Adv. Pansy Tlakula

Immediate past Chairperson of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and of the South African Independent Electoral Commission (IEC). She was also a Commissioner of the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC). She is currently the South African Information Regulator and Commissioner and a member of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (UNCERD).

Prof. Elrena van der Spuy

Emeritus Professor in the Faculty of Law at the University of Cape Town (UCT). She previously served as Deputy Dean of the Department of Public Law and as Director of the Centre for Criminology at UCT.

Ten years of APCOF at a glance

2024

Technical support to the African Union (AU) in developing and validating an AU Operational Guidance Note (OGN) on Oversight and Accountability for the Security Sector.

Technical support to the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR) in the drafting and adoption of a study on law enforcement and migration.

2023

Technical support to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) in the development and adoption of Guidelines on Upholding Human and Peoples' Rights during States of Emergency or Disaster.

Technical support to the Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (EAPCCO) in the development and adoption of Guidelines on Crime and Violence Prevention.

2022

Technical support to EAPCCO in the development and adoption of Monitoring Indicators and Measures in respect of the Common Standards for Policing in East Africa.

2019

Technical support to the Pan-African Parliament in the development and adoption of the Model Police Law for Africa.

Technical support to EAPCCO in the development and adoption of a Model Operating Procedure for Interviews of Suspects and Persons of Interest.

2018

Technical support to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in the development and adoption of the Guideline on Crime and Violence Prevention.

**2017**

Technical support in the development and adoption by the ACHPR of the Principles for the Decriminalisation of Petty Offences in Africa.

2016

Technical support in the development and adoption by the ACHPR of the Guidelines for the Policing of Assemblies by Law Enforcement Officials in Africa.
Technical support in the development and adoption by EAPCCO of a regional Standard Operating Procedure on Public Order Policing.

2015

Successful advocacy to expand the mandate of the ACHPR Special Rapporteur on Prisons and Conditions of Detention to include Policing.
Co-publication with the ACHPR Special Rapporteur on Prisons, Conditions of Detention and Policing in Africa of a biannual newsletter on policing and human rights in Africa, currently in its tenth year.
Provision of technical support for the operationalisation of the Sierra Leone Independent Police Complaints Board.
Publication and launch of the *Police and Human Rights Training Manual* for the East Africa Community (EAC) and EAPCCO.

2014

Technical support to the ACHPR in the development and adoption of the Guidelines on the Conditions of Arrest, Police Custody and Pre-Trial Detention in Africa (the Luanda Guidelines).

2013

Development and presentation of an annual, advanced human rights course on police accountability for the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria, currently in its twelfth year.

Projects 2024–2025

Oversight and accountability

African Union Operational Guidance Note on Oversight and Accountability

The African Policing Civilian Oversight Forum (APCOF) collaborates with the Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security of the African Union Commission (AUC). The African Union's (AU's) Security Sector Reform (SSR) Policy of 2013 offers a comprehensive framework for countries to develop or realign their policies, structures and capacities within the security sector. This framework aims to enhance the effectiveness, efficiency and responsiveness of security institutions, thereby aiming to make them more responsive to democratic oversight and the security and justice needs of the populace. The Policy Framework also delineates the scope of the security sector, encompassing individuals, groups and institutions responsible for the provision, management and oversight of security organs. It encourages AU member states to strengthen democratic oversight mechanisms for the security sector.

APCOF has provided technical support to the AUC in the development and validation of an Operational Guidance Note (OGN) on oversight and accountability for the security sector. This OGN serves as a guide for the AU, outlining the content and processes necessary for developing and enhancing oversight and accountability within Africa's security sector.



Validation workshop on two draft AU Operational Guidance Notes (OGNs) on *Oversight and Accountability of the Security Sector* and *Security Sector Reform (SSR) and Mediation* held in Addis Ababa, 30 September–1 October 2024

Oversight and counter-terrorism

APCOF contributed to the development of the Global Counterterrorism Forum's (GCTF) Brussels Memorandum, which focuses on effective oversight of security sector actors in countering terrorism and violent extremism. Upon completion of the memorandum, APCOF was invited to participate in a strategic workshop to discuss implementation strategies. Presently, APCOF chairs the working groups on law enforcement and oversight as well as legislative oversight.

Decriminalisation of poverty and status

Global Campaign to Decriminalise Poverty and Status

APCOF remains committed to supporting the Global Campaign to Decriminalise Poverty and Status at both regional and global levels. It coordinates the African components of the campaign's initiatives and maintains a strong focus on developments at the United Nations (UN) level, particularly through the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ).

Guidelines on non-discrimination in the criminal justice system

APCOF is supporting a project led by the International Legal Foundation (ILF) aimed at developing guidelines on non-discrimination within the criminal justice system. Collaborating with partners such as the Penal Reform Initiative and Women Beyond Walls, APCOF contributed to organising an expert-group meeting held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 21 to 24 November 2024 to draft an initial version of these guidelines. The broader objective of the guidelines is to inform the development of standards in terms of the 2023 UN General Assembly resolution on Equal Access to Justice for All.

Scorecard to measure the implementation of the Principles on the Decriminalisation of Petty Offences in Africa

APCOF is assisting the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI) in developing a scorecard to assess the implementation of the Principles on the Decriminalisation of Petty Offences in Africa by African states. This project will initially pilot the scorecard with national human rights institutions from Kenya, Côte d'Ivoire and South Africa, with plans for a broader roll-out to all NANHRI stakeholders in 2025.

Decriminalisation of activism

APCOF is collaborating with Amnesty International and Malaysian organisation Sauram to create global synergies aimed at challenging the criminalisation of human rights defenders. The project seeks to enhance understanding of the various regional and national patterns through which states criminalise and penalise human rights defenders and peaceful protests. It also aims to strengthen cross-regional alliances for the protection of civic space and to identify advocacy recommendations to advance the protection of peaceful protesters and human rights defenders.

The project has two primary outputs. APCOF co-authored a policy paper that analyses the criminalisation of activism and human rights defenders, as well as the policing practices that facilitate this criminalisation. This paper was discussed at an expert roundtable held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 10 to 12 December 2024. The paper also focused on developing an advocacy and litigation strategy.

Commonwealth Practitioners' Guide on the Decriminalisation of Poverty and Status

From 5 to 7 June 2024, APCOF participated in an expert consultation organised by the International Commission of Jurists, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Institute of Commonwealth Studies. The focus was on developing a new practitioners' guide on the decriminalisation of poverty and status. Held in Nairobi, Kenya, the event featured APCOF's presentation on the Global Campaign and issues related to the policing of poverty and marginalisation. The Practitioners' Guide was subsequently launched at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Samoa in October 2024. It serves as a practical tool and comprehensive casebook for justice sector stakeholders and is aimed at advancing legal advocacy and reform efforts to review and repeal discriminatory laws that conflict with human rights and the rule of law.

Democratic policing

Effective non-coercive interviewing

APCOF collaborated with the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT) to promote the resolution of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) on the international Principles on Effective Interviewing for Investigations and Information Gathering, known as the Méndez Principles. Currently, APCOF is working with Southern African police organisations through the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Co-operation Organisation (SARPCCO) to evaluate current interviewing practices in the light of the Méndez Principles. A seminar on this topic was held on 1 and 2 July 2024. Following the seminar, an online survey was conducted, and the results have been received and analysed. The report is currently under review by SARPCCO.



Participants at the SADC Seminar held to discuss the Mendez Principles

APCOF has continued its efforts to review civil cases related to interview malpractice in Kenya. On 16 and 17 September 2024, APCOF hosted a two-day training workshop focused on legal and procedural safeguards, as well as best practices in non-coercive interviewing in Kenya. This was followed by a working meeting with the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) to review cases it had investigated, which included instances of interview violations. The study was launched by Honourable Justice Eric Ogola, Principal Judge of the Kenyan High Court, who emphasised its significance for the judiciary.



Pre-trial detention

APCOF participated as an expert at a conference on criminal justice reform convened by the Ministry of Justice in Malawi from 7 to 9 October 2024. During the plenary session, APCOF presented a plan of action that was developed a decade ago in collaboration with Malawian stakeholders to address issues related to pre-trial detention. The presentation included an update on the implementation of this plan, along with recommendations for further action.

Law enforcement and public health

APCOF partnered with the Centre for Law Enforcement and Public Health (CLEPH) and the School of Public Health at the University of Pretoria to host the inaugural African Regional Conference on Law Enforcement and Public Health (ALEPH) from 1 to 5 December 2024 in Pretoria.

The role of the police in public-space management

APCOF, in collaboration with the Freedoms Collective Trust and the Caribbean Centre for Human Rights, co-authored and presented a policy paper examining the use of policing powers to enforce criminal laws that target or disproportionately affect individuals based on their poverty or status. This paper was discussed during a webinar on 7 November 2024 and was subsequently presented to a meeting of the campaign's subgroup on policing on 1 December 2024. This meeting took place on the sidelines of ALEPH at the University of Pretoria.

Research on strengthening the capabilities of law enforcement agencies to optimally execute their functions in order to achieve results

APCOF, in partnership with the Dullah Omar Institute at the University of the Western Cape, assisted the National Anti-Corruption Advisory Council (NACAC) in reviewing the context within which law enforcement agencies (LEAs) combat corruption. This review focused on these agencies' objectives, key claims, assumptions, gaps and limitations, and whether these factors enable or undermine their optimal functioning, with the aim of providing recommendations to enhance their capabilities. The research also examined the disabling conditions and limitations that impede the effectiveness of LEAs.

Deprivation of liberty

South African National Preventive Mechanism

APCOF continues to actively support the South African National Preventive Mechanism (NPM). In collaboration with the NPM, APCOF works to enhance a shared understanding of the preventive aspects within the framework of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT) and its practical application in the working methods of NPM members. APCOF has developed a communications strategy fact sheet and a preventive monitoring review to guide both internal and external communications for the NPM. Additionally, APCOF maintains its role on the steering committee of the NPM Civil Society Forum, which it helped establish as a formal mechanism for engagement between civil society organisations and the NPM. During the review period, APCOF partnered with Lawyers for Human Rights to host a forum meeting in Johannesburg on 25 November 2024 to discuss civil society input into the strategic priorities for the NPM for 2025.

Torture-free trade treaty

APCOF supported the Africa subgroup of the global coalition advocating for the adoption of a torture-free trade treaty. As part of this effort, APCOF provided technical assistance in drafting a position paper for the South African NPM regarding the torture-free trade treaty. This position paper was presented at a meeting of the African Forum of NPMs, held in Cape Town on 26 and 27 June 2024.

Detention Justice Forum

APCOF continues to serve as a co-coordinator of the Detention Justice Forum (DJF), alongside Africa Criminal Justice Reform and Just Detention International. In this role, APCOF participates in coordination meetings and contributes to the development of the DJF's strategy and agenda.

Xenophobia and migration

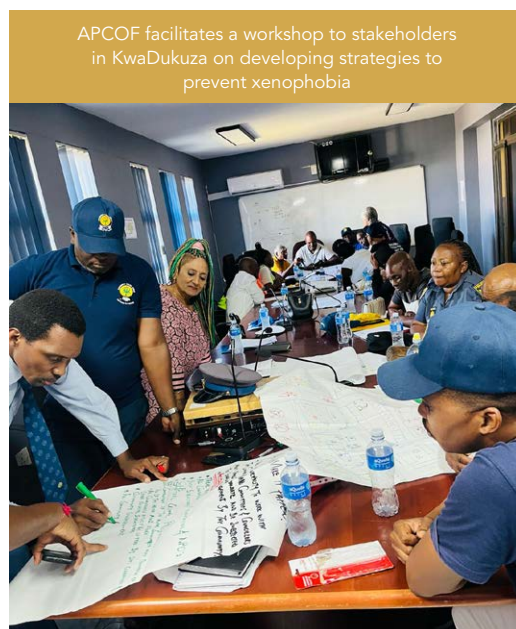
Study on migration and law enforcement by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

APCOF provided technical support to the ACHPR in conducting a study on migration and law enforcement. This study explores the complex intersection of securitisation, the criminalisation of migration, and the distinct powers and responsibilities of law enforcement. It examines the role of the police and criminal justice systems in managing migration, analyses the overarching legal framework relevant to the African region, and offers a range of observations on the human rights implications of criminalising migration, including issues such as unlawful detention, the use of force, pushbacks/expulsions, and torture and ill-treatment. The ACHPR officially adopted the study during its March 2024 session.

Strengthening the role of Community Police Forums in the prevention of, and response to, xenophobic violence

APCOF received support from the Constitutionalism Fund for a project aimed at enhancing the role of Community Police Forums (CPFs) in preventing and responding to xenophobic violence and related hate crimes. This initiative also establishes a formal connection between these local efforts and the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) as part of the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development's (DoJ&CD) implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP) to Combat Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

APCOF's collaboration with the CPFs facilitates long-term strategies to mitigate the risk of xenophobic violence. It assists CPFs in building their capacity to assess potential risks of xenophobic violence, identify resilience factors, conduct community mapping, design safety programmes, and establish and manage an intersectional communication pathway among local, provincial and national stakeholders.



National Economic Development and Labour Council

On 14 August 2024, APCOF made a presentation to the National Economic Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC) dialogue on national policing policy. During the presentation, APCOF emphasised the challenges associated with both over-policing and under-policing of foreign nationals, underscoring the need for these issues to be addressed within policing policy and practice.

Reform of migration management

APCOF has partnered with a civil society initiative led by Lawyers for Human Rights and the International Detention Coalition to advocate for reforms in migration management. The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Regional Network on Alternatives to Detention serves as an advocacy platform to promote rights-based legal and policy frameworks that protect migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees. APCOF participated in the inaugural meeting from 21 to 23 August 2024 and contributed to the development of strategies aimed at encouraging SADC states to uphold their human rights commitments. These strategies focus on fostering inclusive policies that mitigate the criminalisation of migration and xenophobic violence.

African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

APCOF actively participated in the public session of the 79th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, held from 14 May to 3 June 2024. During this session, APCOF made several submissions and presented various statements, including the following:

- **Statement to the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa:** APCOF urged the Commission to address the intersection of the feminisation of poverty, migration and gender-based violence (GBV). The Commission was encouraged to remind African states to ratify and implement the Maputo Protocol, particularly its provisions on combating GBV and eliminating discrimination. APCOF also recommended a study on the feminisation of migration, focusing on the unique forms of violence that migrant women face from law enforcement.
- **Statement to the Special Rapporteur on Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Internally Displaced Persons and Migrants in Africa:** APCOF commended the Commission and the Special Rapporteur for adopting the study on the human rights impact of law enforcement on asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants in Africa. The Commission was urged to remind states to ratify relevant international and regional instruments, such as the AU Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons in Africa, and to ensure the implementation of existing guidelines like the Luanda Guidelines and the African Guiding Principles on the Human Rights of All Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers.
- **Statement on the Human Rights Situation in Africa:** Marking the 10th anniversary of the Luanda Guidelines, APCOF called on the ACHPR to reinforce these guidelines in its promotion and monitoring work, to hold states accountable for human rights violations related to arbitrary arrests and detention practices, and to facilitate dialogue among African states, national human rights institutions and civil society organisations.
- **Statement to the Special Rapporteur on Prisons, Conditions of Detention and Policing in Africa:** APCOF highlighted the ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) court decision in *Mohamed Morlu v. Republic of Sierra Leone* and urged the ACHPR to follow up on its implementation, particularly to prevent excessive use of force during public assemblies. APCOF also called for a reminder on the 2017 Guidelines for the Policing of Assemblies by Law Enforcement Officials in Africa.
- **Statement to the Committee for the Prevention of Torture in Africa:** APCOF commended the Commission for adopting Resolution 557 on conducting a study on prisons and conditions of detention in Africa. The study should assess barriers to state implementation of guidance on reducing overcrowding and include recommendations for practical measures to promote compliance. APCOF also encouraged strengthening independent monitoring and oversight of police custody, pre-trial detention and sentenced detainees.

During the 79th Ordinary Session, APCOF collaborated with the Danish Institute for Human Rights to assist the ACHPR Special Rapporteur on Prisons, Conditions of Detention and Policing in Africa in holding a panel discussion on the 10th Anniversary of the Luanda Guidelines. APCOF highlighted achievements in implementing the guidelines and urged the Commission to renew efforts to promote

their use in addressing human rights protections with regard to arrest, police custody and pre-trial detention situations.

APCOF also participated in the public session of the 81st Ordinary Session of the ACHPR, commencing on 17 October 2024. Key submissions included the following:

- **Statement to the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa:** APCOF urged states that have ratified the Maputo Protocol to implement Article 8 by investing in gender-sensitive training for law enforcement and ensuring equal representation of women in police organisations. States were encouraged to collaborate with civil society organisations to enhance gender-equality training.
- **Statement to the Special Rapporteur on Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Internally Displaced Persons and Migrants in Africa:** APCOF urged South Africa to remain a party to relevant regional and international treaties on the migration and protection of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers. It recommended reconsidering the emphasis on immigration detention in the White Paper and exploring alternatives to detention.
- **Statement on the Human Rights Situation in Africa:** APCOF reiterated the achievements in implementing the Luanda Guidelines and urged the Commission to renew efforts to promote their use in addressing human rights protections with regard to arrest, police custody and pre-trial detention situations.
- **Statement to the Special Rapporteur on Prisons, Conditions of Detention and Policing in Africa:** APCOF urged the government of Kenya to take necessary legislative, policy, institutional and operational measures to ensure law enforcement officials use force in compliance with national, regional and international human rights laws.
- **Statement to the Committee for the Prevention of Torture in Africa:** APCOF urged states to uphold their obligation to prevent torture and encouraged the Committee for the Prevention of Torture in Africa (CPTA) to promote provisions on non-repetition as outlined in the Commission's General Comment No. 4 on the Right to Redress.

During the 81st Ordinary Session, APCOF collaborated with the Danish Institute for Human Rights to support the ACHPR Special Rapporteur on Prisons, Conditions of Detention and Policing in Africa in commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Luanda Guidelines. In recognition of its efforts to promote the Luanda Guidelines, APCOF was honoured with the Med Kaggwa Award.

APCOF also collaborated with the Danish Institute for Human Rights and the ACHPR Special Rapporteur on Prisons, Conditions of Detention and Policing in Africa in publishing the 2024 edition of the newsletter on Policing and Human Rights. This issue focused on the ten-year anniversary of the Luanda Guidelines and included a contribution from APCOF reflecting on past efforts to assess the impact of the Luanda Guidelines' implementation strategy. The newsletter was launched during the October session of the ACHPR, where APCOF also provided input.

Additionally, APCOF participated in several side events, including one on a torture-free trade agreement hosted by the Pan-African Reparations Network and another on civil society monitoring of detention facilities hosted by the International Federation of Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture (FIACAT), an international federation of human rights organisations dedicated to eradicating torture and the death penalty. Furthermore, APCOF partnered with the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT) to promote the ACHPR's resolution on the Principles on Effective Interviewing for Investigations and Information Gathering, known as the Méndez Principles.

Submissions

National instructions for municipal policing

APCOF prepared two distinct submissions in response to the National Commissioner of the South African Police Service's call for public comments and inputs regarding:

- The proposed revisions to the National Standards of Policing for Municipal Police Services concerning the arrest and treatment of individuals until they are handed over to a Community Service Centre Commander; and
- The proposed revisions to the National Standards of Policing for Municipal Police Services regarding crowd management during gatherings and demonstrations.

IPID impact study

APCOF collaborated with the Independent Police Investigative Directorate of South Africa (IPID) to develop and implement a system for measuring IPID's impact. The study aimed to provide insights into IPID's influence on policing in South Africa. The findings were presented to the South African National Assembly Portfolio Committee on Police on 21 August 2024 and were well received, as reflected in the Committee's comments on the IPID Annual Report. The Committee specifically stated:

A recent study by the African Policing Civilian Oversight Forum highlighted that IPID's current performance indicators do not adequately measure its impact on police accountability. There are continued complaints of police misconduct and brutality, yet the slow pace of investigations has eroded public confidence in IPID's ability to hold officers accountable. It is clear that more must be done to speed up investigations and improve communication with the public on case progress.

Comparative Report on Overcrowding of the Judicial Inspectorate for Correctional Services

In January 2025, APCOF submitted recommendations to the Judicial Inspectorate for Correctional Services (JICS) regarding its Comparative Report on Overcrowding in South African correctional facilities. APCOF proposed several enhancements to the report, including the implementation of long-term strategies for crime reduction and prevention, strengthening alternatives to arrest and

detention, developing guidelines for managing petty offenders, adopting sentencing guidelines, reforming bail procedures, addressing infrastructure challenges, and implementing non-custodial measures for violations of the Immigration Act.

Training and seminars

Advanced Human Rights Course on Accountable Policing: Oversight and the Criminal Justice System

APCOF continues to offer the Advanced Human Rights Course, Accountable Policing: Oversight and the Criminal Justice System, in collaboration with the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria. The 2024 course, held from 3 to 7 June 2024, attracted 40 participants. The course emphasises police accountability and oversight as essential components of human rights and governance, aiming to cultivate a community of practitioners proficient in advocating for, and monitoring, police conduct. The course features contributions from various experts in human rights and policing, with APCOF staff and Board members delivering lectures and shaping the course content.

APCOF was once again invited to deliver a lecture on the policing of public gatherings during an Advanced Human Rights Course hosted by the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) on Civil Society and Civic Space at the University of Pretoria. The lecture took place in person on campus on 14 August 2024.

Centre for Human Rights
Advanced Human Rights Course
Accountable Policing - Oversight and the Criminal Justice System

In partnership with African Policing Civilian Oversight Forum (APCOF), the Centre for Human Rights will host a five-day intensive short course examining the international human rights standards, comparative good practice, and emerging continental trends concerning oversight and accountability of the criminal justice system from **28 July - 1 August 2025**.

This course will draw upon longstanding expertise around human rights and policing, insight from specialist oversight institutions, and challenges from scholars in civil society and the media. Enhancing oversight of the criminal justice can directly contribute towards the objective of SDG 16 to build up effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions to reduce levels of violence.

This is a high-level course, particularly designed for practitioners working in the field of police accountability and oversight in Africa. Applications from judicial officers, comparative students with a relevant research focus, government officials responsible for relevant issues, and members of civil society groups experienced in and engaged with the issues are encouraged.

Applicants from around the world are invited. However, the course will have an African focus, and will be aimed at equipping African experts to play a stronger role in international discussions around these topics. Applicants from African countries are therefore in particular encouraged to apply, as are young scholars.

Topics will include:

- Theories, Challenges and Opportunities for accountable policing
- International standards for policing
- Internal & external oversight mechanisms
- Use of force in law enforcement
- Management of assemblies (public order policing)
- Forensic investigation
- Police corruption
- Technological use

Visit www.chr.up.ac.za/ahrc for more information.

Course dates
28 July 2025 to 1 August 2025

Apply until
26 May 2025

APPLY

Course length:
5 days

Estimated effort:
7+ hours/day

Fees:
Online: 150 USD
In-person: 250 USD

Course type:
Short course

Certificate:
On successful completion

Language:
English

Logos:
Centre for Human Rights University of Pretoria, African Policing Civilian Oversight Forum (APCOF), and APCOF.

International Organization for Migration workshop on collaborative security

APCOF was invited to participate in a workshop organised by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to discuss strategies for promoting human security in Somalia through systems of collective safety and security. APCOF's presentation focused on examples of collaborative safety and security models. The workshop took place on 24 and 25 April 2024 in Mogadishu, with APCOF participating virtually.

International Committee of the Red Cross – Senior Workshop on International Rules Governing Police Operations

APCOF was invited to deliver a lecture at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Senior Workshop on International Rules Governing Police Operations. This educational event, held from 21 to 23 May 2024, was designed for ICRC delegates from police and armed forces. APCOF's presentation, conducted virtually, focused on oversight and accountability in respect of policing at the local level.

Hybrid security

APCOF serves on the United Nations Development Programme Reference Group dedicated to advancing knowledge and thought leadership on hybrid security. On 23 April, APCOF participated virtually in a Reference Group meeting.

Abidjan Rules

On 28 June 2024, APCOF participated in a workshop hosted by the ACHPR focusing on the implementation of the Abidjan Rules in South Africa. The event, held at the University of the Western Cape, was attended by the ACHPR Chairperson of the Committee for the Prevention of Torture In Africa and the Special Rapporteur on Prisons, Conditions of Detention and Policing in Africa.

Network of African National Human Rights Institutions Forum

APCOF was invited to present at the official NANHRI forum preceding the October 2024 ACHPR session. The presentation focused on the decriminalisation of poverty and status, highlighting the role of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs).

Training in discrimination in the criminal justice system for European Human Rights Focal Points

FIACAT invited APCOF to provide training for incoming European Union (EU) Human Rights Focal Points stationed in delegations across Africa. The training, held on 19 November 2024, focused on discrimination, particularly the criminalisation of poverty and status, and the role of the police in public-space governance. This session was part of the EU's initiative to address discrimination, a key theme for the 2025 EU–AU Human Rights Dialogue, and marked the first in a series of planned trainings to develop strategies and programming on these issues.

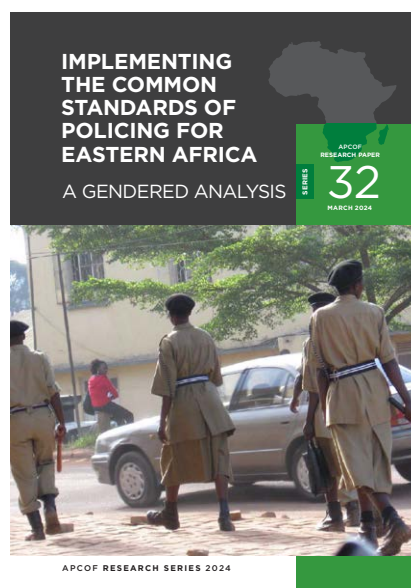
Study on non-custodial measures by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

In collaboration with DIGNITY and Lawyers for Human Rights, APCOF is supporting the ACHPR in developing a study on non-custodial measures. From 13 to 14 November 2024, APCOF attended a workshop in Nairobi, Kenya, organised by the African Commission to identify key issues for inclusion in the study and to establish a methodology and timeline.

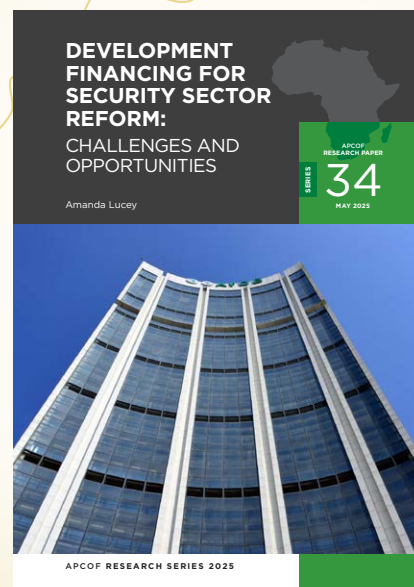
APCOF in print

Publications by the African Policing Civilian Oversight Forum (APCOF) in 2024 included the following:

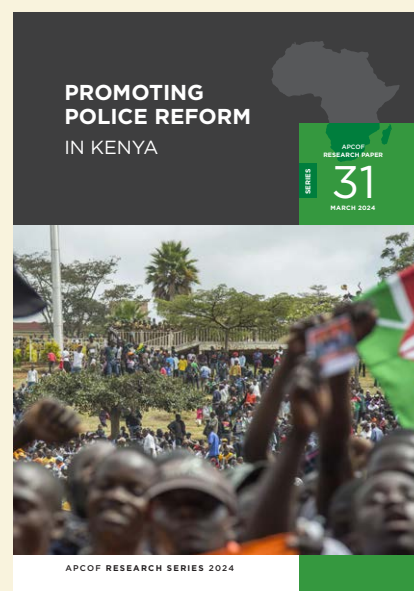
- **Leveraging the Maputo Protocol: Enhancing the Police Response to Improve Access to Justice for Women** traverses the existing, relevant legal framework (with a focus on the Maputo Protocol which signals a commitment to substantive gender equality by African states). Using a relational-feminism lens, the paper examines how existing legal interpretive instruments intersect with gendered dynamics to structure relations that hinder access to justice. A relational-feminist approach further considers how these norms can be transformed in order to structure more gender-sensitive criminal justice responses.
- **Implementing the Common Standards of Policing for Eastern Africa: A Gendered Analysis** discusses the contextual risks and vulnerabilities undermining compliance with the Uganda Police Force (UPF's) gendered commitments. It seeks to understand the underlying causes and drivers contributing to these risks and inform measures aimed at fostering gender equality within all levels of the UPF.



- **Development Financing for Security Sector Reform: Challenges and Opportunities** discusses the role of multilateral development banks (MDBs) in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Security sector reform (SSR) is a key part of this agenda, but MDBs have traditionally limited their assistance in this area due to non-political clauses in their articles of agreement. However, the role of MDBs has expanded over time and there is now an opportunity to develop more people and citizen-centred engagement in SSR through MDB financing. The paper analyses the African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, European Investment Bank, Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank to trace the evolution of their support for SSR and to provide recommendations for the future.



- **Promoting Police Reform in Kenya** tracks developments following the 2007/2008 post-election violence and the subsequent comprehensive police reforms. As part of supporting the ongoing police reform efforts in the country, this paper discusses two important variables for sustaining and advancing police reform efforts in Kenya. It observes that national ownership of, and active public participation in, the reform project is essential to its success. It also underscores that efforts to enhance operational efficiency and expand the institutional capacity of the National Police Service should go hand in hand with institutional reforms and changes.



- **Shifting the Narrative: Upholding Rights through Effective Interviewing in Kenya** responds to the resolution adopted by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) in 2022 concerning the Principles on Effective Interviewing for Investigations and Information Gathering (the Méndez Principles). The Commission's resolution encourages state parties to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights to utilise the Méndez Principles as a framework for reviewing their interview practices and preventing torture and other ill-treatment during hearings and interviews. It offers a comprehensive review of case files and relevant civil and criminal case law, providing an evidence-based analysis of how current police interview practices are reflected against regional and international standards.



- **Exploring the Impact of the Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID)** assesses the impact of IPID by reflecting on alternative sources of information to the ones that IPID itself has used to measure performance. As such, it seeks to contribute to a wider reflection on how IPID's impact could be measured and maximised in the future.



Financial statements

for the year ending 28 FEBRUARY 2025

THE AFRICAN POLICING CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT FORUM TRUST (NO: IT 1900/2012)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 28 FEBRUARY 2025

	2025	2024
	R	R
ASSETS	20 578 934	23 600 064
Non-current assets	99 961	128 420
Equipment	99 961	128 420
Current assets	20 478 973	23 471 644
Accounts receivable	86 983	69 054
Accrued income	155 291	185 974
Cash and cash equivalents	14 335 843	17 835 429
Investments	5 900 857	5 381 188
Loan receivable	–	–
Total assets	20 578 934	23 600 064
RESERVES AND LIABILITIES	20 578 934	23 600 064
Reserves	10 622 492	11 681 301
Accumulated funds	1 906 583	2 978 410
Equipment fund	99 961	128 420
Sustainability fund	8 615 948	8 574 472
Current liabilities	9 956 442	11 918 763
Accounts payable	270 211	86 561
Deferred income	9 415 492	11 685 725
Provision for leave pay	270 738	146 477
Total reserves and liabilities	20 578 934	23 600 064

Financial statements

for the year ending 28 FEBRUARY 2025

THE AFRICAN POLICING CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT FORUM TRUST (NO: IT 1900/2012)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 28 FEBRUARY 2025

	2025	2024
	R	R
INCOME	11 617 408	11 358 747
Grant income	9 188 034	9 309 238
Consultancy income	725 050	673 578
Fair value adjustment on investment	32 161	26 036
Foreign exchange gains	6 757	1 985
Interest received	1 665 407	1 347 909
EXPENDITURE	12 676 217	8 858 115
Administration costs	2 154 919	1 613 216
Accounting and administration	133 587	188 832
Annual report	33 982	33 818
Audit fees	112 523	73 889
Bank charges	34 594	31 054
Communication	23 614	27 097
Computer expenses	42 709	12 514
Depreciation	51 458	46 662
General expenses	48 035	49 862
Insurance	30 720	26 281
Interest and penalties	–	1 704
Internet and website	51 537	85 743
Legal fees	13 975	14 174
Membership fees	3 129	3 209
Printing, stationery and postage	29 555	32 354
Provision for leave pay	124 260	(359 880)
Rent, water and electricity	484 592	493 159
Repairs and maintenance	6 243	2 350
Salaries and contributions	885 819	826 907
Staff training, recruitment and development	44 574	19 190
Travel costs	15	4 296
Programme costs	10 521 298	7 244 899
Events and meetings	3 613 791	1 028 172
Accommodation	779 955	216 550
Conferences, meetings and workshops	742 047	258 187
Travel costs	2 091 789	553 434
Publications	690 178	351 106
Research and consulting	860 771	607 993
Salaries and contributions	5 323 119	5 252 176
Visibility actions	33 439	5 452
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	(1 058 809)	2 500 632

APCOF donors



association for
the prevention
of torture



CFLI/FCIL

Canada Fund for Local Initiatives
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Notes



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