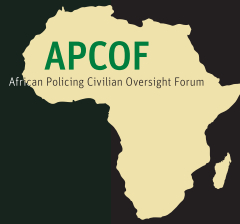




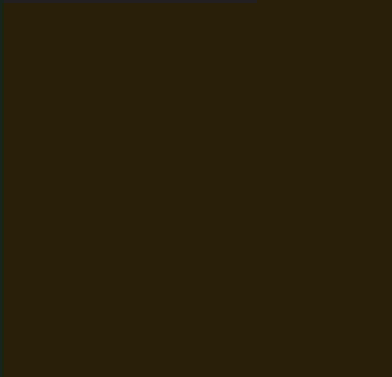
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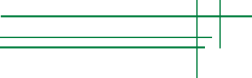
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# ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

<b>ACHPR</b>	African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
<b>APCOF</b>	African Policing Civilian Oversight Forum
<b>AU</b>	African Union
<b>AUC</b>	African Union Commission
<b>CCPJC</b>	Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organisation
<b>DJF</b>	Detention Justice Forum
<b>DIHR</b>	Danish Institute for Human Rights
<b>EAC</b>	East African Community
<b>EAPCCO</b>	East African Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation
<b>ICJ</b>	International Commission of Jurists
<b>IEC</b>	Independent Electoral Commission
<b>IHRDA</b>	Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa
<b>IPID</b>	Independent Police Investigative Directorate
<b>IPOA</b>	Independent Police Oversight Authority
<b>ISS</b>	Institute for Security Studies
<b>JICS</b>	Judicial Inspectorate for Correctional Services
<b>NANHRI</b>	Network of African National Human Rights Institutions
<b>NAP</b>	National Action Plan to Combat Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in South Africa
<b>NHRI</b>	National Human Rights Institutes
<b>NPM</b>	National Preventive Mechanism
<b>PAP</b>	Pan-African Parliament
<b>SADC</b>	Southern African Development Community
<b>SAHRC</b>	South African Human Rights Commission
<b>SAPS</b>	South African Police Service
<b>SARPCCO</b>	Southern African Regional Police Commissioners Cooperation Organisation
<b>SERI</b>	Socio-Economic Rights Institute
<b>SOP</b>	Standard Operating Procedure
<b>SPT</b>	UN Subcommittee for the Prevention of Torture
<b>SSR</b>	Security Sector Reform
<b>UCT</b>	University of Cape Town
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNCAT</b>	United Nations Convention against Torture
<b>UNCERD</b>	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
<b>UNPOL</b>	United Nations Police

# ABOUT APCOF

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## Vision and mission

The African Policing Civilian Oversight Forum (APCOF) is a not-for-profit trust working on issues of police accountability and governance in Africa. APCOF promotes the values which the establishment of civilian oversight seeks to achieve, namely: assisting to restore public confidence; developing a culture of human rights; promoting integrity and transparency within the police; and maintaining good working relationships between the police and communities.

While APCOF is active in the field of policing, its work is located in the broader paradigm of promoting democratic governance and the rule of law. APCOF emerged from the recognition of the need to promote police accountability in Africa. The establishment of APCOF was driven by the view that African knowledge, expertise and networks were essential drivers for achieving greater accountability. APCOF was established 20 years ago in 2004 as a coalition of police oversight bodies and practitioners, and was registered in 2006 as a not-for-profit company under South African company law. In 2012, APCOF was reregistered as a trust in a move that shifted the role of APCOF's continental network from a fiduciary role to a strategic one. This allowed flexibility for new partners to join while maintaining a cost-effective system of administrative governance, which is now invested in the APCOF Trust.

## Objectives

The objectives of APCOF are to:

- ▲ Promote police accountability;
- ▲ Advocate for, and support the development of, institutions and mechanisms for oversight of the police;
- ▲ Create and sustain public confidence in the police;
- ▲ Develop a culture of good governance, human rights, integrity, transparency and accountability within the police; and
- ▲ Promote good working relationships between the police, civil society and the community.

APCOF works at the continental, regional and national levels, offering a methodology that seeks to embed intervention strategies that are mutually reinforcing.

In order to meet its strategic goals, APCOF adopts a mix of mechanisms, including:

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

# CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

It is my pleasure to present the APCOF annual report for 2024.

We continue to advance all our strategic objectives, including:

- ▲ Developing knowledge and building support among all constituencies 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 support;
- ▲ Building evidence of the impact of police oversight on improving police performance and effectiveness;
- ▲ Advocating for robust legal protections and accountability frameworks; and
- ▲ Ensuring that accountability and oversight are reflected in all standards, guidelines, protocols and policies at continental, regional and domestic levels.



APCOF was once again proud to collaborate with partners from state and civil society, as well as with 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 Security Sector Reform (SSR) Policy offers a framework for countries to develop and realign the policies, structures and capacities of security sector institutions. This aims to enhance their effectiveness, efficiency and responsiveness to democratic control and to the security and justice needs of the people. APCOF provided technical support to the AU Commission (AUC) in developing an operational guidance note on oversight and accountability in the security sector.

APCOF continues its valuable work with the East African Police Commissioners' Cooperation Organisation (EAPCCO). On 25 October 2023, EAPCCO adopted the Guidelines on Gender Mainstreaming for Policing, aligned with the Common Standards for Policing. These guidelines were developed with the technical support of APCOF.

The study on the impact of the Independent Police Oversight Directorate of South Africa (IPID) was a significant undertaking. APCOF and IPID collaborated to develop and implement a system for impact measurement. The project involved compiling surveys, managing responses from both the South African Police Service (SAPS) and complainants, and facilitating focus groups with IPID staff. This study will serve as an important reference for any oversight agency seeking to measure its impact.

The 10th year of our course on police accountability and oversight, in partnership with the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria, was a significant milestone. The course highlights police accountability and oversight as a crucial human rights and governance issue, helping to build a community of practitioners skilled in advocating for improved police accountability, and capable of overseeing police actions effectively.

My thanks go to my fellow trustees, the APCOF director, staff, our development partners, and stakeholders for making 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)**  
Associate Professor in Political Sciences at the University of Pretoria (UP), lecturing in public policy and international relations. She currently serves 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 in South Africa.
- ▲ **Mr Greg Cronje (Treasurer)**  
Chartered accountant and registered auditor. He is a past finance director at the Open Society Foundation for South Africa and senior manager at Ernest and Young, and Ngubane & Co. He is currently a financial consultant.
- ▲ **Tapiwa Gandidze**  
Director at TCG Attorneys. She was previously a Director at Norton Rose Fulbright and, before that, at Cheadle Thompson & Haysom.
- ▲ **Adv. Pansy Tlakula**  
Immediate past chairperson of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), the South African Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), and 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 of 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 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 ACHPR in the development and adoption of Guidelines on Adhering to Human and Peoples’ Rights under the African Charter in the Context of States of Emergency or Disaster.
▲ 2022	Technical support to the Eastern African Police Commissioners Cooperation Organisation (EAPPCCO) in the development and adoption of Monitoring Indicators and Measures for the Common Standards of Policing in East Africa.
▲ 2020	Publication of the simplified version of the Principles for the Decriminalisation of Petty Offences in Africa.
▲ 2019	Technical support to the Pan-African Parliament in the development and adoption of the Model Police Law for Africa.
	Technical support to EAPPCCO on 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 Guidelines on Crime and Violence Prevention.
▲ 2017	Technical support for the development and adoption by the ACHPR of the Principles for the Decriminalisation of Petty Offences in Africa.
▲ 2016	Technical support for the development and adoption by the ACHPR of the Guidelines for the Policing of Assemblies by Law Enforcement Officials in Africa.
	Technical support for the development and adoption by EAPPCCO 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 bi-annual newsletter on Policing and Human Rights in Africa.
	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 for the development and adoption of the Guidelines on the Conditions of Arrest, Conditions of 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 (UP).

# PROJECTS 2023–2024

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## Operational guidance on oversight and accountability

APCOF collaborates with the Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security of the African Union Commission (AUC).

The AU Security Sector Reform (SSR) policy provides a framework for countries to develop or realign their policies and structures and the capacities of institutions and groups engaged in the security sector, aiming to make them more effective, efficient and responsive to democratic control and to the security and justice needs of the people.

The Policy Framework also defines the scope of the security sector as including individuals, groups and institutions responsible for the provision, management and oversight of the security organs, and encourages AU Member States to strengthen democratic oversight instruments for the security sector.

APCOF provided technical support to the AUC in developing an Operational Guidance Note on oversight and accountability for the security sector. APCOF co-organised the 5th African Union/Regional Economic Communities (RECs) Security Sector Reform Steering Committee meeting, held from 22 to 23 November 2023, at the AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The meeting discussed the Operational Guidance Note and prepared a second draft for review.

## Guidelines on human and peoples' rights under states of emergency or disaster

On 4 March 2023, APCOF presented the final draft of the ACHPR's Guidelines on Adhering to Human and People's Rights under the African Charter in the Context of States of Emergency and Disaster. APCOF also addressed technical questions from experts and the ACHPR Commissioners related to the final draft before its adoption by the ACHPR. Subsequently, APCOF participated in the launch of the Guidelines on 11 May 2023.

## Decriminalisation of poverty and status

APCOF continues to support the Global Campaign to Decriminalise Poverty and Status at both the regional and global levels. APCOF has been nominated to coordinate the African components of the Campaign's work and maintains a cross-cutting interest in UN-level developments, particularly through the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) and the development of a study by the UN Special Rapporteurs on the right to adequate housing and on poverty regarding the criminalisation of homelessness and poverty.

In the lead-up to and during the 32nd session of the UN CCPCJ, held in Vienna from 22 to 26 May 2023, APCOF played a key role in the Campaign's strategic focus. Leading up to the session, APCOF was involved in the development of a draft resolution calling for the establishment of a committee to address the criminalisation of poverty and status. This committee would provide guidance for States on necessary reviews of their laws, policies and practices that discriminate on the basis of status, identity and activism.

**JUSTICE FOR ALL.**

Global action to combat discrimination and inequality in criminal justice systems

UN CCPCJ SIDE EVENT

International law sets forth that all are equal before the law without discrimination, and governments have incorporated equal protection and non-discrimination into their constitutions and laws. In practice, however, criminal justice systems around the world discriminatorily criminalise people who are marginalized based on poverty, race, caste, ethnicity, religion, disability, nationality, gender, and other statuses or identities. Building on momentum from last year's CCPCJ and a growing, global movement to address these inequities, this side-event will bring together governments, practitioners, civil society, and other experts to demonstrate discrimination within criminal laws and policies; share effective solutions; and highlight urgent actions needed to increase international cooperation on addressing inequality in criminal justice systems.

25 MAY 2023  
08H00-08H50 CEST

In-person  
Vienna International Center  
(VIC) Room M2

Join online  
[bit.ly/justice-discrimination-inequality](https://bit.ly/justice-discrimination-inequality)

Organisers

South Africa, UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, ILF, PENAL REFORM INTERNATIONAL, DECRIMINALISE POVERTY & STATUS, OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS, DPU, idpc, APCOF, decrimpovertystatus.org

During the session, APCOF co-sponsored a side event on 25 May 2023, with the International Legal Foundation, Penal Reform International, the Open Society Foundations (OSF), Amnesty International, the USA, South Africa and Brazil. The event, titled Access to Justice for All, featured speakers from the US Department of Justice, the South African High Court, the Brazilian Ministry of Justice, the UN Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, the UN Special Rapporteurs on the right to adequate housing and on extreme poverty, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the International Commission of Jurists – Kenya Chapter (ICJ - Kenya).

APCOF was co-sponsor and spoke at a second side event on 26 May 2023, titled The Use of Non-Custodial Measures as Pathways to Reduce Overcrowding in Prisons. In addition to APCOF, the event featured speakers including Manfred Nowak, the former Special Rapporteur on torture, Hon. Commissioner Maria Teresa Manuela from the ACHPR, and Penal Reform International. APCOF's contribution addressed the issue from an African-regional and gender perspective, emphasising the need for gender-specific considerations when designing non-custodial measures, and highlighting the criminalisation of poverty as a major factor in the incarceration of women.

As part of its role on the Global Campaign's Coordinating Committee (GCCC), APCOF participated in advocacy and activism training provided by OSF, held over three weeks in April and May 2023.

APCOF was invited by OSF to co-facilitate a regional discussion on the decriminalisation of women's poverty in Nairobi, Kenya from 6 to 8 November 2023. At the event, APCOF made several presentations and led workshop-style sessions for feminist lawyers and activists from across Africa, focusing on how to utilise the Global Campaign's resources to challenge laws that criminalise women based on their poverty.

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

## Democratic policing

### Promoting the Common Standards for Policing in the East African Community

APCOF continues to work with the Eastern African Police Commissioners' Cooperation Organisation (EAPCCO) to advance and promote the Common Standards for Policing in East Africa. These standards establish a unified, rights-based

approach to policing in the region. The Measures and Indicators to Assess Implementation of the Common Standards of Policing were formally launched by EAPCCO on 8 December 2022.

A complementary set of Guidelines for Gender Mainstreaming in Policing, aligned with the Common Standards for Policing, was adopted by EAPCCO on 25 October 2023. While the Common Standards for Policing have been valuable in enhancing the quality of police services, gendered barriers to equal representation and access these services persist. The systemic nature of gender inequality demands more than simply extending the same rights and services to women. The Guidelines explore gender mainstreaming as a strategy to ensure that the implementation of the Common Standards for Policing allows women to exercise their rights equally. It will be utilised by police management, oversight bodies and civil society to advance gender mainstreaming in policing.

## IPID impact

APCOF and Independent Police Investigative Directorate (IPID) of South Africa collaborated to develop and apply a system for measuring IPID's impact. In recent years, the National Assembly's Portfolio Committee on Police has repeatedly observed that IPID relies solely on output indicators, which complicates impact assessment. This project seeks to respond to this, and involves compiling surveys, managing responses from both SAPS and complainants, and facilitating focus groups with IPID staff.



## Effective non-coercive interviewing

APCOF contributed to the development of the International Principles on Effective Interviewing for Investigations and Information Gathering (the Méndez Principles), launched on 9 June 2021. These Principles aim to transform how state authorities question individuals by grounding their approach in science, law and ethics. They emphasise rapport-based interviewing as a more effective and respectful method for obtaining accurate information while safeguarding human rights.

On 14 and 15 March 2023, APCOF, in partnership with Fair Trials International and ICJ Kenya, promoted the Principles among defence attorneys in Kenya. This workshop aimed not only to disseminate and train on the Méndez Principles, but also to support a broader project, funded by ROLE UK, to implement an EAPCCO standard operating procedure for interviews in Kenya.

Additionally, APCOF partnered with the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT) to popularise the ACHPR resolution on the Méndez Principles. This two-year partnership involves training southern African police organisations through the Southern African Regional Police Commissioners Cooperation Organisation (SARPCCO) on the Méndez Principles, identifying key needs in interview practice, and providing targeted support to police organisations, NHRIs and civil society organisations (CSOs) for effective implementation of the Méndez Principles.

## Use of force

APCOF launched its report on the use of lethal force by the Kenyan Police Service on 10 May 2023 in Nairobi. The report was presented in collaboration with research partners including NANHRI, the Independent Police Oversight Authority (IPOA), the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR), the Independent Medico Legal Unit (IMLU), Mathare Social Justice Centre (MSJC) and Laboratório de Análise da Violência from the State University of Rio de Janeiro (LAV-UERJ). The keynote address was delivered by Mr Maurice Okoth, Under-secretary in charge of administration at the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government, Kenya.

APCOF continues to collaborate with the University of Pretoria's Centre for Human Rights' Freedom from Violence project to provide support to the ACHPR in its study on the use of force by law enforcement officials in Africa.

## Community Policing Indaba

APCOF provided technical support to the SAPS Division of Visible Policing for the National Community Policing Indaba, held from 17 to 19 May 2023 in Pretoria. The Indaba was a response to the 2022 State of the Nation Address by the President, which highlighted the urgent need to strengthen community police forums. Additionally, APCOF has been invited to participate in the national task team responsible for the re-establishment of community policing and community police forums in the country.

## Deprivation of liberty

### South African National Preventive Mechanism

APCOF engaged with the UN Subcommittee for the Prevention of Torture (SPT) in advance of its visit to South Africa from 27 February to 10 March 2023. APCOF prepared a written submission which made four key recommendations: (1) the need for law reform to include giving national preventive mechanism (NPM) institutions a legislative mandate to conduct NPM monitoring; (2) the need for a strategic plan to monitor police stations, focusing on facilities with frequent reports of torture and inadequate conditions of detention; (3) visits to specific stations identified as problematic based on APCOF's data analysis for the NPM; and (4) the inclusion of APCOF research reports on the risks of police custody, the use of lethal force, and the role of civil society in the NPM, in the SPT's preparation.

Additionally, APCOF led the development of a submission to the SPT on behalf of the Detention Justice Forum (DJF), which APCOF co-convenes with Africa Criminal Justice Reform and Just Detention International.

APCOF also played a key role in establishing the NPM CSO Forum to formalise interaction between the NPM and civil society. APCOF convened an initial meeting on 3 August 2023 to discuss the Forum's establishment, and co-drafted the Forum's terms of reference. APCOF presented the draft to the NPM Coordinating Committee on 5 September 2023. The terms of reference were approved by CSOs, and the Forum was officially established on 27 October 2023, with APCOF staff among 10 individuals nominated for the Forum's interim coordination structure.

Furthermore, APCOF continues to actively support the NPM, participating in a refresher training for NPM monitors on 1 November 2023, and facilitated NPM strategic planning on 14 and 15 November 2023 in Johannesburg.

### Torture-free trade treaty

APCOF continues to support the Africa sub-group of the global coalition advocating for the adoption of a torture-free trade treaty. APCOF engaged in strategy discussion, and provided updates from Africa, during regular network meetings. Additionally, APCOF attended a practitioner's roundtable hosted by the University of Pretoria on 28 November 2023 and participated in a coalition webinar with the UN Special Rapporteur on torture on 14 December 2023.

### Detention Justice Forum

APCOF continues to serve as a co-coordinator of the Detention Justice Forum (DJF), together with Africa Criminal Justice Reform and Just Detention International. In addition to leading the DJF submission to the SPT described above, APCOF's role involves attending coordinating meetings and supporting the development of the DJF strategy and agenda.

## Private prisons

On 23 March 2023, APCOF, in collaboration with the University of Bristol’s Human Rights Implementation Centre, the Omega Foundation, and the University of Notre Dame, co-hosted an expert meeting focused on monitoring privately run detention centres in South Africa and the UK. Discussions centred on the implications and challenges for oversight bodies monitoring such contexts.

## Xenophobia and migration

### Collaboration with the National Action Plan to Combat Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in South Africa

APCOF collaborates with the South African Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, the lead government body in implementing the National Action Plan to Combat Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in South Africa (NAP), and participates in NAP implementation structures, including the Programme Implementation Committee and the Rapid Response Task Team.

In March 2023, APCOF was invited to review the Department’s draft Framework for a Virtual Repository of Data Collection of Disaggregated Statistical Data for the Measurement of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. The Framework aims to support NAP implementation. APCOF recommended additional data categories to enhance the Framework’s ability to capture information on hate-related motivations, arrests of foreign nationals, length of detention, holding cells, and police training programmes.

APCOF also supported a workshop from 13 to 14 September 2023 involving the Rapid Response Task Team of the NAP and provincial Community Police Boards. The workshop, funded jointly by the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) within the framework of the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Joint Programme on Social Cohesion in South Africa, focused on the role of the Community Police Board and Forums in the Rapid Response Mechanism. An outcome statement was signed by all stakeholders, committing to participate in the Rapid Response Task Team. Additionally, an agreement was reached for the Rapid Response Task Team and the Provincial CPF Boards to conduct a nationwide risk assessment survey to identify communities at risk of xenophobic violence.

This assessment is ongoing and supported by the Human Sciences Research Council, which will analyse the survey data and produce a report to assist in responding to police precincts most at risk of unrest and xenophobic violence.



## Strengthening the role of Community Police Forums in the prevention of and response to xenophobic violence and related intolerances

APCOF received a grant from the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives to strengthen the role of Community Police Forums (CPFs) in preventing and responding to xenophobic violence and related intolerances in two at-risk communities: Diepsloot and Mamelodi East. The project aims to enhance the capacity of the CPFs to develop safety plans with early warning and safety support tailored to the specific risk factors and experiences of migrant women and girls.

## Department of Social Development social cohesion workshops

The Department of Social Development partners with the Multi-Party Trust Fund to support the implementation of the National Action Plan to Combat Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in South Africa (NAP). APCOF participated in three workshops on social cohesion and migrant integration: one in Thokoza township on 31 August 2023, and two in Worcester, Western Cape from 23 to 25 August 2023 and 18 to 19 September 2023. The Thokoza workshop focused on building the capacity of community leaders and influencers to positively integrate migrants, while the Worcester workshops aimed to enhance the skills of social workers from various municipalities and districts in the Western Cape to integrate migrants into communities. Additionally, APCOF is involved in the Department of Social Development's National Task Team, a structure comprising various government departments, community structures and CSOs interested in migration and social cohesion issues.

Additionally, APCOF facilitated two two-day workshops: one in Gauteng on 4 to 5 April 2023, and another in KwaZulu-Natal on 24 to 25 April 2023. These workshops utilised a training manual developed by APCOF under a previous EU-funded project aimed at enhancing the capacity of CPFs to combat xenophobic violence and hate crimes.

## Study on migration and law enforcement

APCOF was contracted to provide technical assistance to the ACHPR for a study on the impact of law enforcement on the rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. The study utilises continental expertise to address the human rights challenges faced by these groups in the enforcement of both immigration law and ordinary criminal law.

The resulting study, adopted by the ACHPR, explores the intersection of securitisation, the criminalisation of migration, and the specific powers and responsibilities of law enforcement. It examines the role of the police and criminal justice systems in the policing of migration, analyses the regional legal framework, and offers observations on the human rights impacts of criminalising migration, such as unlawful detention, use of force, pushbacks/expulsions, and torture and ill-treatment. The study includes four case studies to illustrate how these issues manifest across countries and regions.

## Guidelines for Crime and Violence Prevention in East Africa

The Guidelines for Crime and Violence Prevention for East Africa were adopted by the Eastern African Chiefs of Police through EAPCCO on 25 October 2023. The Guidelines serve as a practical resource for professionals across various sectors, including security, health, education, economic development and transport, on their roles in fostering safe communities.

While law enforcement is crucial in protecting people from crime and violence, it cannot address all risk factors on its own. Many of these factors extend beyond the scope of law enforcement. The Guidelines are designed to support police officers at both national strategic and local implementation levels in their advocacy with all stakeholders, both within and outside of government, to reduce risks and enhance resilience in crime and violence prevention.



## African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

APCOF participated in the two public ordinary sessions of the ACHPR held during the reporting period.

During the 75th Session, held in Banjul, The Gambia, and online from 3 to 12 May 2023, APCOF engaged in the following activities:

- ▲ **Statement on the Human Rights Situation in Africa:** APCOF highlighted the Guidelines on Adhering to Human and Peoples' Rights under the African Charter in the Context of States of Emergency or Disaster, urging the ACHPR to disseminate the Guidelines broadly, and encourage States to implement them in accordance with Part 6.
- ▲ **Statement to the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa (jointly presented with the Campaign to Decriminalise Poverty and Status):** APCOF and the Campaign urged the ACHPR to implement the Principles on the Decriminalisation of Petty Offences in Africa. The statement focused on reviewing and repealing laws that criminalise poverty and status, addressing the feminisation of poverty, and encouraging research on gendered harms from such criminalisation.
- ▲ **Statement to the Special Rapporteur on Prisons, Conditions of Detention and Policing in Africa:** APCOF expressed concerns about the arbitrary and excessive use of force by law enforcement officials in policing assemblies and gatherings across Africa. The statement called for compliance with the Guidelines on the Policing of Assemblies by Law Enforcement Officials in Africa, including training on the use of force and establishing effective oversight mechanisms.
- ▲ **Statement to the Committee for the Prevention of Torture in Africa:** APCOF recommended that the Committee encourage police organisations to review interview procedures against the Méndez Principles, and support the development of the Torture Free Trade Treaty.
- ▲ **Statement to the Special Rapporteur on Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Internally Displaced Persons and Migrants in Africa:** APCOF addressed xenophobic violence and policing in South Africa, urging the Special Rapporteur to recommend mechanisms to prevent and respond to such violence and ensure political leaders' statements align with human rights obligations.

APCOF also participated in the 77th Session, held in Arusha, Tanzania from 20 October to 9 November 2023, during which it engaged in the following activities:

- ▲ **Statement on the Human Rights Situation in Africa:** APCOF called on the Commission to reaffirm the significance of Resolution 103a, which underscores the necessity of independent civilian police oversight mechanisms. The statement urged the Commission to remind States of their obligations to establish and support these mechanisms, which are essential for enhancing transparency, accountability, and adherence to human rights in policing. APCOF also proposed the development of normative guidance to aid States in establishing and effectively operating these oversight bodies.
- ▲ **Statement to the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa:** APCOF requested the ACHPR to engage States on their obligation under Articles 2 and 8 of the Maputo Protocol, which relates to gender equality and women's rights. The statement emphasised the need for States to implement measures that facilitate access to justice for victims of gender-based violence (GBV). It also called for the development of law enforcement capacity to recognise and respond to GBV effectively, including through targeted training.
- ▲ **Statement to the Special Rapporteur on Prisons, Conditions of Detention and Policing in Africa:** APCOF, in collaboration with the Global Campaign to Decriminalise Poverty and Status, urged the Special Rapporteur to engage African states on several issues: (a) review and repeal laws that criminalise homeless persons based on their status, particularly those criminalising life-sustaining activities in public spaces; (b) provide training to law

enforcement officials and judicial officers on the Principles on the Decriminalisation of Petty Offences; (c) establish effective and accessible complaints and accountability mechanisms for law enforcement agencies; (d) promote alternative approaches to policing public spaces, ensuring collaboration with social services and NGOs to support homeless individuals; and (e) improve data collection and reporting on homelessness to inform evidence-based interventions.

- ▲ **Statement to the Committee for the Prevention of Torture in Africa:** APCOF welcomed the South Gauteng High Court's ruling in *Smith and Others vs the Minister of Correctional Services*, which held the state liable for torture in a correctional facility under the Prevention and Combatting of Torture of Persons Act. This ruling represents a significant legal development in the fight against torture in South Africa.
- ▲ **Statement to the Special Rapporteur on Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Internally Displaced Persons and Migrants in Africa:** APCOF congratulated the new Special Rapporteur and encouraged continued efforts to finalise and disseminate the study on policing and migration in Africa. The statement also emphasised the importance of broad dissemination of the study's findings to ensure States' compliance with human rights obligations.

## Submissions

### IPID Amendment Bill

APCOF submitted comments on the IPID Amendment Bill, expressing concerns that the Bill had been introduced into the parliamentary legislative process before being certified by the State Law Advisors. Key points in APCOF's submission included: (a) the inclusion of IPID's responsibilities related to the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM); (b) the process for appointing the executive director, which in the draft excluded Parliament's role, raising constitutional concerns; (c) criteria for appointing investigators; and (d) proposed amendments to the IPID mandate. APCOF's recommendations regarding the recruitment criteria for investigators, and the inclusion of the attempted murder mandate, were adopted by the Committee.

### Correctional Services Amendment Bill

APCOF made a written submission and presented before the Portfolio Committee on Correctional Services on 30 August 2023 regarding the proposed amendments to the Correctional Services Amendment Bill. APCOF's submission addressed three primary concerns: (a) the Bill did not ensure the financial independence of the Judicial Inspectorate for Correctional Services (JICS), which is crucial for its effective functioning and oversight; (b) the Bill failed to recognise JICS as a member of South Africa's NPM, undermining its role in monitoring and preventing torture and ill-treatment; and (c) the language used in the Bill regarding the appointment process for the chief executive officer of JICS, which lacked clarity and potentially affected the integrity of the appointment process.

### Submission to the UN Special Rapporteur on torture regarding private prisons

APCOF, together with the Human Rights Implementation Centre at the University of Bristol, Omega Research Foundation, and the University of Notre Dame, made a submission to the UN Special Rapporteur on torture's report on current issues and good practices in prison management. The submission made recommendations regarding maintaining human rights standards in prisons outsourced to private companies, and on addressing the criminalisation of women (with a particular focus on poverty-related crimes) given the number of women in prison, which has increased significantly in the past 20 years.

## Submission to the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association

APCOF contributed to a joint submission with International Centre for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL), IHRDA and others to the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association regarding law enforcement and the right to peaceful protest. The submission outlines recommendations and tools aimed at improving law enforcement practices and oversight. APCOF contributed information on national and regional initiatives across Africa related to law enforcement's role in promoting and protecting human rights during assemblies. This information will assist the Special Rapporteur in developing a new model protocol for law enforcement in facilitating assemblies.

## Training and seminars

### Advanced human rights course on accountable policing: Oversight and the criminal justice system

APCOF presented the 10th iteration of its course on police accountability and oversight, in collaboration with the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria, from 5 to 9 June 2023. The course frames police accountability and oversight as a critical human rights and governance issue, aiming to building a community of practitioners skilled in advocating for and monitoring police actions. Over 80 students registered, including representatives from the newly established Malawi Police Complaints Commission, the Nigerian Police Service Commission, and attendees from across Africa, as well as India, Belgium and Malaysia. The course featured contributions from various experts in human rights and policing, with APCOF staff and board members delivering lectures and shaping the course content.

### Utilising relational feminism to engender the police response to GBV

On 25 May 2023, APCOF held a hybrid-format roundtable discussion to launch its report *Utilising relational feminism to engender the police response to GBV*. The discussion brought together experts from across the gender and criminal justice sectors to identify gaps in existing police measures and response systems, and to explore potential solutions for fostering an engendered approach to policing GBV in a manner that is progressive, accountable and transformative. In addition to Dr Tarryn Bannister from APCOF, speakers included Lisa Vetten, from the University of Johannesburg, Adv. Tarisai Mchuchu from Mosaic Women's Training Service and Healing Centre, and Mbali Mncadi from the South African Police Service.

### Enhancing civilian oversight of the security sector

APCOF presented at the Africa Centre for Strategic Studies webinar on 2 November 2023, titled 'Bolstering civilian oversight of the security sector: Practitioner perspectives'. The webinar focused on the strategic importance of enhancing civilian oversight within the security sector.

### Law and system change for the prevention of torture

APCOF was invited by Redress to address a workshop for Sudanese lawyers on law and system change for the prevention of torture as part of the broader law reform processes in Sudan. Held on 16 February 2023, APCOF provided insights into AU standards and South African experiences related to investigating police torture. During the session, APCOF engaged participants in a Q&A format, covering topics such as independent police oversight, effective investigation frameworks, and the challenges faced by South Africa in implementing its own legal framework.

## Human Rights Forum

On 17 and 18 February 2023, APCOF attended the pre-forum for the World Human Rights Forum, held in March 2023. During this event, APCOF participated in discussions on migration, and used the opportunity to advocate for early findings from ongoing research on policing and migration for the ACHPR.

## Public order policing

On 18 October 2023, APCOF presented a lecture on public order policing and human rights as part of the University of Pretoria's Centre for Human Rights' short course on civic space, held in collaboration with the International Centre for Not-for-Profit Law. The lecture focused on African regional standards, with a particular emphasis on the Guidelines on the Policing of Assemblies by Law Enforcement Officials in Africa.

## Cross-border policing of crimes involving persons with albinism

On 10 October 2023, APCOF facilitated a validation meeting in Johannesburg for Amnesty International's report on cross-border policing of crimes involving persons with albinism in the SADC region. APCOF had previously provided technical assistance for the development of the report. The meeting included SADC officials, who agreed to proceed with developing the guidelines recommended by the report.

## Security sector reform

APCOF, through its membership of the African Security Sector Network (ASSN), participated in the United Nations Inter-Agency Security Sector Reform (SSR) Practitioners Workshop in New York from 5 to 7 June 2023. The workshop focused on enhancing collaboration and knowledge exchange between UN SSR practitioners and external partner organisations.

## Online learning course for the EAC Common Standards of Policing

As part of its efforts to popularise and disseminate the common standards of policing, APCOF developed an online course which will be hosted on the online platform of Lund University and structured according to 5 modules. **Module 1** provides an overview of the content of the Common Standards for Policing. This module looks at each individual standard as well as how they are all interconnected. **Module 2** provides an overview of the overarching international, continental and regional human rights law framework that serves as the basis and rationale for the Common Standards. **Module 3** examines how the standards have been translated into contextually relevant measures and indicators. The importance of the measures and indicators that have been developed is further set out, demonstrating their value in measuring and guiding the implementation of the Common Standards. **Module 4** provides an overview on how to conduct a compliance assessment using the measures and indicators. Case studies of compliance assessments undertaken in Uganda and Kenya are utilised to underscore the lessons learned and the practical challenges and benefits posed by undertaking this assessment. **Module 5** introduces and sets out how the Common Standards can be used in specific environments such as in gender mainstream for policing, with reference to the newly adopted Guidelines.

# APCOF IN PRINT

APCOF publications included:

## Risk analyses for applying the Common Standards for Policing

APCOF consolidated its insights on promoting the Common Standards of Policing in Eastern Africa through risk analysis studies in Uganda and Kenya. The study for the Uganda Police Force, conducted through a gender lens, identifies and analyses potential risks and their underlying causes, while developing practical engendered solutions within the ambit of policing to mitigate these risks. The Kenyan study examined two key variables for sustaining and advancing police reform: the necessity of national ownership and active public participation in the reform process; and the need for enhancing operational efficiency and expanding the institutional capacity of the National Police Service, alongside institutional reforms. Both risk assessments were peer reviewed and published in March 2024.



## Policing and human rights newsletter

APCOF, in collaboration with the Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR), supported the ACHPR Special Rapporteur on prisons, conditions of detention and policing in Africa in publishing the Commission's Police and Human Rights Newsletter. This 16th edition focused on human rights and the use of force and firearms in policing. Contributions were made by the Faculty of Law at the University of Benin, the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria, the ACHPR Secretariat, and APCOF.



# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## FOR THE YEAR ENDING 29 FEBRUARY 2024

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

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT 29 FEBRUARY 2024

	2024	2023
	R	R
<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>23 600 064</b>	<b>16 351 371</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>	<b>128 420</b>	<b>118 227</b>
Equipment	128 420	118 227
<b>Current assets</b>	<b>23 471 644</b>	<b>16 233 144</b>
Accounts receivable	69 054	82 2678
Accrued income	185 974	-
Cash and cash equivalents	17 835 429	11 213 884
Investments	5 381 188	4 936 993
Loan receivable	-	-
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>23 600 064</b>	<b>16 351 371</b>
<b>RESERVES AND LIABILITIES</b>	<b>23 600 064</b>	<b>16 351 371</b>
<b>Reserves</b>	<b>11 681 301</b>	<b>9 180 669</b>
Accumulated funds	2 978 410	2 049 843
Equipment fund	128 420	118 2267
Sustainability fund	8 574 472	7 012 599
<b>Current liabilities</b>	<b>11 918 763</b>	<b>7 170 702</b>
Accounts payable	86 5601	1 207 445
Deferred income	11 685 725	5 456 900
Provision for leave pay	146 477	506 357
<b>Total reserves and liabilities</b>	<b>23 600 064</b>	<b>16 351 371</b>

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## FOR THE YEAR ENDING 29 FEBRUARY 2024

THE AFRICAN POLICING CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT FORUM TRUST (NO: IT 1900/2012)  
STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 29 FEBRUARY 2024

	2024	2023
	R	R
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>11 358 746</b>	<b>16 025 681</b>
Grants and donations	9 309 238	14 602 350
Consultancy income	673 578	674 411
Fair value adjustment on investment	26 036	16 618
Foreign exchange gains	1 985	5 124
Interest received	1 347 909	727 178
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>8 858 115</b>	<b>14 907 933</b>
<b>Administration costs</b>	<b>1 613 216</b>	<b>2 242 355</b>
Accounting and administration	188 832	174 842
Annual report	33 818	36 320
Audit fees	73 889	275 724
Bank charges	31 054	30 397
Communication	27 097	39 618
Computer expenses	12 514	20 277
Depreciation	46 662	48 818
General expenses	69 052	49 461
Insurance	26 281	22 067
Interest and penalties	1 704	-
Internet and website	85 743	83 334
Legal fees	14 174	21 324
Membership fees	3 209	7 596
Printing, stationery and postage	32 354	55 880
Provision for leave pay	(359 880)	164 049
Rent, water and electricity	493 159	472 125
Repairs and maintenance	2 350	21 806
Salaries and contributions	826 907	716 210
Staff training and development	-	2 247
Travel costs	4 296	260
<b>Programme costs</b>	<b>7 244 899</b>	<b>12 665 578</b>
Events and meetings	1 028 172	5 363 705
Accommodation	216 550	1 795 346
Conferences, meetings and workshops	258 187	1 349 510
Travel costs	553 434	2 218 849
Publications	351 106	662 163
Research and consulting	607 993	1 801 096
Salaries and contributions	5 252 176	4 708 799
Visibility actions	5 452	129 816
<b>SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>2 500 632</b>	<b>1 117 749</b>

## APCOF DONORS



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