

**IN THE AFRICAN COURT ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS
ARUSHA, UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

APPLICATION NO.: 001/2025

In the matter of:

**A REQUEST BY THE PAN AFRICAN LAWYERS UNION FOR AN ADVISORY OPINION
ON THE OBLIGATIONS OF STATES WITH RESPECT TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS**

APPLICATION FOR LEAVE TO BE ADMITTED AS *AMICUS CURIAE*

**Made under Rule 84(2) of the Rules of the African Court on Human and Peoples'
Rights**

Request filed by the Media Monitoring Africa Trust (“MMA”)

C/o Power and Associates Inc., attorneys for MMA

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INTRODUCTION

1. The Media Monitoring Africa Trust (“MMA”) seeks leave to be admitted as an *amicus curiae* in the matter of Request for an Advisory Opinion no. 001/2025 (“Advisory Opinion Request”).
2. This request is made under Rule 84(2) of the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights Rules of Court (“Rules of Court”). As per the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights Practice Directions (“the Practice Directions”), this request will specify the contribution that MMA intends to make if admitted as an *amicus curiae* in this matter.
3. In line with MMA’s particular areas of expertise and interest, and cognisant of the duty of an *amicus curiae* to provide submissions which are useful to the Court, MMA’s proposed submissions are narrowly tailored to the following key issues of relevance to the Advisory Opinion Request:
 - 3.1. First, MMA seeks to provide the Court with direct contributions from children on States’ obligations to them as unique rights holders within the context of the climate crisis, and on States positive obligations to them in order to empower them to be active and informed environmental decision makers.
 - 3.2. Second, MMA intends to provide the Court with observations on the obligations that States have towards children as a result of their rights under the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights (“the Charter”).
 - 3.3. Third, MMA will provide guidance to the Court on the obligations that States have towards children in providing meaningful digital literacy and Media and Information Literacy (“MIL”).

MMA'S INTEREST IN THE PROCEEDINGS

4. MMA, established in 1993, is a not-for-profit organisation based in South Africa. It is an innovative organisation which plays an active role in advocating for access to information, freedom of expression, and the responsible free flow of information to the public. MMA exists to uphold our shared humanity by ensuring accountability, and by providing access to credible, transparent information that empowers all.¹
5. For the avoidance of confusion, it is noted that at the time of drafting this application MMA is in the process of rebranding to Moxii Africa.² The objectives of the organisation, as set out above, remains the same.
6. As will be demonstrated below, MMA has a clear interest in the subject of the Advisory Opinion Request, particularly around States' obligations to children in the climate crisis. MMA has done various work around access to information, freedom of expression, children's rights, and climate justice. On the intersection between access to information, freedom of expression, and children's rights specifically, MMA launched the Web Rangers programme in 2016. The Web Rangers provides young people with critical skills and knowledge around online safety in order to empower them to be active citizens and participate in decisions and discussions which affect them.³
7. An example of an MMA-led initiative with the Web Rangers is the Article 12 Working Group, which is made up of Web Ranger ambassadors who have been trained in digital literacy and have a special interest in policy work. All of the Article 12 members are children, ranging in age from 13 to 17 years old. Article 12 members engage in ICT-related policy submissions and discussions that ensure that their voices are heard, and opinions are considered by policymakers and industry

¹ For more information on MMA, see [here](#).

² For more information on MMA's rebranding to Moxii Africa, see [here](#).

³ For more on the Web Rangers, see [here](#).

leaders. Article 12 members work on submissions to ensure that policies and decisions that affect children are more child friendly as well as relevant and relatable to children and their daily lives.

8. MMA and the Web Rangers have made various submissions to multilateral bodies on issues directly related to the subject of the Advisory Opinion Request, and specifically regarding children's rights and climate justice, and States' obligations in the context of the climate crisis. For example:

- 8.1. In 2024, MMA made submissions to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Climate Change for her report on Access to Information on Climate Change and Human Rights, where it provided the Special Rapporteur with information on the importance of States' obligations related to child-friendly presentations of climate-related information and digital literacy, amongst others.⁴

- 8.2. MMA and the Web Rangers in 2023 made submissions on children's rights to access to information, freedom of expression, the dangers of disinformation, and States' corresponding duties to the Committee on the Rights of the Child on Draft General Comment 26 on Children's Rights and the Environment with a Special Focus on Climate Change.⁵

- 8.3. Further, MMA made submissions in October 2023 to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment on the procedural elements of the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, with a focus on States and businesses' responsibilities in relation to access to accurate information.⁶

⁴ MMA's submission to the Special Rapporteur may be found [here](#). The Special Rapporteur's final report may be found [here](#).

⁵ MMA's submissions may be found [here](#). The Web Ranger's submissions may be found [here](#).

⁶ MMA's submissions may be found [here](#).

9. Besides the above submissions, MMA and the Web Rangers have conducted a variety of work under various advocacy pathways related to the issues which are the subject of the Advisory Opinion Request. For example, MMA published a discussion document titled “Climate Disinformation: Consequences and Solutions”,⁷ which unpacked the effect of disinformation on climate change and environmental harms, as well as the specific effects thereof on children and solutions to mitigate these effects. MMA and the Web Rangers have written and advocated extensively on the importance of digital literacy and access to accurate and reliable climate-related information for children, and have conducted workshops for children on how to discern factual environmental content online.⁸
10. For example, MMA in collaboration with the Article 12 members recently published a case study which highlights the transformative role of MIL in turning children into active agents for climate truth and recommended integrated MIL approaches in educational and policy frameworks to strengthen youth resilience against climate disinformation.⁹
11. Given the expertise that MMA has in topics related to States’ responsibilities in the context of the climate crisis, and the specific experience and insights that it can provide to the Court on States’ responsibilities towards children, it is well and uniquely placed to act as an *amicus curiae* in the Advisory Opinion Request. Further, MMA’s submissions will be helpful to the Court as they will enable direct contributions from children. We set out the submissions to be advanced by MMA in greater detail below.

⁷ MMA, “Climate Disinformation: Consequences and Solutions” 2024 (accessible [here](#)).

⁸ See, for example, the workshop that the Web Rangers conducted under MTN’s child online safety campaign “Help Children be Children” in 2025, which equipped children with the skills to identify climate disinformation (accessible [here](#)).

⁹ P Khumalo et al, “Building Learner Resilience to Climate Change Disinformation Through Media and Information Literacy: A South African Case Study” Media Monitoring Africa (2025) (accessible [here](#)).

SUBMISSIONS TO BE ADVANCED BY MMA

12. If granted leave to intervene as an *amicus curiae* in the Advisory Opinion Request, MMA will make submissions on States' responsibilities towards children in the climate crisis context. MMA's submissions will specifically assist the Court in answering the question as set out in paragraph 94(b) of the Advisory Opinion Request, namely:

“Given the unique and significant implications of the responsibilities and duties to vulnerable individuals and populations, whether State parties to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (the Charter) have positive obligations to protect vulnerable populations including environmental human rights defenders, indigenous communities, women, children, youth, future generations, the current generation, past generations, the elderly and people with disabilities from the impact of climate change in line with the relevant treaties?”

13. In doing so, MMA will provide the Court with the three key submissions.

Children as unique rights holders and active decision makers

14. First, MMA seeks to provide the Court with insights from the Article 12 children themselves on what positive obligations States have toward children as unique rights holders, given their evolving capacities and unique vulnerabilities, in order to protect them from the impacts of climate change.
15. Further, the Article 12 children will provide their insights on the positive obligations that States have in empowering children to be active and informed decision-makers on climate change related issues which affect them.
16. These submission will provide the Court with an opportunity to hear directly from children on their perspectives regarding States' obligations in upholding and promoting their rights within the climate crisis context.

The importance of reliable climate information

17. Second, MMA will provide the Court with observations on the obligations that States have towards children as a result of their rights under the Charter to freedom of expression, access to information, and to a general satisfactory environment favourable to their development.
18. This will include submissions on how these rights oblige States to promote children's access to accurate and reliable climate information and to enforce mechanisms which negate climate mis- and disinformation both on and offline.

The value of digital literacy and MIL education

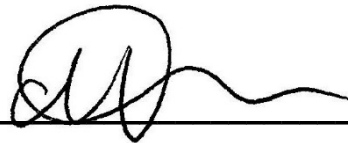
19. Last, MMA will provide the Court with observations on how the right to access to information, as enshrined by Charter, obliges States to provide both school-going and non-school going children with meaningful digital literacy and MIL education, given that digital platforms a common source of information for many young people.
20. This will emphasise the value of digital and MIL education in empowering children to participate meaningfully in environmental decision making, as well as the necessity thereof in protecting children from harmful climate narratives. Further, it will include submissions on what effective digital literacy and MIL education entails, and what mechanisms States should employ in order to meet these obligations.

CONCLUSION

21. In light of the above submissions, MMA respectfully requests leave from the Honourable Court to intervene in the Advisory Opinion Request as an *amicus curiae*, and to admit MMA as such accordingly.

22. MMA submits that it has a clear interest in the Advisory Opinion Request, and that the submissions that it intends to advance are relevant and will assist the Court in answering the questions before it.
23. MMA remains available to make any further written or oral submissions, as may be requested from the Court.

Signed and dated at **JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA** on this the **3rd** of **DECEMBER 2025**.



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