

UN Reform

Programme direction brief for Legacy Initiative members

PROPOSED DIRECTION

Mobilise collective relationships, existing platforms and the voices of Africa House and Legacy Patron members to support equitable African representation and informed engagement in UN reform.

Why this matters

Africa has no permanent representation on the UN Security Council. Reform connects the Initiative's legacies of liberation, dignity, peace and international cooperation with today's need for fairer and more effective global institutions. [1]

1 The Ezulwini Consensus

The Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration (2005) set out the Common African Position: at least two permanent African Security Council seats with full rights, including the veto while it exists, and five non-permanent African seats in total. Africa favours abolishing the veto; while retained, it seeks equal rights. The AU would select Africa's representatives. Its Committee of Ten (C-10) leads advocacy. [1]

Approval and blockers. The Consensus is already AU policy; implementing its Council proposals requires UN Charter amendments. Under Article 108, these need adoption by two-thirds of all General Assembly members, then ratification by two-thirds of UN members, including all five permanent Council members. Any one permanent member can block entry into force by withholding ratification. Insufficient votes or ratifications, and disagreement over seat allocation or veto rights, can also prevent progress. [1, 2]

2 Article 109 and UN Charter review

Article 109 provides for a General Conference to review the UN Charter. Convening requires two-thirds of all General Assembly members and any nine Security Council members; permanent members cannot veto this step. Each UN member has one conference vote. Changes require a two-thirds conference vote and ratification by two-thirds of UN members, including all five permanent Council members. Insufficient support at either stage, or any permanent member withholding ratification, can block reform. [2]

The Article 109 Coalition advocates convening this review, without endorsing a specific reform package. Prospective dialogue partners include Heba Aly, Director, and Professor Tim Murithi, Senior Adviser for Africa. [3]

What legacy members could contribute

- **Convene stakeholders.** Use collective relationships and existing Africa House and Legacy Patron member platforms to host focused dialogue around the reform agenda.
- **Lend a collective voice.** Participating members lend their names and voices to agreed statements, appeals and awareness campaigns.
- **Connect supporters and resources.** Make targeted introductions across African and diaspora networks to decision-makers, institutions and potential philanthropic partners who could support clearly defined activities.
- **Sustain momentum.** Revisit agreed actions with partners, encourage follow-through and maintain attention between convenings.

Next steps

Members indicate interest. Share your interest in participating, relevant expertise and relationships.

Africa House arranges an initial virtual scoping meeting. Explore with Article 109 representatives where our relationships, platforms and collective voice can support their existing work, and identify one or two practical actions.

Any collective position would require explicit member endorsement and remain aligned with AU-led reform efforts.

REFERENCE POINTS [1] [African position](#) • [AU 2026 decision](#) • [2] [UN Charter Articles 108 and 109](#)

[3] [Article 109 mission](#) • [Article 109 team](#) | 5 October 2026