



## Peace, justice and inclusive societies for Sustainable Development

Monday, 6 May 2024

United Nations Headquarters, New York

### SPEAKER BIO



#### **Mr. Abdul Tejan-Cole, Executive Director, African Centre of Excellence – Access to Justice (ACE-AJ)**

Mr. Tejan-Cole, is a Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of Sierra Leone with an LLB (Hons) degree from the University of Sierra Leone, and an LLM from University College, London. He has a track record of successfully leading non-profit organizations and a strong background of board and fiscal management. Mr. Tejan-Cole served as a Senior Director at Waxman Strategies (2018-2020), a global firm based in Washington, D.C. and committed to securing a living, healthy planet

for all the people and creatures that live on it and on protecting native ecosystems. He was the Executive Director of the Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA) from 2010-2018 with executive authority over their offices in Dakar, Abuja, Monrovia, Freetown and Conakry. In this capacity, he helped develop and implement OSIWA's strategy, provided leadership and direction, and managed all aspects of its work including support for pan-African initiatives on climate change, food security, and natural resources governance. He also served variously as Secretary General, Vice President, and President of the Sierra Leone Bar Association. Abdul Tejan-Cole was also a war crimes prosecutor in the Special Court for Sierra Leone, established to prosecute violations of international humanitarian law during the Sierra Leone Civil War (1991-2002), where he delivered the opening address in the case against the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) rebels. He served as head of the Anti-Corruption Commission of Sierra Leone (2007-2010), and Deputy Director of the International Center for Transitional Justice's Cape Town office (2006-2007).