



CILPA OFFICE GRAND OPENING AND ICC-AFRICA OCCASIONAL PAPER LAUNCH

Wednesday, 6 March 2024, 09:00 – 13:00 GMT
1 Abib Drive, SS Camp,
Freetown

INVITATION

The Center for International Law and Policy in Africa (CILPA), has the honor to invite you to attend the grand opening of our new office space, followed a launch of a series of Occasional Papers on “Bringing the African Perspective to the ICC Reform Discussion” on **6 March 2024** from **9:00 to 13:00** at **1 Abib Drive, SS Camp, Freetown, Sierra Leone**. A light breakfast and lunch will be served.

CONCEPT

Incorporated in 2020, the Center for International Law and Policy in Africa (CILPA), based in Freetown, is a non-partisan and not-for-profit pan-African research think tank focusing on issues of international law as well as regional law in Africa. CILPA aims to shape discourse and build bridges between research, policy, and practice with a special focus on issues of international criminal law and international human rights law. In the first three years of CILPA’s operation, CILPA has already proudly undertaken significant projects and hosted conferences, workshops, and seminars that put African and global south international legal issues on the map, from Freetown to Miami, to New York. The topics our events have addressed span a wide range of issue areas in international law: from international criminal law and international human rights issues to questions of private international law and the recognition of foreign judgments and arbitral awards, State responsibility, regional and universal codification, universal criminal jurisdiction, and the use of force in international law.

After having operated internationally for the last three years, we are now proud to announce that CILPA is opening its own offices in Freetown, Sierra Leone, and would be honored if you were in attendance. In addition to the opening ceremony, we will also launch the CILPA Occasional Papers on *Bringing the African Perspective to the ICC Reform Discussion*. This showcases the type of work that CILPA does.

CILPA, with the funding of the Open Society Foundation launched an Africa and the International Criminal Court Project in 2022, as part of which three consultants were commissioned to conduct research into the experience of African States with the International Criminal Court. The aim was to identify the key African government concerns about the ICC and to propose strategic recommendations to feed into the ongoing ICC reform process. CILPA hosted a successful two-day workshop in Freetown in October 2022. The workshop brought together the consultants with

invited legal experts, including academia, civil society, government representatives, and practitioners to exchange views on how the reforms could be carried out to ensure greater inclusivity of African concerns. The final papers containing reform recommendations were published by CILPA in September 2023 and in a special edition of the *African Journal of International Criminal Justice* (2024) – a CILPA journal. The papers were launched in New York, USA on the margins of the International Criminal Court’s Assembly of States Parties meeting in December 2023. The papers will now be launched at the home of CILPA in Freetown. The authors of the papers will present their work virtually and engage in a substantive discussion with the audience. Copies of the paper are available on the website under [CILPA OCCASIONAL PAPERS](#).

AGENDA

Wednesday, 6 March 2024

9:00 | 10:00 ARRIVAL

Light Breakfast, Tea and Coffee

10:00 | 11:00 OPENING CEREMONY

Welcoming Address: Prof. Dr. Charles C. Jalloh, Founder and Executive Director of CILPA and Distinguished University Professor of International Law, Florida International University, Miami, USA

Introductions of Key Note Speaker: Judge Osman Keh Kamara, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and Member, Board of Trustees, CILPA

Keynote Speaker: Mr. Alpha Sesay, Deputy Minister of Justice, Sierra Leone

11:00 | 11:15 SHORT BREAK

11:15 | 13:00 LAUNCH OF OCCASIONAL PAPERS – ICC AFRICA PROJECT *HYBRID*

11:15 | 11:30 Introduction/Opening Remarks

MODERATOR: Mr. Alpha Sesay, Deputy Minister of Justice, Sierra Leone

11:30 | 12:15 Overview of Papers

Background Paper on the Relationship Between African States and the ICC

- Consultant: Mr. Sètonджи Roland Adjovi, Etudes Vihodé

Examining the Domestic Legal Framework in the African States that Today Form Part of the Situational Docket of the ICC

- Consultant: Dr. Geoffrey Kevins Lugano, Kenyatta University

**Examining the Role of African States in Supporting ICC Investigations,
and Issues of Cooperation and Complementarity under the Rome
Statute**

- Consultant: Ms. Lorraine Smith van Lin, Smith van Lin Consultancy

**Discussant: Mr. Mohamed A. Bangura, Prosecution Legal Adviser,
RSCSL**

12:15 | 12:50 Interactive Dialogue with the Audience

12:50 | 13:00 CLOSING REMARKS

Prof. Dr. Charles C. Jalloh, CILPA

13:00 LUNCH SERVED
