



CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW & POLICY IN AFRICA

**First Report of the
Center for International
Law and Policy in Africa**

2020-2023

Report | December 2023



CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL LAW & POLICY IN AFRICA

**First Report of the
Center for International Law and Policy in Africa
for the period 2020-2023**

CILPA
1 Abib Drive, off Regent Road, SS Camp,
Freetown, Sierra Leone
+232 77-342126
info@cilpa.org
www.cilpa.org

Table of Contents

2.	FOREWORD
4.	ABOUT CILPA
5.	OUR PEOPLE
13.	FUNDING
14.	PROJECTS
18.	EVENTS
30.	PUBLICATIONS
33.	PARTNERS
34.	CONNECT

FOREWORD

It is an honor to present the first report on the work of the Center for International Law and Policy in Africa (“CILPA”) for the first three years of its operations. The idea of CILPA, which was borne out of many years of engagement with international law, first as a practitioner and then as an academic, is the culmination of my belief that Africa has a critical role to play in the development of modern international law.

The contribution of the continent to the development of international law gives it the opportunity to shape international law for the benefit of African nations and African peoples, while at the same time, promoting peaceful co-existence with other States and peoples around the world. Uniquely African contributions to the development of international law will naturally come from many quarters. And given the State-centered nature of international law, it will necessarily be led by African governments and regional organizations such as the African Union, the East African Community, and the Economic Community of West African States.

But equally important in promoting African perspectives and contributions that will help to shape the development of international law is the role that can be played by African academia, think tanks, NGOs, and civil society. The establishment of CILPA, with a pan-African mandate that is inclusive of both Africans on the continent and its rich diaspora, is an opportunity for us as a think tank to contribute to the scientific promotion of African perspectives on international law issues of relevance to African States and their peoples. Core to our mandate is the belief that independent scientific research that bridges theory and practice offers meaningful opportunities for policy-oriented solutions in the process of codification and progressive development of international and African regional law.

In our short existence, though often operating with limited resources, 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. They have addressed, from an African perspective, the work of key international institutions such as the International Criminal Court, the United Nations, and the African Union. In addition to the events, we have convened multiple projects ranging from the African Court Research Initiative, the International Criminal Court and Africa project (ICC-Africa), to the most recent ongoing project on an international legal framework for reparations for historic injustices suffered by people of African descent. In relation to the ICC-Africa Project, we were able to publish a series of papers on *Bringing the African Perspective to the ICC Review Process* as open-source occasional papers and in the *African Journal for International Criminal Justice* (AJICJ). The AJICJ, along with the *African Journal of Legal Studies* are two peer-reviewed journals that are published by CILPA in collaboration with Martinus Nijhoff Brill and Eleven International, two leading legal publishers based in the Netherlands.

We have partnered with many institutions, from the Sierra Leone Bar Association to universities in Sierra Leone and abroad, including the Directorate of Legal Affairs of the African Union, the American Society of International Law, the International Bar Association, the Nuremberg Academy, the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone, and Debevoise and Plimpton. This is not to forget our ongoing collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Sierra Leone to the United Nations and our constant presence over the past few years as the only African organization hosting side events during International Law Week at the United Nations. My deep gratitude goes to Ambassador Michael I. Kanu, the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations, and Ms. Hawanatu Kebe, the First Secretary of the Permanent Mission of Sierra Leone to the United Nations and Sixth Committee Expert.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our partners. I am immensely grateful to all the friends and colleagues who have supported CILPA, starting with the dedicated members of our board of trustees and our advisory council. I am equally grateful to the Open Society Foundation (Africa Regional Office based in Dakar, Senegal), which as you can see from the annual report, funded both the initial establishment of CILPA and our various projects to date. Special thanks to Pascal Kambale, Sharon Nakandha, and Oumou Dieng from the Open Society Foundation. I am also grateful to all the CILPA staff, interns, and volunteers for their hard work as we make progress, step by step, toward our ambitious vision of becoming one of the leading think tanks on international law in Africa. Clea Strydom, our Project Director, deserves a special thank you for her great dedication and commitment. We are grateful to our institutional partners, the Center for Accountability and the Rule of Law in Sierra Leone for their collaboration and to Florida International University College of Law for providing CILPA with a United States-based office.



Charles Chernor Jalloh

BA (Guelph), LL.B./B.C.L. (McGill), MSt. (Oxon), Ph.D. (Amsterdam)

Founder and Executive Director, CILPA

Distinguished University Professor of International Law, Florida International University

Member and Special Rapporteur, United Nations International Law Commission








12 December 2023

ABOUT CILPA

The Center for International Law and Policy in Africa (CILPA), based in Freetown, Sierra Leone, 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. It is hoped that CILPA, whose vision for the future is to become one of the leading international law think tanks in Africa, will make a significant research-based contribution to the development of the field on the continent of Africa and globally. Our vision is predicated on the belief that all components of the international community benefit from the existence of a strong rules-based international legal order. A shared understanding among all States and peoples that leads to agreed rules for the conduct of inter-state relations can be a fountain of stability and human security in international affairs.

CILPA is incorporated as a company limited by guarantee under Sierra Leonean law in accordance with the Companies Act No. 5 2009 (as amended) and its work focuses on critical issues of public and private international law of particular relevance to the continent of Africa. As a research center, we are dedicated to the scientific study of and promotion of knowledge of international law and regional law especially African Union law, and their role as vehicles to advance peace, stability, security as well as social and economic development. CILPA is a recipient of seed funding from the Africa Regional Office of the Open Society Foundations.

The mission of the Center for International Law and Policy in Africa (CILPA) is:

-  To promote the study of the codification, progressive development and implementation of international and regional law in Africa.
-  To encourage, through teaching, research and publication, the scientific study of and development and dissemination of international law and policy taking into account the needs and specificities of African peoples and African States.
-  To serve as a forum for informed discussion and debate of current events and issues in international law and African Union law, in particular, including how best to advance human security, human development and human innovation on the continent and internationally.
-  To foster, through research and advocacy, a culture of respect for fundamental human rights and freedoms as enshrined in various African and international legal instruments.
-  To bring international law to African policy makers, and African policy makers to international law through the conduct of studies and development of policy options on timely topics with implications for the African region as a whole.
-  To highlight and promote African perspectives, contributions and scholarship in international law, policy, and justice, including through the provision of high-quality educational programs, seminars, workshops, training, symposia, publications of academic journals, occasional policy papers, books, and other similar scholarly activities.
-  To engage in any other lawful purpose that may assist in advancing the above goals.

OUR PEOPLE

Board of Trustees



Tamara Cummings-John

Tamara Cummings-John is currently a Senior Human Resources Officer at the World Food Programme, in Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo. She is also a Steering Committee member of the UN People of African Descent. Previously, she worked as a HR Specialist for UN Women's East and Southern Africa Regional Office based in Nairobi, Kenya. Prior to which she was a Legal Officer in the Office of Legal Affairs at the United Nations in New York managing the UN's cooperation with the International Criminal Court. She spent six years at the Special Court for Sierra Leone and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda working on the Karemera case, the Charles Taylor case and the AFRC case as part of the prosecution teams. She studied at University of Manchester, the Université de Bourgogne, the College of Law, Store Street and holds a Masters in International and Comparative Legal Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.



Osman K. Kamara

Osman Keh Kamara is as of 1 October 2023 a Judge at the the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS). Previously he worked for the African Union, prior to which he was Sierra Leone's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia; Permanent Representative to the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa since 2014. His diplomatic district covered Israel and countries in the Eastern and Southern African regions. Before his appointment as Permanent Representative to the African Union, he served as the Deputy Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative at the Permanent Mission of Sierra Leone to the United Nations in New York. He also served as Co-Counsel (Appeals Chamber) of the Special Court for Sierra Leone in addition to legal practice in the Sierra Leone Bar. Educated at the University of Sierra Leone and Columbia University, he has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Laws Degree (Honoris Causa) from the Commonwealth University.



Michael Imran Kanu

Ambassador Michael Imran Kanu is the Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations (UN) in New York, and also to the International Seabed Authority (ISA) in Kingston, Jamaica. He is a Member of the Legal and Technical Commission of the ISA (2023-2027) and Co-Chair of the Review Mechanism of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the Rome Statute system. He is Vice-President of the ICC Assembly of States Parties (23rd to 25th sessions). From September 2018 to August 2023, Dr. Kanu served as Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative (Legal Affairs) at the Permanent Mission of Sierra Leone to the UN in New York. He holds a Doctoral of Juridical Science in International Business Law (SJD), Central European University (2015 – 2018); Master of Laws in International Business Law (LL.M), Central European University (2014 – 2015); Degree of Utter Barrister (B.L), Sierra Leone Law School (2007– 2008); and Bachelor of Laws with Honours (LL.B), Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone (2003 – 2007). He is a United Nations International Law Fellow and Visiting Senior Fellow in Practice, at the Law School of the London School of Economics and Political Science.



Abdul G. Koroma

Judge Abdul G. Koroma was a member of the International Court of Justice from 1994 until 2012, and the International Law Commission from 1982 until 1994. He served as Chairman for the Forty-Third Session of the Commission in 1991. He was Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations, the European Economic Community, and the Organization of African Unity (OAU), and has had extensive experience as a member of various legal committees in the United Nations, the OAU, and the African Union. Since 2006, he has been a member of the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations of the International Labor Office in Geneva, Switzerland. He was the Chairman of the International Labor Organization (ILO) Mission to Fiji to examine labor disputes between the Government of Fiji and trade unions in light of the applicable ILO Conventions and Recommendations. He was also Chair of the African Union's Panel of Experts on the settlement of territorial and boundary disputes between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan. Judge Koroma is also a member of the World Bank Administrative Tribunal.

Current Staff



Charles C. Jalloh – Founder and Executive Director, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Charles C. Jalloh is a Distinguished University Professor of International Law at Florida International University, in Miami, USA and Founder of the Center for International Law and Policy in Africa (CILPA). He is a member of the International Law Commission (ILC). In May 2022, the ILC appointed him a special rapporteur for the topic subsidiary means for the determination of rules of international law. Formerly a Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Public International Law at Lund University, he has published widely in the field of international law. Recent works include *The International Criminal Court and Africa* (Oxford, 2017, with Ilias Bantekas) and the monograph *The Legal Legacy of the Special Court for Sierra Leone* (Cambridge, 2020). He serves on the editorial boards of several scholarly journals, including the *African Journal of Legal Studies* and the *American Journal of International Law*. Before academia, Jalloh practiced law at the national and international levels as Counsel in the Canadian Department of Justice and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, a Legal Adviser in the Special Court for Sierra Leone, and an Associate Legal Officer in the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. His education includes a B.A. from the University of Guelph, LL.B. and B.C.L. degrees from McGill University, a Master's in International Human Rights Law, with distinction, from Oxford University, where he was a Chevening Scholar and a Ph.D. in International Law from the University of Amsterdam.



Fatmata Bintu Seisay - Director of Corporate Affairs and Legal Training

As the Director of Corporate Affairs and Legal Training, Fatmata Bintu Seisay acts as CILPA's Corporate Secretary and is also responsible for managing and implementing CILPA's legal training. Before joining CILPA, she was a member of Tejan-Cole, Yillah & Partners, a general practice Law firm in Sierra Leone, where she worked in different capacities rising to Associate Partner and Manager. She has also served as a Corporate Secretary for various companies including Staco Insurance Company (SL) Limited, where she recently worked as the head of the Legal and Corporate Secretarial Department; and as a trainer to the Board of Directors of the Sierra Leone Maritime Administration, where she lectured on Shipping Law. While in active legal practice, in a range of areas of private, corporate, and commercial law, she represented clients in all the divisions of the High Court, and the Court of Appeal of Sierra Leone; and also, in mediations and negotiations. She holds an LL.B. (Hons.) from Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone; an Utter Barrister Certificate from the Sierra Leone Law School; an LL.M. in International Shipping Law from Queen Mary University of London; and a certificate from the Institute for Chartered Secretaries and Administrators (ICSA) in London on Corporate Secretarial Practice.



Clea Strydom - Project Director

As CILPA’s Project Director, Clea Strydom is responsible for conceptualising and implementing the think-tanks project, especially those related to grants. She also oversees CILPA’s team of interns. Clea is originally from South Africa. After obtaining a B.A. Law Degree (2014) and an LL.B. (2016) from Stellenbosch University, South Africa, and practicing as a candidate attorney in Cape Town for a year, Clea completed an LL.M. (Cum Laude) in International Public Law by dissertation focusing on International Humanitarian Law and weapons systems, at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa. Besides her role as CILPA’s Project Coordinator, she facilitates several projects including the Network for Young Scholars and Practitioners within the South African Branch of the International Law Association, which she established, as well as being the Honorary Secretary of the branch. Her publications touch on IHL, as well as digital rights/issues in international law.

Previous Staff

Ashira Vantrees- Legal Researcher

Ashira Vantrees was a legal researcher at CILPA from 2021-2022. She has experience researching a wide variety of issues including labor law, human rights, criminal justice reform, international criminal law, women’s rights, and disability rights. Ashira also served as an International Law Commission Fellow during the International Law Commission’s 71st Session (2019). Ashira holds a Bachelor of Arts from Ohio Christian University, and a Masters of Science in Disaster Medicine and Management from Thomas Jefferson University, and a Juris Doctor candidate at Florida International University College of Law.

Interns

CILPA has had the benefit of multiple part-time interns who volunteered their time to assist with various projects:

Joycette Charles

Jordy Esschendal

Ralph Garlo

Aglyn Tennisha Kamara

Joseph Keogh

Ethlena Macauley

Daniel Oghenerobo

CILPA would also like to thank the FIU College of Law for providing research assistants to help with CILPA’s work and events:

Jennifer Croslow

Raphael Marjenberg

Lauryn Reed

Adam Weiss

Sidney Young

Advisory Council

The main function of the Advisory Council is to provide pro bono expertise and advice to the Executive Director of the Center for International Law and Policy in Africa (CILPA). The Council members, comprised of leading scholars and practitioners of international law drawn from Africa and around the world, will serve as a brain tank for CILPA research programming. The goal is to harness their diverse expertise in various areas of public and private international law for the benefit of CILPA, its projects, stakeholders, and beneficiaries. In addition to the above, the Executive Director, in developing research and other strategic partnerships, may engage members of the Council to assist in other ways deemed necessary to advance the overall aims and objectives of CILPA.



Dapo Akande

Dapo Akande is Professor of Public International Law at the Blavatnik School of Government, a Fellow of Exeter College, Oxford and Co-Director of the Oxford Institute for Ethics, Law and Armed Conflict (ELAC). Before moving to the Blavatnik School, he was Professor of Public International Law at Oxford Law Faculty and was, from 2012 to 2017, Co-Director of the Oxford Martin Programme on Human Rights for Future Generations. He is one of the authors of *Oppenheim's International Law: The United Nations* (2017, OUP), which was awarded the 2019 Certificate of Merit by the American Society of International Law. Dapo is the founding editor of EJIL:Talk! the widely read scholarly blog of the *European Journal of International Law*. He has acted as consultant, expert, or adviser on international law issues to United Nations bodies, the African Union Commission, the Commonwealth Secretariat, and the Association of South East Asian Nations. He has provided advice to States and non-governmental organizations on matters of international law. From 2017-2018, he acted as legal adviser to the UK Parliament's All Party Parliamentary Group on Drone's Inquiry into the ways in which the UK works with partners on the use of drones.



Margaret M. deGuzman

Margaret M. deGuzman is James E. Beasley Professor of Law and Co-Director of the Institute for International Law and Public Policy at Temple Law School, and a judge of the Residual Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals. She specializes in criminal law, international criminal law, international humanitarian law, international human rights law, and transitional justice. Professor deGuzman is a Senior Peace Fellow at the Public International Law and Policy Group, a consultant with Global Rights Compliance, and serves on the editorial board of the *African Journal of International Criminal Justice*. She served as a legal advisor to the Senegal delegation at the Rome Conference on the ICC and as a law clerk in the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia. She was a Fulbright Scholar in Darou Ndiar, Senegal. Professor deGuzman received a Ph.D. (human rights) from the National University of Ireland, Galway, a J.D. from Yale Law School, an M.A.L.D. from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, and a B.S.F.S. from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service.



Erika De Wet

Erika de Wet commenced as Professor of International Law and Head of the Institute of International Relations in the Faculty of Law, University of Graz, Austria in 2020. Since July 2015 she is also Honorary Professor in the Faculty of Law, University of Bonn, Germany. Immediately before joining the University of Graz, she was the first South African Research Initiative (SARChI) Professor of International Constitutional Law in the Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria, South Africa (2016-2019). She obtained her B.Iur and LL.B. as well as her LL.D. at the University of the Free State, South Africa. She holds an LL.M from Harvard University and completed her Habilitationsschrift at the University of Zurich, Switzerland in December 2002. A revised version, entitled the Chapter VII Powers of the United Nations Security Council, was subsequently published with Hart Publishing in 2004. This work has been widely cited, including by the European Court of Human Rights, the International Court of Justice, the International Criminal Court and the United Kingdom Supreme Court. Since October 2020, Erika de Wet is Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Max Planck Yearbook of United Nations Law.



Phoebe Okowa

Phoebe Okowa is Professor of Public International Law at Queen Mary, University of London. Educated at the University of Nairobi and Oxford, she previously taught at the University of Bristol and has held visiting appointments at the University of Lille and Stockholm. In 2011 and 2015, she was Global Visiting Professor at the New York University, School of Law. In 2017 she was nominated by the Government of Kenya to the Permanent Court of Arbitration. She has written on a wide range of contemporary international law topics including the interface between international responsibility and individual accountability for international crimes, unilateral and collective responses to the protection of natural resources in conflict zones, and aspects of the protection of the environment. Her current research explores the systemic problems of accountability in conflict zones. It focuses on those conflicts where coherent and well-organized insurgencies present a credible challenge to governmental power and the state-centric structures of authority in public international law



Chile Eboe-Osuji

Chile Eboe-Osuji served as the President of the International Criminal Court from 11 March, 2018, to 11 March, 2021. He also served as a senior judge in the Appeals Chamber of the Court until he retired from the Court. Before joining the Court, he served as the Legal Advisor to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, and held multiple positions at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. Dr. Eboe-Osuji previously taught international criminal law as an adjunct professor at the Faculty of Law of the University of Ottawa, Canada, and has since leaving the Court had current or recent affiliations with several universities. Dr. Eboe-Osuji has an extensive history of legal scholarship including the book *International Law and Sexual Violence in Armed Conflicts and Protecting Humanity* (editor). He is the editor-in-chief of the *Nigerian Yearbook of International Law*. He received his PhD with his thesis in international criminal law from the University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands, and his Master of Laws (LLM) degree from McGill University, Canada. He received his Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree from the University of Calabar, Nigeria.



Pacifique Manirakiza

Pacifique Manirakiza is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Law (Common Law Section) at the University of Ottawa where he teaches international criminal law, African international law and Canadian criminal law. In 2011 Professor Manirakiza was elected to serve as a member of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights. In that capacity, he was the Chairperson of the Working Group on Extractive Industries, Environment and Human Rights. Professor Manirakiza advocated for the rights and empowerment of local communities affected by the extractive industry in Africa. In 2014, he was appointed as a member of the first African Union-led Commission of Inquiry in relation to the conflict in South Sudan. In the same year, Professor Manirakiza led a team of lawyers before the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, arguing a case on behalf of the Ogiek community of Kenya. In Burundi, he served as an Assistant Professor at the University of Burundi as well as a Deputy Prosecutor in Ngozi and Rutana Provinces.



Claus Kress

Claus Kress is a Professor of International Law and Criminal Law. He holds the Chair for German and International Criminal Law and he is the Director of the Institute of International Peace and Security Law at the University of Cologne. His prior practice was in the German Federal Ministry of Justice on matters of criminal law and international law. In addition to his scholarly work, comprising more than 150 publications on the law on the use of force, the law of armed conflict and international criminal law, he has been a member of Germany's delegation in the negotiations regarding the International Criminal Court since 1998. He is a Life Member of Clare Hall College at the University of Cambridge, a Member of the Academy of Sciences and Arts of Northrhine-Westphalia, and the recipient of the 2014 M.C. Bassiouni Justice Award as well as honorary doctorates from the State University Tbilisi and the University of Huánuco. He was a Guest Professor at Columbia Law School and Melbourne Law School.



Stephen J. Rapp

Stephen J. Rapp is a Senior Fellow at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's Center for Prevention of Genocide, and at Oxford University's Center for Law, Ethics and Armed Conflict. During 2017-2018, he was the Father Robert Drinan Visiting Professor for Human Rights at Georgetown University. He serves as Chair of the Commission for International Justice and Accountability (CIJA), a Senior Peace Fellow of the Public International Law and Policy Group, and on the boards of Physicians for Human Rights, the IBA Human Rights Institute, the ABA Rule of Law Initiative, the Siracusa International Institute for Criminal Justice and Human Rights, and Guernica 37. Mr. Rapp was the Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone from 2007 to 2009 where he led the prosecution of former Liberian President Charles Taylor. From 2009 to 2015, he headed the Office of Global Criminal Justice in the US State Department. Mr. Rapp has received a BA from Harvard, a JD from Drake, and several honorary degrees in recognition of his work for international criminal justice.

FUNDING

The Center for International Law and Policy in Africa (CILPA) has benefited from the generosity of the Open Society Foundations. We are grateful for their continued support.



Project Name	Type of grant and Purpose	Grant Start and End Date	Amount
The Establishment of a Center for International Law and Policy in Africa (CILPA) Project	General support grant to establish CILPA	July 2020-December 2023	\$200,000
The International Criminal Court in Africa Project	Project grant to facilitate academic research and workshops on Bringing the African Perspective to the ICC Review Process.	November 2021-March 2024	\$100,000
International Law, Accountability, and Justice	Project grant to facilitate academic research and workshop on an international law framework for reparations for historic injustices suffered by people of African descent.	October 2023-October 2025	\$250,700

As a new organization with limited resources, CILPA is seeking additional seed and project funding to carry out the ambitious research and other programs envisaged on this website. We are therefore actively soliciting donations from individuals, governments, foundations, law firms as well as private companies, and other donors. Should you wish to discuss our funding requirements, or make a donation, we strongly encourage you to get in touch by e-mail at info@cilpa.org.

PROJECTS

Throughout 2021, 2022, and 2023, CILPA with the funding of Open Society Foundation, has implemented a number of longer term projects, which included capacity building, academic research, and conference elements.

The African Court Research Initiative

Building on the success of the African Court Research Initiative (ACRI) project convened by the Founder of CILPA, with the institutional support of West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI) and a grant from the Open Society Foundation, the Technical Assistance for the AU's Criminal Chamber for the African Court of Justice and Human and Peoples' Rights, CILPA convened an Independent Experts Meeting in The Hague, from the 13th to 14th of May 2022.

The overall project goal was to offer research-based analysis that will provide technical assistance to the African Union's Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) through which to achieve the operationalization of the African Court of Justice and Human and People's Rights (African Court) – especially its international criminal jurisdiction as provided for under the “Malabo Protocol”.

The ACRI prepared draft Rules of Procedure and Evidence and draft Elements of Crimes. These documents were drafted as working documents, with the goal of providing a working basis for the judges of the future court with a possible framework for the application of the Court's governing instruments. The documents were subject to expert discussion in Geneva in early May 2019. As a core deliverable of the project, a compilation of an African Court volume, *The African Court of Justice and Human and Peoples' Rights in Context: Development and Challenges*, was published by Cambridge University Press in May 2019.

The book provides the most comprehensive and in-depth analysis of the articles of the Malabo Protocol to date by a group of leading scholars and practitioners from Africa and around the world. It will be used as resource for the African Union legal office as well as academics, legal professionals, members of government, policy makers, key officials, especially its future judges. The compendium, in book form and as an open-source on-line resource, has involved over 40 distinguished academics, authors and practitioners who have offered a nuanced view on the challenges that the future African court might face and how to recognize and address these challenges

In July 2021, ACRI commissioned Ms. Lorraine Smith-van Lin, an independent international law expert, to carry out a comprehensive review and finalization of the full draft Rules of Procedure and Evidence and the Elements of Crime, under the general supervision and guidance of Professor Charles Jalloh, Principal Investigator (PI) of the ACRI. The consultant was requested to provide high-level legal research and consultancy services to assist the PI to conclude the ACRI-Phase III research, including the review of expert comments from previous roundtables, harmonisation and consolidation of the full draft of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence and the Elements of Crimes. The consultant's review was carried out between July and December 2021.

The purpose of the Expert Meeting, which was held under the framework of the CILPA was to discuss the expert review and to finalise Phase-III of the research and drafting process. The meeting brought together the legal experts who prepared the first drafts of the documents, the consultant reviewer, and select expert practitioners with relevant experience on the African Court and issues of international dispute settlement. The meeting provided an opportunity for all expert participants to reassess, and as necessary, to help provide ideas for revision and finalization of the draft instruments.

The consultant presented general findings of the review and analysis of the draft documents and facilitated feedback and commentary by the legal drafters and expert participants. The closed meeting was a working session with detailed examination of specific themes and provisions identified by the consultant, close consideration of the harmonisation of each of the draft rules and real-time edits to the documents. Based on the discussions in the expert meeting, the independent consultant was able to deliver a complete and consolidated Rules of Procedure and Evidence and the Elements of Crime, as well as an Annex.

International Criminal Court in Africa Project

CILPA developed an International Criminal Court in Africa Project as one of the central aspects of its research mission. The main objectives of the ICC and Africa project were as follows. First, the project generated new knowledge in an independent and non-partisan way, since CILPA is not an advocacy organization but rather a think tank. Second, the development of new knowledge, which could be used by other African civil society organizations to direct their advocacy on ICC reform, entailed the preparation of expert papers; the holding of expert workshops, virtual and or in person, to provide the authors and invited participants the opportunity to engage in a focused dialogue that generates recommendations on reforming the ICC from an African perspective; and lastly, disseminating the research results to key stakeholders, including the ICC States parties and African governments and African civil society organizations.

The crux of the ICC in Africa grant is Bringing the African Perspective to the ICC Reform Discussion, and entails a three-pronged project:

A. Research Consultancy.

In June of 2022, CILPA officially commissioned three pan-African expert consultants to write papers on the missing link in the ICC Reform Report and follow-up process, that seek to highlight the African State Party concerns for reform and how they could be addressed and integrated going forward:

- i. **Mr. Sètondji Roland Adjovi:** Background Paper on the Relationship between African States and the ICC.
- ii. **Mr. Geoffrey Kevins Lugano:** Examining the Role of African States in Supporting ICC Investigations, and Issues of Cooperation and Complementarity under the Rome Statute.
- iii. **Ms. Lorraine Smith van Lin:** Examining the Domestic Legal Framework in the African States that Today Form Part of the Situational Docket of the ICC.

B. Workshop

A successful 2-day Independent Expert Workshop on Bringing the African Perspective to the ICC Reform Discussion was hosted by CILPA, with the assistance of our institutional partner, the Center for Accountability and the Rule of Law in Sierra Leone (CARL), on Friday, October 7, and Saturday, October 8, 2022, at the Radisson Blu Mammy Yoko Hotel, 17 Lumley Beach Road, in Freetown, Sierra Leone. The research and analysis carried out by the consultants during the first part of the project formed the basis of a comprehensive analysis of the success and limitations encountered by the ICC in its ongoing reform process. Bringing together the consultants and invited legal experts, the Workshop was a working session with a detailed examination of specific themes and provisions identified by the consultants.

A lead discussant was assigned to each consultant to provide substantive feedback on the papers which were shared in advance of the Workshop, before opening the floor to the approximately 25 experts who attended in person and online. The Workshop was also attended and reported on by local media.

Over the course of the workshop, the expert invitees provided feedback and input to the consultants' papers. It provided an opportunity for participants to express views on how the reforms could be carried out to ensure more transparency and inclusivity of African concerns. The expert participants reassessed, and as necessary, helped provide ideas for revision and finalization of the draft papers. Based on these contributions the consultants were able to make the relevant adjustments to their respective papers before their various reform recommendations were published by CILPA.

C. Publication and Dissemination

Based on the feedback received during the Workshop and comments provided by the Founder of CILPA, Prof. Charles Jalloh, on the consultant's work, the consultants updated their papers and delivered the same to CILPA from December 2022 to February 2023. As the papers were received, they underwent an internal review as well as an external peer review by an expert in the field.

After an internal editing process, the three papers were published as open-source Occasional Papers on CILPA's website on 28 September 2023, which can be viewed and downloaded [here](#).

It is intended that the three papers, along with a paper written by Prof. Charles Jalloh on The ICC Reform Process and the Failure to Address the African State Concerns on the Sequencing of Peace with Criminal Justice Under Article 53 of the Rome Statute, will also be published by CILPA in two successive special issues of the *African Journal of International Criminal Justice*, a peer-reviewed academic journal focusing on human rights and rule of law issues in Africa, co-published in collaboration with Eleven International Journals. The papers are currently undergoing formatting and editing by Eleven Publishing and the intention is for the first issue to be published before the end of 2023 and the second one in early 2024.

First issue

Mr. Sètonджи Roland Adjovi - Background Paper on the Relationship between the African States and the ICC

Mr. Geoffrey Kevins Lugano - Examining the Domestic Legal Framework in the African States that Today Form Part of the Situational Docket of the ICC

Second Issue

Ms. Lorraine Smith van Lin - Examining the Role of African States in Supporting ICC Investigations, and Issues of Cooperation and Complementarity under the Rome Statute.

Prof. Charles C. Jalloh - The ICC Reform Process and the Failure to Address the African State Concerns on the Sequencing of Peace with Criminal Justice Under Article 53 of the Rome Statute.

CILPA, with the co-sponsorship of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the United Nations also held a side event to the twenty-second session of the Assembly of States Parties to the International Criminal Court (ICC) providing an opportunity for the consultants to present their research and analysis in conjunction with a discussion with the State representative members of the Review Mechanism with the aim of bringing African perspectives to the ongoing ICC reform discourse, and determining the extent to which previous African State proposals were addressed by the IER.

International Law-Based Framework For Reparations for Historical Injustices Suffered by People of African Descent

CILPA has recently obtained funding from the Open Society Foundation to convene a research project aimed at scientifically assessing the legal basis for reparations under international law for historical injustice suffered by people of African descent. The key added value of the project will be a conscious effort to influence the current global narrative about reparations which is predominantly rooted in claims about international morality rather than international law. It is proposed that the project take place in various stages, with different collaborators at each stage, over 2 years, to build a solid foundation for a longer-term project in this area. The research project, which will seek to offer a new international law-based framework for reparations for historic wrongs, will rely on a well-tested three-part approach that would be executed in three distinct phases.

It would open with independent research and be followed by workshops at which the initial research results will be tested in a rigorous peer review driven process, and thereafter, the finalization of the research and the dissemination of the research results.

As to the scope of historical injustices to be explored in this project, it will focus on historic injustices suffered by people of African descent as a result of slavery, the slave trade, and colonialism, while considering interrelated issues of gender, environmental damage, and systemic economic disparity. The added value centers on clarifying, to the extent possible, the state of the law applicable at the time. This project will run from October 2023 to October 2025.

EVENTS

Throughout 2020 - 2023 CILPA organized several in-person and virtual events, some being part of the beforementioned projects and some other standalone events.

Inaugural Event

The Legal Legacy of the Special Court for Sierra Leone

The Legal Legacy of the Special Court for Sierra Leone was a well-attended CILPA inaugural symposium/conference event in Freetown with leading academics, lawyers, and judges. The theme was deliberately chosen to focus on an international criminal justice topic that would be of natural interest to Sierra Leoneans. But that, at the same time, also had a broader dimension in its implication for other ongoing African post-conflict situations in countries such as Central African Republic, Gambia, and South Sudan. As the principal goal was to use this as an opportunity to introduce the CILPA to the local legal community, the participants were invited to an event that had both substantive and celebratory aspects. This included two panels with high-profile speakers. The latter included a book launch by the keynote speaker, the founding president, who had also published a [Cambridge Press book](#) on the symposium topic in July 2020.

[More information.](#)



December 17, 2020
Freetown, Sierra Leone

The Legal Legacy
of the Special Court
for Sierra Leone

Charles C. Jalloh



Event Series

International Criminal Court Colloquium

CILPA, in a collaboration with the American Society of International Law and the Nuremberg International Principles Academy, launched the International Criminal Court Colloquium – a series dedicated specifically to advancing the scholarly debate on the work of the world’s only permanent international penal tribunal with responsibility to prosecute genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression. The series seeks to highlight issues of particular relevance to the future success of the ICC, especially from an African perspective.

March 29, 2021
Online

The ICC Prosecutor Election Process: A Post-Mortem

The first of the colloquium series assessed the ICC Assembly of States Parties’ selection process for the ICC Prosecutor. Panelists were invited to debate the pros and cons of the 2020 prosecutor search, the role of the Assembly of State Parties, and civil society as well as how to strengthen future competency-based searches for ICC principals starting with the pending position of deputy prosecutor.

[Concept note and recording.](#)



October 19, 2021
Online

The International Criminal Court Prosecutor: Achievements, Challenges

Convened to discuss the key challenges that lie ahead for the Office of the Prosecutor (OTP) and the ICC as a whole. These range from addressing low staff morale, to working to improve and implement more streamlined situation and case selection criteria in concrete cases, to persuading States to strengthen their support for investigations and prosecutions, engaging the ongoing ICC review and reform process to implement appropriate policy changes, and of course, to securing more funding and cooperation for the OTP from the States Parties, the ASP, and the UN Security Council.

[Concept note and recording.](#)



October 19, 2021
Online

The International Criminal Court Colloquium: Is it time to “Reset” the Africa-ICC Relationship?

Leading experts on the work of the ICC in Africa were asked to dig deep and to develop fresh insights as part of an interactive dialogue with each other and the audience on two specific questions: 1) is it time for a reset of the Africa-ICC or ICC-Africa relationship, and if so, 2) what would that relationship look like for a “win-win” for both African States and the ICC? The debate considered whether recent developments in the ICC concerning the Afghanistan Situation and in Africa, for example the removal of President Al Bashir of Sudan from power and the signals by Khartoum that it is open to joining the Rome Statute system and fully cooperating with the ICC, as well as leadership changes in countries such as South Africa could have positive or negative implications for the ICC-Africa relationship.

[Concept Note and Recording.](#)



January 12, 2022
Online

Challenges and Opportunities for African State and Civil Society Engagement in the ICC Review Process

This virtual roundtable invited leading African experts on international criminal law to engage with the substance and process of the ICC review. They discussed the formal ICC response to the IER report and the progress, or lack thereof, on the State-led reform priorities. Panelists also pondered the next steps for a more inclusive and a more transparent reform process against the backdrop of key recent leadership changes at the ICC, an increasing ICC caseload, and the ASP’s zero growth budget policy.

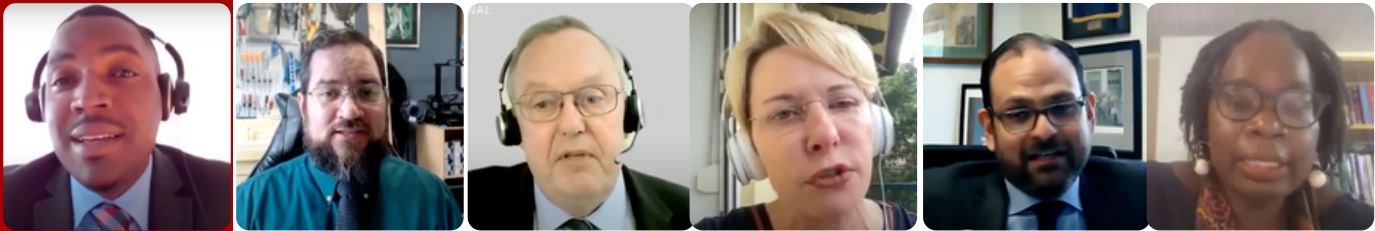
[Concept note and recording](#)



Africa, the Ukraine Crisis, and International Law: Quo Vadis?

Building on the success of the preceding four ICC Colloquium sessions and in light of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, a fifth interactive dialogue was launched to reflect on the situation in Ukraine and explore the main international legal and policy questions from an African perspective. The roundtable dialogue provided an opportunity for both speakers and participants to engage on a range of critical issues, including the use of force in Article 2(4) of the UN Charter and the exception of self-defense contained in Article 51, as well as questions of state responsibility, the crime of aggression, the right of self-determination and *uti possidetis juris*. The panelists pondered the present and future role of the UN Security Council, the ICC, and the ICJ, including the law governing the use of the veto in the face of atrocity crimes, recent ICJ advisory opinions, and the International Law Commission's timely work on *jus cogens* and their legal consequences and the duty of states and international organizations to take steps not to aid or abet serious breaches of international law.

[Concept Note and Recording.](#)



American Society
of International Law



INTERNATIONAL
NUREMBERG
PRINCIPLES
ACADEMY

The International Law Discussion Series

CILPA with institutional partners in Sierra Leone co-hosted a series of International Law Discussions in Sierra Leone, aimed at:

- Initiating dialogues to promote the dissemination, and wider appreciation of international law and its implementation in Sierra Leone.
- Raising awareness of the international law-making process, the role of legal practitioners, and its impact on domestic implementation.
- Encouraging specific treaty action on critical international and regional treaties and promoting effective and timeous implementation.
- Engendering an inclusive and transparent process for the domestication of international law instruments in Sierra Leone.
- Encouraging participation in the human rights treaty reporting processes and, thereby strengthening the legal regime for the promotion and protection of human rights.

Thus far we have held two events in this series:

Sierra Leone's Accession to The New York Convention: Significance, Opportunities, Challenges and the Next Steps

This event, regarding the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards, was a collaboration between CILPA and the Sierra Leonean Bar Association held at the Radisson Blu Mammy Yoko Hotel in Freetown, Sierra Leone. The event was highly successful with a keynote speech given by Sierra Leone's attorney-general and minister of justice; and other panelists including the chief justice of Sierra Leone and the speaker of Parliament as well as other luminaries.

Concept Note.



February 25, 2021
Freetown, Sierra Leone

January 21, 2022
Freetown, Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone and the Human Rights Council: A Review of the UPR Recommendations and National Plans for Future Implementation

The second event in the series, co-organised with the University of Makeni, on Sierra Leone's Universal Periodic Review in the UN Human Rights Council; as a post analysis event to inform future appearances of the country before the Geneva-based bodies, was held at the Radisson Blu Hotel Mammy Yoko Hotel, Freetown, Sierra Leone. Speakers represented government, academia and civil Society.

[Concept Note.](#)

Other Events

January 18, 2022
Freetown, Sierra Leone

Twentieth Anniversary Commemoration Special Court for Sierra Leone and Formal Opening of the Peace Museum Memorial Garden

In collaboration with The Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone, CILPA, organized a well-attended and successful event in Sierra Leone to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the formal end of Sierra Leone's civil war and the signing, two days earlier, of the Agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Sierra Leone which set up the Special Court. Held at the Sierra Leone Peace Museum on the grounds of the former Special Court, the event heard from representatives of Parties to the Agreement, with UN Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs Miguel de Serpa Soares, Under-Secretary representing the United Nations, and Attorney-General and Minister of Justice Anthony Y. Brewah representing the Government of Sierra Leone. Justice Jon Kamanda, the President of the Residual Special Court, gave the welcoming statement on behalf of the Court and the Judges. Welcoming and opening remarks were given by RSCSL Registrar Binta Mansaray, and CILPA founder Prof. Charles C. Jalloh. Other keynote speakers were David M. Crane, the Special Court's first Prosecutor, Simone Monasebian, the Special Court's first Principal Defender, and Madam Musu Jatu Ruhle, the ambassador of Liberia to Sierra Leone and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

[More Information.](#)

May 13-14, 2022

The Hague, Netherlands

Independent Expert Meeting on the Draft Rules of Procedure and the Elements of Crime of the African Court of Justice and Human and Peoples' Rights under the Malabo Protocol

The meeting brought together the legal experts who prepared the first drafts of the Rules of Procedure and the Elements of Crime documents in the ACRI Project ([see page 14](#)), the consultant reviewer, and select expert practitioners with relevant experience in the African Court and issues of international dispute settlement. The meeting provided an opportunity for all expert participants to reassess, and as necessary, to help provide ideas for revision and finalization of the draft instruments. The consultant presented general findings of the review and analysis of the draft documents and facilitated feedback and commentary by the legal drafters and expert participants. The closed meeting was a working session with a detailed examination of specific themes and provisions identified by the consultant, close consideration of the harmonization of each of the draft rules, and real-time edits to the documents.

Agenda.

Bringing the African Perspective to the ICC Reform Discussion Workshop

In terms of the International Criminal Court in Africa Project (ICC-Africa Project) ([see page 15](#)) a successful 2-day Independent Experts Workshop on Bringing the African Perspective to the ICC Reform Discussion was hosted by CILPA, with the assistance of our institutional partner, Center for Accountability and the Rule of Law in Sierra Leone (CARL), at the Radisson Blu Mammy Yoko Hotel in Freetown, Sierra Leone. The research and analysis carried out by the consultants during the first part of the ICC Africa project formed the basis of a comprehensive analysis of the success and limitations encountered by the ICC in its ongoing reform process. Bringing together the consultants and invited legal experts, the Workshop was a working session with a detailed examination of specific themes and provisions identified by the consultants. A lead discussant was assigned to each consultant to provide substantive feedback on the papers before opening the floor to the approximately 25 experts who attended in person and online. The Workshop was also attended and reported on by local media.

Concept Note and Agenda.

October 7 - 8, 2022
Freetown, Sierra Leone



October 25, 2022
New York City, USA

Universal Criminal Jurisdiction: A Key Tool in the Fight Against Impunity for Atrocity Crimes in Ukraine and Beyond?

CILPA and the International Bar Association, hosted by Debevoise & Plimpton LLP New York, convened an interactive dialogue on Universal Criminal Jurisdiction: A Key Tool in the Fight for Atrocity Crimes in Ukraine and Beyond?, in New York, and online. The discussion, as a side event for the 2022 International Law Week, centered around the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and reflected a range of perspectives from academia, State representatives, experts from the International Law Commission, and global civil society.

[Concept Note and Agenda.](#)



October 26, 2022
New York City, USA

Role of Regional and International Codification Bodies in the Development of International Law

CILPA in collaboration with the Office of Legal Counsel of the African Union Commission organized an interactive dialogue exploring the Role of Regional and International Codification Bodies in the Development of International Law., at the AU Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations, in New York. Members from the AUCIL, CAHDI, IAJC, and ILC, along with representatives of States and academia, engaged in a preliminary dialogue with the view to determining what further collaboration might hold for the further codification and progressive development of regional and international law in Africa and internationally.

[Concept Note and Agenda.](#)



November 4- 5, 2022
Miami, USA

The Current and Future Work of the International Law Commission

The FIU College of Law (“FIU Law”), together with CILPA convened a two-day symposium in Miami, Florida to discuss the current and future work of the International Law Commission (ILC). This academic symposium focused on two specific sub-themes. First, the completion of two main topics, upon second reading, by the ILC during its recently concluded 73rd (2022) session, namely, “peremptory norms of general international law (jus cogens)” and “protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts.” Second, the status of the ILC’s current work, in particular, the significant adoption upon first reading of a full set of draft articles, with commentaries, on the longest-running topics in the current work program of the Commission, namely, “immunity of State officials from foreign criminal jurisdiction.” This discussion was followed by a private workshop on two of the three most recent topics added to the ILC work program in May 2022, namely, the “prevention and repression of piracy and armed robbery at sea” and “subsidiary means for the determination of rules of international law.” The two special rapporteurs for those two topics presented their preliminary ideas on how the ILC could address those studies, including issues of scope and methodology. The workshop invited peer discussion of their plans for their first reports with the scholars, starting with the discussants, critiquing their plans and making suggestions for potential improvements.

[Concept Note and Agenda.](#)



October 30, 2023
New York City, USA

Necessary Voices, Missed Opportunities? Strengthening the Engagement of Global South States with the Work of the International Law Commission

CILPA in collaboration with the Permanent Missions of Mexico and Sierra Leone to the United Nations in New York hosted an interactive dialogue on Strengthening the Engagement of Global South States with the Work of the International Law Commission on the margins of the International Law Week in New York. This interactive dialogue provided an opportunity for delegates from Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean alongside ILC members to explore how to strengthen the engagement of small and developing States with the work of the Commission. They specifically addressed the commonalities in the obstacles that Global South States and ILC members face in their engagement with the Sixth Committee, the Commission, and international law and considered practical ways and means to enhance the contributions of Global South States and their legal experts in the codification and progressive development of a rules-based international law system for the benefit of all States and the international community as a whole.

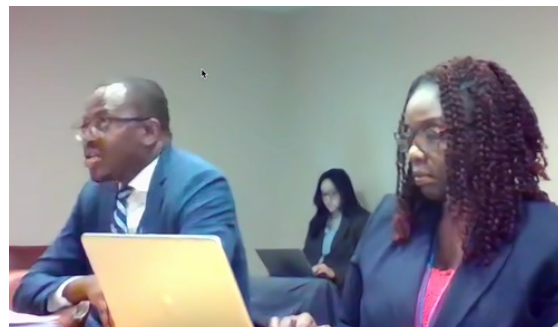
[Concept Note and Agenda.](#)

December 6, 2023
New York City, USA

Bringing the African Perspective to the ICC Reform Discussion Occasional Paper Presentation

As part of the ICC-Africa Project (see page 15-17), and following on from the workshop in October 2022, CILPA, in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the United Nations, organized a side event to the twenty-second session of the Assembly of States Parties to provide an opportunity for the consultants to present their research and analysis in a discussion with a State representative member of the Review Mechanism, with the aim of bringing African perspectives to the ongoing ICC reform discourse and determining the extent to which previous African State proposals were addressed by the IER.

[Concept Note and Agenda.](#)



PUBLICATIONS

CILPA Journals

CILPA publishes two peer-reviewed journals in collaboration with Martinus Nijhoff Brill and Eleven International, two leading legal publishers based in the Netherlands.

African Journal of Legal Studies

The African Journal of Legal Studies (AJLS) is a peer-reviewed and interdisciplinary academic journal focusing on human rights and rule of law issues in Africa as analyzed by lawyers, economists, political scientists and others drawn from throughout the continent and the world. The journal, which was established by the Africa Law Institute and is now co-published in collaboration with Brill | Nijhoff, aims to serve as the leading forum for the thoughtful and scholarly engagement of a broad range of complex issues at the intersection of law, public policy and social change in Africa.

AJLS places emphasis on presenting a diversity of perspectives on fundamental, long-term, systemic problems of human rights and governance, as well as emerging issues, and possible solutions to them. Towards this end, AJLS encourages critical reflections that are based on empirical observations and experience as well as theoretical and multi-disciplinary approaches.

It is hoped that articles appearing in the journal will influence public policy in Africa by providing original, useful and timely critiques of legislation, judicial decisions, law reform and other domestic and foreign policy measures that impact on the daily lives of ordinary Africans. In addition to articles, the journal welcomes reports on recent human rights and governance-related conferences, workshops and seminars as well as books for review and lists of recent publications.

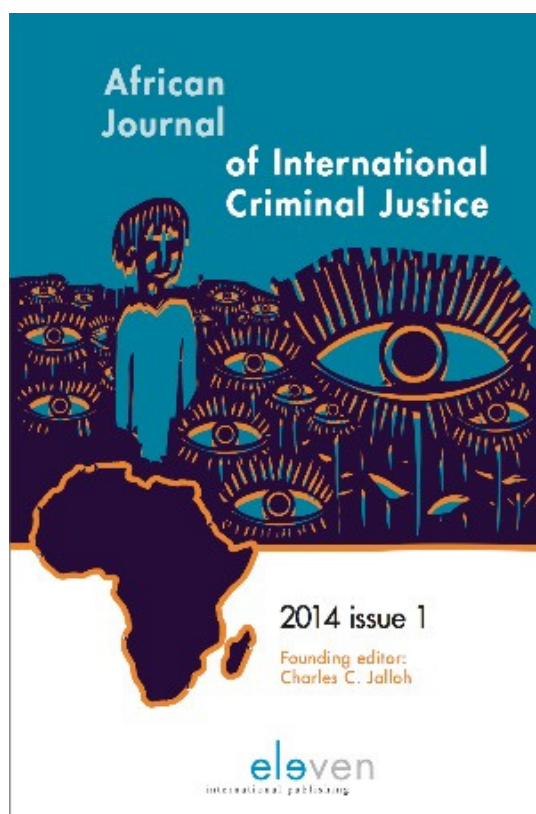
African Journal of International Criminal Justice

Africa has been the site of some of the world's worst atrocities. Africa is also home to some of the most innovative mechanisms, ranging from truth commissions to national and international criminal trials, to address accountability to the perpetrators of violence. Yet, African voices are often marginalized in global conversations about peace, justice and reconciliation. The *African Journal of International Criminal Justice* (AJICJ) is a refereed and interdisciplinary scholarly periodical that aims to fill this gap. It is a forum for international criminal law and transitional justice issues in Africa and the developing world as analyzed by authors drawn from throughout the continent and the world.

The Journal aims to create the intellectual space for profound scholarly reflection on the phenomenon of atrocity crimes in Africa and national, sub-regional, regional as well as international efforts to combat such crimes through prosecutions, traditional justice approaches or alternative mechanisms such as truth seeking and reconciliation. We hope to stimulate an Intra-South and Global dialogue on the complexities facing societies seeking to transit from war and other collective traumas to peace. With these goals in mind, AJICJ will seek to give voice to a diversity of perspectives on fundamental, long-term and systemic problems concerning justice and accountability, as well as emerging issues, and possible solutions to them.

We are particularly interested in views from below and new streams of scholarship that engage in critical reflections from law and the social sciences based on empirical observations and experience as well theoretical and cross-disciplinary methodologies. The Journal is intended for anyone interested in issues of international criminal law and questions of transitional justice. These include academics, government and international tribunal officials, practitioners such as judges, attorneys, legal assistants, students, activists as well as any individuals and NGOs concerned with how best to understand the place of law and other transitional measures in war and mass violence.

In addition to scholarly articles and reports from the field, AJICJ will contain a section for book reviews, case reports on significant national and international decisions from African and other international courts and tribunals, as well as special sections on African state practice and shorter comments on current events and compilations of hard to obtain documents. The Journal will seek to encourage creativity and innovation by awarding several prizes for the best articles published in each volume: one to a doctoral student, the second for an author under 40, and another for a scholar, of any age, who has spent at least 5 years in academia in an African university.



Occasional Papers

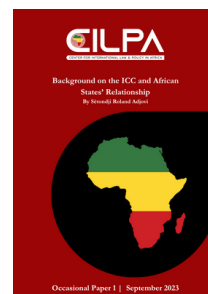
As a component of The International Criminal Court in Africa Project: Ensuring African State Concerns are Not Left Out of the ICC Reform Process Project, supported by Open Society Foundation, CILPA was pleased to publish our first three occasional papers as open-source material.

CILPA commissioned three independent consultants to conduct research into the experience of African States to identify key concerns about the ICC reform process and propose strategic recommendations to feed into the ongoing ICC reform discourse. The research and analysis carried out by the expert consultants formed the basis of a comprehensive analysis during a two-day workshop held at the Radisson Blu Mammy Yoko Hotel in Freetown, Sierra Leone, in October 2022. The workshop brought together the consultants and invited legal experts from academia, government, practice, and civil society. Their input was to be taken into account by the authors in the revision and finalization of their draft papers.

The papers were later subjected to further external peer review by three leading African legal scholars with expertise on Africa and the ICC. While the views contained in the papers are attributed to the authors, and they alone, CILPA is grateful to Professor Olympia Bekou and Professor Gerhard Kemp for undertaking the further peer reviews of the papers on such notice.

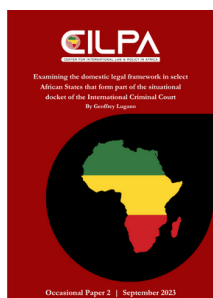
Occasional Paper 1: Background on the ICC and African States' Relationship

The first paper by Mr. Sètondji Roland Adjovi provides a comprehensive background on the relationship between African States and the ICC from the Court's inception, through to the ongoing Review Mechanism. The paper sets out in depth perspectives of various African States and their views of the ICC, as well as explores the way African States have interacted with the ICC, and vice versa. This paper sets the stage for the other two papers by providing context for the ongoing tensions between African States and the ICC.



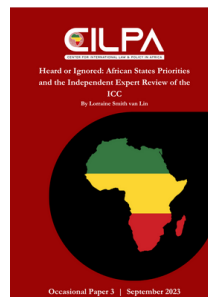
Occasional Paper 2: Examining the domestic legal framework in select African States that form part of the situational docket of the International Criminal Court

Dr. Geoffrey Kevins Lugano's paper examines the domestic legal framework in the African States that today form part of the situational docket of the ICC. Particularly, it assesses national implementation of the Rome Statute, the missing gaps that cause lags in cooperation with the ICC, and other structural issues that undermine their duty to combat impunity for atrocity crimes. The assessment is informed by the recent calls for reforms at the ICC and looks inwards at the readiness of the African states to perform their primary duty in the global war on impunity for atrocity crimes.



Occasional Paper 3: Heard Or Ignored: African States Priorities and the Independent Expert Review of the ICC

Ms. Lorraine Smith van Lin's paper considers African States priorities and the Independent Expert Review of the ICC and critically assesses whether the concerns of African States were ignored or dismissed by the IER process at the ICC, specifically three of the main concerns of African states namely: complementarity; peace and justice; and cooperation. As the paper determines that there was indeed an 'ignoring or dismissal' of African concerns in the IER review process, it concludes with assessing the reasons.



PARTNERS

CILPA is very fortunate in having established partnerships with a variety of organizations and institutions that support CILPA’s work either through funding, co-organizing and co-sponsoring projects and events, institutional support, and general support for CILPA’s endeavours. We thank them all for their continued support:



CONNECT



1 Abib Drive, off Regent Road, SS Camp,
Freetown, Sierra Leone



+232 77342126



General: info@cilpa.org

Founding Director: cjalloh@cilpa.org

Director of Corporate Affairs and Legal

Training: fbseisay@cilpa.org

Project Director: cstrydom@cilpa.org



www.cilpa.org



Follow us
[@ctrlilpa](https://twitter.com/ctrlilpa)



Follow
our page



Watch our
videos

Report | December 2023



Center for International Law and Policy in Africa

1 Abib Drive, off Regent Road, SS Camp, Freetown,
Sierra Leone

+232 77342126

info@cilpa.org

www.cilpa.org