



Scientific Evidence on Climate Change Clinic in Africa Conference

10th – 11th February 2025, Addis Ababa.

INVITATION

It is our pleasure to invite you to a 2-day *Scientific Evidence on Climate Change Clinic in Africa Conference* hosted by the Center for International Law and Policy in Africa (CILPA), on **10 and 11 February 2025** at the **Ramada by Wyndham Hotel in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**. The conference will examine issues relating to climate change and its impacts on African States with focus on advancing the perspectives of scientists, lawyers, State representatives and civil society on the recently concluded historic climate change advisory proceedings before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS).

CONCEPT

The wider context for our convening is this. According to the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change, Africa is the most vulnerable continent to climate change. Yet, the continent is among the lowest contributors to climate change with just about 3% percent of global greenhouse emissions. To make matters worse, Africa as a continent has a limited capacity to undertake the mitigation and adaptation required to meaningfully respond to climate change. African States highlighted this stark challenge in advisory proceedings concerning the obligations of States in respect of climate change under the law of the sea convention at ITLOS in 2024, and most recently, at the ICJ where the oral hearings concluded mid-December 2024.

While several African States participated in the advisory processes at ITLOS and the ICJ, one of the barriers to effective African State participation in those proceedings was the lack of country-specific scientific knowledge on climate change and its impacts. It is against this backdrop that this conference proposes to examine the role of context specific scientific evidence in advancing efforts towards adaptation and mitigation to better address the challenges of climate change in Africa.

Through this informal expert dialogue, which will take place on the margins of the February 2025 African Union Summit in Addis Ababa, CILPA hopes to facilitate a high level of engagement of African State representatives, environmental scientists and professionals from diverse disciplines in an expert discussion aimed at identifying lessons learned from the recent advisory processes. We offer the participants, some of whom were participants in the processes before the ITLOS and ICJ, the chance to debate pressing climate change issues affecting the African continent, and to consider the best possible outcome from the recent advisory processes at ITLOS and the ICJ with the view to strengthening the intra-Africa and Global South partnerships to address the deleterious impacts of climate change.

We very much hope that you would join us for this conference.

AGENDA

Monday, 10 February 2025

09:00 | 09:30 ARRIVAL

Light Breakfast, Tea and Coffee

09:30 | 10:00 OPENING CEREMONY

Welcoming Address and introduction of keynote Speaker: Charles C. Jalloh – Founder and Executive Director of CILPA; and Richard A. Hausler Chair and Professor of International Law, University of Miami Law School.

10:00 | 10:30 Keynote Speech - Alhaji Timothy Musa Kabba, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, The Republic of Sierra Leone (TBC).

10:30 | 10:45 GROUP PHOTO

10:45 | 12:30 PANEL 1 - THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL COURTS IN ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE

Alpha Sesay – Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, The Republic of Sierra Leone.

Amadou Jaiteh – Counsellor, Permanent Mission of The Gambia to the United Nations.

Charles C. Jalloh – Founder and Executive Director of CILPA and Richard A. Hausler Chair and Professor of International Law, University of Miami Law School.

Christina Hioureas – Partner and Global Co-Chair, International Litigation & Arbitration Department, Foley Hoag LLP.

Moderator: Alhaji Marong – Secretary of the Commission and Senior Legal Adviser, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

12:30 | 13:15 LUNCH

13:15 | 15:00 PANEL 2 - THE ROLE OF SCIENTISTS IN CLIMATE LITIGATION

Aida Diongue-Niang – Agence nationale de l'Aviation Civile et de la Météorologie (ANACIM), Senegal (via Zoom).

Christopher Lennard – Senior Researcher, Climate System Analysis Group (CSAG) and University of Cape Town (UCT).

Felix Kalaba – Professor of Ecosystem services and Climate Change, Copperbelt University in Zambia.

Luckson Zvogbo – Postdoctoral Research Fellow at ACIDI, University of Cape Town.

Moderator: Asmaa Khadim – Postdoctoral Researcher at Leiden Law School.

15:00 | 15:15 COFFEE/TEA BREAK

15:15 | 16:45 PANEL 3 - THE ROLE OF LAWYERS IN CLIMATE LITIGATION

Angela van der Berg – Director of the Global Environmental Law Centre (GELC) at the University of the Western Cape, Faculty of Law in South Africa.

Benyam Mezmur – Professor of Law, University of Western Cape, South Africa.

Congo Rasmane – Directeur des Avis Juridiques et du Contentieux Ministère des Affaires Etrangères Burkina Faso.

Justin Sobion – International Environmental Lawyer and Senior Tutor, the University of Auckland.

Mamadou Hebie – Associate Professor of International Law, Leiden University at the Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies.

Moderator: Eugene Bakama Bope –Transitional Justice Specialist/AU Commission.

16:45 | 17:00 **CLOSING REMARKS.**

19:00 **DINNER**

Tuesday, 11 February 2025

09:30 | 10:00 **ARRIVAL**
Light Breakfast, Tea and Coffee.

10:00 | 12:00 **THE LESSONS LEARNED AND NEXT STEPS**

Moderator: Charles C. Jalloh – Founder and Executive Director, CILPA; and Professor and Richard A. Hausler Chair in Law, University of Miami Law School.

12:00 | 12:15 **CLOSING REMARKS**

12:15 | **LUNCH**