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Ohio Omiunu

Should you wish to include an item in the next AfiELN newsletter, please contact us:

AfiELN.siel@gmail.com

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Update from AfiELN President

Making Progress

Dear AfiELN Members,

Happy new year!

It is with great delight that I provide this short update on the activities of the current executive committee team. Since July, we have gradually moved forward in implementing the signature program of the network - its biennial conference - while introducing other aspects to ensure that the network continues to be institutionalized for effective functioning.

On our Biennial Conference, I am happy to report that we were pleased with the responses to the call for papers which closed December 17, 2018. The Conference Organizing Committee has now also responded to all the submissions with their decision. For those whose papers were accepted, congratulations! We hope that you will be able to join us in Nairobi in July. Even if you did not submit an abstract, you are welcome to attend and be part of what will be a very enriching gathering of scholars of Africa and International Economic Law.

We are also pleased to announce the conference keynote speaker: Professor Makane Moise Mbengue, an Associate Professor of International Law. More information about him is available in other sections of this newsletter.

On another note, we are thrilled to introduce AfronomicsLaw blog. The Blog which focuses on all aspects relating to Africa and International Economic Law launched on January 15th, 2019. We have invited the Editors to provide an introduction to the blog below. We encourage you to think about contributing to the blog by getting in touch with the editors on the email provided therein, follow them on their social media platforms and kindly spread the word.

In the coming days, you will receive updates on the Conference website where all information relating to registration, accommodation and draft conference program among others will be available.

Finally, I must express how lucky I am for the privilege to be on this ride with Luwam Dirar, Ohio Omiunu, Sara Gheberemuse, Amaka Vanni and Regis Simo. Thanks for the hard work you have and continue to put into the activities of the network. Equal thanks to Miss. Nwamaka Okany who was part of the team in the initial months.

With best wishes!

Olabisi D. Akinkugbe

AfIELN President.



IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE
AFRICAN INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC LAW NETWORK

Introducing AfronomicsLaw Blog

Afronomicslaw.org is a new blog on the international economic law landscape as it relates to the Africa. The contributors to this blog hope to fill the gap in current analysis of international economic law issues as they relate to Africa. This blog is particularly timely because there are significant international economic law developments taking place that invite some reflection. These include the ongoing ratifications of phase one of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) and the commencement of phase II negotiations on investment, competition and intellectual property rights in the AfCFTA. In addition, the African Union and the European Union have commenced preliminary talks about renewing the Cotonou Partnership Agreement due to expire in early 2020. Similarly, African countries have carried on efforts on the negotiation of the Pan African Investment Code.

All these developments provide an excellent backdrop for this new blog. This blog will complement the increasing amount of scholarship on international economic law issues. It will offer scholars; policy makers and others interested in these issues a forum to insightfully reflect on these developments more contemporaneously with than the scholarship that is being produced. The blog will also offer the growing and important voice of scholars and practitioners of African international economic law forum to share their views.

About Submissions

Afronomicslaw.org encourages submissions that are of an analytical and reflective nature on any aspect of international economic law as they relate to Africa. In particular:

- Individual and Symposium contributions should be sent to afronomicslaw@gmail.com. Ideally, submissions should not exceed 1000

About the AfIELN:

The AfIELN is a regional network under the auspices of the Society of International Economic Law (SIEL). AfIELN is an organization aimed at academics, industry practitioners, policy experts and officials with interest in the field of International Economic Law (IEL) in Africa

words without prior arrangement with the blog editors.

- Footnotes can be used sparingly, but for readability hyperlinks will work better.
- Afronomicslaw reserves the right to publish any blog contribution, after reviews; or offer helpful suggestions to authors, after review, with a view to publishing the articles.
- We request contributors to meet their submission commitment timelines in order to meet the Afronomicslaw goal of a lively discussion of African international economic law issues.

There are two ways to contribute to the blog: *individual blog contribution*, following the above guidelines, on any issue under the broad rubrics of African and international Economic Law. Alternatively, you can also edit a *symposium* or plan a *book symposium* with 4 to 5 other authors.

We encourage scholars and policy makers with interest in this broad area of the law to reach out to us via our email with their ideas.

The blog editors are: James Gathii (Loyola University of Chicago School of Law); Olabisi D. Akinkugbe (Schulich School of Law, University of Dalhousie) and Nthope Mapefane (University of Pretoria Law School).

AfronomicsLaw Policy on Comments

Our goal of a lively discussion of African international economic law issues cannot be achieved without the comments and feedback from the blog readers. In this regard, while we are keen to facilitate such platform, *we encourage commenters to be respectful and restrict their responses to substantive issues raised by posts.*

AfronomicsLaw reserves the right to delete comments that are offensive, explicit or concealed personal attack on our contributors or fellow commenters, profane or irrelevant to the subject matter of international economic law.

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PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD!

Selection of speakers for 4th AfIELN Biennial Conference concluded

Fourth African International Economic Law Network Biennial Conference



The Conference Organizing Committee for the 4th AfIELN biennial conference is delighted to announce that the selection process for paper and panel presentations is now completed. The CFP was well subscribed to by IEL academic researchers, industry practitioners and policy makers from within and outside the

African continent. Based on the number of quality abstracts received 114 participants have been selected to present at the conference. The successful participants have been notified of the outcome. The Conference website will be going live in the coming weeks. Details about conference registration, logistics and funding support will be made available on the website.

Keynote speaker for 4th AfIELN Biennial Conference announced

The Conference Organizing Committee for the 4th AfIELN biennial conference is delighted to announce that our Conference Key Note Address will be delivered by Professor Makane Moïse Mbengue.



Makane Moïse Mbengue is an Associate Professor within the Faculty of Law of the University of Geneva and within the Institute of Environmental Sciences (University of Geneva). He is also a visiting professor at Sciences Po Paris (School of Law). Makane Moïse Mbengue has held various positions. He has been a legal advisor for the World Bank and the Senegal River Development Organization, as well as a legal expert for the Nile Basin Initiative Secretariat, the International Labor Organization (ILO), the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health, the World Health Organization (WHO) and Green Cross International. He has also

been a member of the Expert Group on Legal and Institutional infrastructures for the sound management of chemicals and measures for Recovering costs of national Administrations (UNEP, Geneva). He acts as counsel to States in litigation and with advisory proceedings taken before the International Court of Justice and is involved in arbitration proceedings. He is a member of several academic and professional societies (American Society of International Law (ASIL), the African Society for International Law, the African Association of International Law) and is a member of the International Law Institute's team of rapporteurs. Makane Mbengue is author and co-author of several books and articles and has presented papers at various prestigious conferences and symposia. Makane Moïse Mbengue holds a PhD in Public International Law from the University of Geneva. He also holds a Masters in Public Law and an LL.M. in economic and commercial law from the law school of the University of Saint-Louis (Senegal).