



**African Institute of International Law**  
**Institut Africain de Droit International**

- **The Hague, The Netherlands**
- **8 February 2020**

*Amb Sani Mohammed*  
*Rector*



# Introduction

- **Establishment**
- **Goals and Priority Areas**
- **Cooperation and Partnerships**
- **Programmes Conducted and Planned**
- **Administration**
- **Conclusion**



# Establishment

- On the initiative of Judge Abdulqawi Yusuf under the auspices of the **African Foundation of International Law**
- In close collaboration with the **Government of Tanzania** in Arusha, Tanzania



Host to a number of African and UN judicial institutions that require incisive skills in public law of African regional integration and international law to further their daily operations



# Endorsement



**The African Union at its 18<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session on 31 January 2012 endorsed and recognized “the important role that it will play in building the capacity of African Faculties of Law and African Lawyers in dealing with various aspects of International and African Union Law”. (Assembly Decision AU/14 (XVIII) Add.5)**



# Endorsement



**The United Nations General Assembly welcomed its creation and encouraged the UN Secretariat to cooperate with the Institute through the Office of Legal Affairs Codification Division. See UNGA A/67/466 of 21 November 2012 (para 20) and subsequent resolutions from 2013 to 2019**



# Seat Agreement



- **Signed a Seat Agreement with the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania on 12 March 2013**
- **Granted offices and other facilities at the Arusha International Conference Centre for three years at no cost**
- **Agreed to provide a plot of land for the construction of the future premises of the Institute in Arusha – the land has since been provided**
- **The Institute acquired legal personality in the territory of the United Republic of Tanzania, as well as diplomatic status and immunities**

# Office Furniture and Training Equipment



The Japanese Government provided the Institute with all its:

- Office furniture
- Computers
- Training equipment

# Inaugural Ceremony of the Institute



At Arusha on February 16, 2015, officiated by Hon. Dr. Mahadhi Juma Maalim, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Tanzania, in the presence of Judge Abdulqawi Yusuf, as well as of many dignitaries from different international, regional, sub-regional and national institutions.



# Inaugural Ceremony of the Institute





# Goals

- To offer **specialized and focused training courses and research programmes** for advanced students, scholars, practitioners, government officials and private sector stakeholders on various aspects of international law
- To **enhance the teaching and research capacities of associated African law faculties** in the fields of international law and the law of the African Union and African regional organizations
- To **develop the capabilities of officials of justice and foreign affairs ministries** – key actors in international litigation and negotiations

# Goals



- To **contribute to more stable and rules-based inter-governmental relations** within the continent by cultivating a wide pool of legal skills in the field of international law
- To **promote scholarly publications and research** on various issues of international law of particular relevance to Africa and to provide a **platform for wide dissemination** of such publications in all the official languages of the African Union
- To **establish fellowship programmes** for African and foreign scholars engaged in research on subjects of direct relevance to international law in Africa, the law of the African Union, and legal dimensions of political and economic integration among African countries, making full use of the Institute's library facilities

# Commencement of Activities



- The first Rector of the Institute, Ambassador Sani Mohammed of Nigeria, assumed duties at the Institute in Arusha on 16 November 2013
- The Institute took possession of the offices allocated to it by the Tanzanian Government on 1 January 2014
- Groundwork operations commenced under the leadership of the Rector, with three volunteer staff members assuming duties in January 2014



# Priority Areas

After research and consultations with African institutions and Governments, it was decided to **concentrate during the initial stage of the Institute's activities** on the following specialized areas:

- African Union law and regional organizations law; the public law of African integration
- Negotiation and conclusion of bilateral investment treaties and arbitration
- Territorial, maritime, river and lake delimitation (particularly the overlaps between maritime and territorial delimitations)
- International criminal law and Africa



# Priority Areas

- **Negotiation and conclusion of natural resources contracts in the extractive Sector**
- **Human rights law training for members of the judiciary and senior lawyers in Africa**
- **International litigation**
- **International dispute settlement mechanisms and procedures**
- **Drafting of international agreements and contracts**
- **Oil and gas law**

**The Institute is prepared to include other areas also considered priorities by African governments and institutions**

# Cooperation and Partnerships



- Not having a secure and stable source of funding for its educational and training activities nor a financial endowment, the Institute immediately embarked on **an intensive quest for cooperation, partnerships and funding** (particularly project funding) for its planned training activities
- In this context, it **contacted African institutions** (e.g. AU Commission, African Development Bank, African Capacity Building Foundation, African Legal Support Facility) as well as several **African Governments**, and some **Asian and European Governments** and their development cooperation institutions
- As part of its quest to create mutually beneficial cooperation with entities having common aims and objectives, the Institute also **signed memoranda of understanding** for cooperation and partnership with...

# Concluded MOUs



- African Union Commission – on activities related to:
  - ✓ African Union law
  - ✓ Elections, post-conflict and transitional justice
  - ✓ Territorial and maritime delimitations
  - ✓ Delimitation of rivers and lake boundaries
- African Legal Support Facility
- African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights
- African Institute of Economic Development (UNECA)
- University of Iringa, Tanzania





# Concluded MOUs



- Trento University, Italy
- Faroe Island University
- Beijing Foreign Studies University, China
- London Centre for International Law Practice
- African Academy for International Law Practice, Paris, France
- Cassese Foundation; T.M.C Asser Institute
- Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, Abuja, Nigeria

# Concluded MOUs



# Programmes – Conducted



						No. of Countries
<b>Training Workshop on Negotiating International Treaties for African Diplomats</b>	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	31 July – 1 Aug 2014	17	1	16	15
<b>Training Workshop on Bilateral Investment Treaties and Arbitration</b>	Arusha, Tanzania	16 – 20 Feb 2015	32	10	22	15
<b>Dialogue on Human Rights and the African Judiciary</b>	Arusha, Tanzania	18 – 22 May 2015	28	8	20	16
<b>Atelier de formation sur des traités bilatéraux d’investissement et l’arbitrage</b>	Arusha, Tanzania	1 – 5 June 2015	23	6	17	12
<b>Training on Bilateral Investment Treaties and Arbitration</b>	Arusha, Tanzania	6 – 10 June 2016	32	12	20	12
<b>Atelier de formation sur des traités bilatéraux d’investissement et l’arbitrage</b>	Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire	26 – 30 Sept 2016	40	12	28	17
<b>International Law Seminar for African Universities, Kofi Annan Centre</b>	Accra, Ghana	15 – 26 Aug 2016	30	13	17	20
<b>Summer Academy on the Continental Shelf</b>	Arusha, Tanzania	21 – 28 April 2018	31	14	17	22



# Programmes – Conducted

						No. of Countries
<b>Seminar on Reviewing International Reforms to the Investment Regime and ISDS Mechanism: Perspective from the Asian-African Regions</b>	Arusha, Tanzania	19 – 21 Nov 2018	82	31	51	37
<b>Best Practices in Arbitration in Africa</b>	Arusha, Tanzania	12 – 14 Feb 2019	167	60	107	38
<b>Chief Justices' Working Visit to Arusha and The Hague</b>	Arusha & The Hague	3 – 11 July 2019	7	3	4	7
<b>China-Africa Law Forum</b>	Beijing, China	30 – 31 July 2019	76	35	41	28
<b>Summer Academy on the Continental Shelf</b>	Arusha, Tanzania	1 – 7 Sept 2019	29	14	15	16

**- TOTAL -**

**13 programmes | 594 participants | 227 female | 367 male  
from over 60 different countries**

# Programmes – Planned



- **Master's in International Law and the Law of the African Union with the University of Dar Es Salaam**
- **Programme for capacity building and accreditation of African arbitrators**
- **Training for the Judiciary of Somalia with the Faculty of Law of the University of Trento, Italy**
- **Seminar on The Hague Conventions on Private International Law**
- **Capacity building project with the World Bank on the drafting and negotiation of Guarantees and Indemnity Agreements and privileges and immunities.**
- **International Law Seminar for African Universities (ILSAU) – the AU Legal department has not been cooperative**
- **AUCIL programme on promoting the teaching, study and dissemination of international law and African Union law in the African continent**



























# Governance

- The Institute is governed by a **Curatorium** consisting of well-known international lawyers from Africa and outside the continent. This body of highly specialized experts is responsible for the **academic programmes** and **overall strategic direction** of the Institute.
- The Institute has an **Administrative Board**, which is responsible for its **day-to-day management** and **budgetary matters**.
- The Institute has a **Rector** who serves as the **Chief Executive Officer** and **academic head** of the Institute. Works under the direction of the Curatorium and the Administrative Committee.



# Members of the Curatorium

- 1. Judge Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf  
President of the Curatorium**
- 2. Prof. Dr. Sabine Freifrau von Schorlemer  
Vice President of the Curatorium**
- 3. Judge Nicholas Michel**
- 4. Ms. Sandie Okoro**
- 5. Ms. Amina Mohamed Jibril**
- 6. Prof. Chris Maina Peter**
- 7. Prof. Sean Murphy**
- 8. Judge Fatsah Ouguergouz**
- 9. Prof. Mads Andenaes**
- 10. Amb. Sani Mohamed (Ex-Officio)**



# Members of the Administrative Committee



- 1. Hon. Judge Mohamed Chande Othman  
Chairman of the Committee**
- 2. Hon. Judge Vagn Prusse Joensen  
Vice Chairman of the Committee**
- 3. Hon. Judge William Hussein Sekule**
- 4. Hon. Judge Prof. Gerard Niyungeko**
- 5. Hon. Judge Prof. Blaise Tchikaya**
- 6. Amb. Sani Mohamed (Ex-Officio)**



# Generous Support—In Kind & Funds



- **The African Foundation for International Law**
- **The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania**
- **The African Union Commission**
- **The United Nations, Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs (OLA)**
- **The African Legal Support Facility (ALSF)**
- **Professor Georges Abi-Saab (Egypt), President of the AFIL**

# Generous Support In Kind and Funds



- **Governments of the Netherlands, Japan, China, Italy, Sweden and New Zealand**
- **Antonio Cassese Initiative**
- **Professor James Busuttil**
- **Arcadia University, Pennsylvania, USA**
- **Geneva Centre for Human Rights Advancement and Global Dialogue**
- **GIZ - German Development Cooperation**
- **International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR)**
- **Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS)**
- **AFREXIMBANK**



# Conclusion

While the Institute is capable of mobilizing funding for specific training courses - and has so far **succeeded in lining up project-based financing** on the basis of its specific proposals - it still **lacks a regular source of funding for its day-to-day activities and operations**, which deprives it of the possibility of recruiting regular staff and ensuring its long-term sustainability. The Institute has approached various donors directly with a view to obtaining such funding, it has not so far succeeded in its efforts.



## Conclusion

In view of the **strategic importance** of the educational and training activities of the Institute it is our **ardent hope** that **funds will be obtained in the near future** to enable the recruitment of essential staff and to proceed with the gradual construction of the Institute's permanent site.



## Conclusion

With regards to programmes, there is need to secure substantial operational funding through the **development of a partnership with other institutions** - in the form of either an annual subsidy or a grant. This will enable the Institute to **strengthen its capacity building activities in the rule of law** through research, teaching and dissemination of African Union law and other pertinent areas of international law.

**Thank You**



**African Institute of International Law  
Institut Africain de Droit International**



**Arusha International Conference Centre  
Kilimanjaro Wing, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor,  
P.O. Box 561 Arusha – Tanzania**

**Tel: +255 788 520 521**

**+255 710 732 590**

**Email: [info@aiil-iadi.org](mailto:info@aiil-iadi.org)**

**Website: [www.aiil-iadi.org](http://www.aiil-iadi.org)**

