African Society of International Law 14th Annual Conference



17-18 OCTOBER 2025

SOUTHERN SUN MAPUTO AVENIDA DA MARGINAL

POLANA SERENA HOTEL 1380 AV. JULIUS NYERERE

Register at: www.afsilsadi.org

Africa, Culture & International Law

Africa's cultural heritage represents one of humanity's greatest legacies – a wellspring of knowledge, creativity, and wisdom that has shaped global culture for centuries, even amidst displacement, looting, and suppression. From Ubuntu's philosophy of shared humanity to the Timbuktu manuscripts on astronomy, medicine, math, and law; from the metallurgy of the Nok to Egyptian medical texts and Ethiopian theological reflections; Africa has long advanced science and thought that has shaped civilizations. The continent's genius in art and music also continues to inspire and transform global culture – from the Benin bronzes and Kente cloth to Afrobeats and the rhythms that gave rise to jazz, gospel, and blues.

Today, African culture stands at a crossroads: celebrated globally, yet vulnerable to conflict, appropriation, and illicit trafficking. Recent cases before international courts and tribunals, from the recognition of cultural destruction as a war crime to ongoing restitution claims, show how law has both protected and failed African heritage. Questions of ownership, sovereignty, and reparations remain pressing, as do challenges of building complex legal frameworks that protect creative industries in a global marketplace.

This conference asks: How has international law historically mediated African cultural expressions and heritage? How can doctrines of state responsibility, human rights, and international criminal law be harnessed for protection? Can trade, intellectual property, and investment law be reshaped to ensure benefits flow back to African creators and communities? And how might African narratives and legal traditions – long marginalized – have and can continue to enrich international law itself? The conference also takes the opportunity to examine the culture of international law itself.

By gathering some of the field's foremost legal scholars and practitioners from Africa and beyond, AfSIL intends to offer a forum not only to address historical injustices and current threats, but to imagine innovative legal futures where Africa's cultural wealth is safeguarded, celebrated, and empowered on the international stage.

This year's annual conference is dedicated to **Ambassador Yvette Rabetafika Ranjeva** (1942-2025), UNESCO Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Madagascar, a towering figure in African diplomacy and international legal scholarship whose steadfast devotion to AfSIL has been a cornerstone of its development since its founding.

2025 Conference Committee

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FRIDAY, 17 OCTOBER: SOUTHERN SUN MAPUTO HOTEL

8.30-9.30 AM	Registration
9.30-10.15 AM	 OPENING CEREMONY Chair: MS. TAFADZWA PASIPANODYA, Partner, Foley Hoag LLP & Vice-President, AfSIL DR. JEAN-PELÉ FOMÉTÉ, Deputy Registrar, International Court of Justice MR. DIMETRIO MANJATE, Advisor, ICT, and International Cooperation, Mozambican Bar Association PROF. MAKANE MOÏSE MBENGUE, University of Geneva & Sciences Po Paris, President of AfSIL H.E. JUDGE RAYMOND RANJEVA, former Vice President, International Court of Justice
10.15-10.50 AM	 KEYNOTE SPEECH Chair: DR. JAMSHEED PEEROO, Barrister, The 36 Group, & Secretary General, AfSIL MR. EDWARD KWAKWA, Assistant Director General, WIPO
10.50-11.15 AM	Coffee Break & Conference Photo
11.15-12.30 PM	 PANEL I: STATE RESPONSIBILITY & LEGAL PATHWAYS FOR RESTITUTION OF AFRICAN ART & ARTIFACTS Chair: H.E. JUDGE DIRE TLADI, Judge, International Court of Justice PROF. MARIA CHIARA MALAGUTI, President, UNIDROIT MS. EVA KEÏTA, Independent Consultant, "Building the case for an ICJ Advisory Opinion for the Restitution of African Cultural Heritage" PROF. BENJAMIN TRAORÉ, Associate Professor, Mohammed VI Polytechnic University MR. KARIM M'ZIANI, Legal Counsel, Permanent Court of Arbitration & Deputy Secretary General, AfSIL
12.30-1.30 PM	Lunch
1.30-2.30 PM	 PANEL II: CULTURAL HERITAGE UNDER SIEGE: THE ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW IN PROTECTING AFRICA'S CULTURAL HERITAGE FROM CONFLICT, ILLICIT TRAFFICKING AND CLIMATE CHANGE Chair: MR. JACOB OMORODION, Head of International Partnerships and Vice-Chair of the Development Board, Museum of West African Art (MOWAA) DR. AYLA DO VALE ALVES, Lecturer in Law, University of South Australia, "International Protection of Indigenous Cultural Heritage: Changes from Within and Beyond State-Centrism" DR. WEBBER NDORO, Director, Islamic World Heritage Center (ICESCO) DR. STEVE TIWA FOMEKONG, Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law of Université Laval, "Legal Protection of Cultural Heritage in Mali's Conflict: Challenges and Pathways for Enforcement"
2:30-3:30 PM	 PANEL III: TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE, INDIGENOUS PRACTICES, INNOVATION & AFRICA'S IP LANDSCAPE DR. CAROL CRAVERO, Attorney-at-Law and Yale ASAP Fellow, Global Justice Program, Yale University, "Sustainable Public Procurement in Africa: The Role of Traditional Knowledge and Indigenous Values" MS. AILEEN KIMUHU, PhD Candidate, University of Exeter, "Protection is Not a Neutral Term: The Right to the Protection of Traditional Knowledge under Kenya's TKCE Act 2016" MR. JACKSON SHAW KERN, Partner, ALG LLP, "Protecting Precious Biodiversity and its Traditional Knowledge: A Case Study of Ethiopia's Ancient Grain"
3.30-4.00 PM	Coffee Break



4.00 – 5.00 PM	FIRESIDE CHAT: AFRICAN CREATIVE INDUSTRIES: NAVIGATING GLOBAL MARKETS & CAPTURING VALUE • Chair: MRS. KIKE ALUKO WAHUTU, Entertainment Attorney, Greenberg Traurig, LLP & Advisory Board Chair, African Creative Economies Initiative at Harvard Law School • MR. MOREIRA CHONGUIÇA, Saxophonist, Composer, Producer, Ethnomusicologist & Cultural Entrepreneur
5.00 – 5.45 PM	 PANEL IV: CULTURAL RIGHTS AS HUMAN RIGHTS Chair: MR. YOUSSEF AZIZ, Law Clerk, Constitutional Court of South Africa & Secretary, AfSIL H.E. AMB. NAMIRA NEGM, Director, African Migration Observatory & AfSIL Honorary President PROF. HÉLÈNE TIGROUDJA, Visiting Professor of Public International Law at CIL - National University of Singapore/Aix-Marseille University, "Cultural Diversity v. Universality of Human Rights: Are the two irreconcilable?"
6.30 PM	COCKTAIL RECEPTION: Polana Serena Hotel 2025 African Society of International Law Award for Excellence in International Law & Practice Inaugural Yvette Rabetafika Ranjeva Best Paper Award



SATURDAY, 18 OCTOBER: POLANA SERENA HOTEL

9.00-10.00 AM	 PANEL V: TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATION & AFRICA'S IP LANDSCAPE Chair: MR. NYANJE JOHN, Consultant, LawCom Institute MS. GRACE GATERE, PhD Candidate, The Technical University of Kenya, "Blockchain-Based Copyright Management for Visual Artists in Kenya" MS. SIRAN MAHAMA, PhD Candidate, University of London, "Harnessing Artificial Intelligence for the Preservation, Protection, and Commercialization of African Traditional Knowledge: A Legal and Policy Perspective" MS. ATUPELE MASANJALA, Lecturer, University of Malawi, "Leaving Money on the Table: The Case of Malawi and Digital Content Creation"
10.00-11.00 AM	 PANEL VI: AFRICA & THE CULTURE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW Chair: DR. APOLLIN KOAGNE ZOUAPET, Legal Officer, International Court of Justice MR. YOUSSEF AZIZ, Law Clerk, Constitutional Court of South Africa & Secretary, AfSIL, "Between Recognition and Refusal: Indigenous (Legal) Resistance in 'Quasi-Sovereign' Africa" DR. IDRISS FOFANA, Assistant Professor, Harvard University MS. INES MESEK, Associate Legal Officer, International Court of Justice, "Perceptions and Limitations of the Right to Self-Determination in Africa?"
11.00-11.30 AM	Coffee Break
11.30-12.30 PM	 PANEL VII: DECOLONIZING MUSEUMS Chair: PROF. SOLANGE LAURA MACAMO, Associate Professor in Archaeology and Built Heritage, Eduardo Mondlane University MR. MIGUEL ÂNGELO RAIMUNDO, Mozambican Heritage Consultant, "Decolonizing Heritage Landscapes: The Archaeological Biocultural Park of Chongoene and Xai-Xai as a Model for Community-Led Museology" MR. NTOKOZO DLADLA, LL.M. Candidate, University of South Africa, "The Aesthetics of African Approaches to International Law: A critical commentary on Dahomey and the restitution of cultural property" MS. JANETE SIMIÃO MATUSSE, M.A. Candidate, University of Pretoria, "Preserving Underwater Cultural Heritage Site IDM-009 and Decolonizing Underwater Cultural Heritage under UNESCO 2001"
12.301.30 PM	Lunch



1:30 - 2.30 PM	 PANEL VIII: CULTURE, CONFLICT & JUSTICE: AFRICAN PERSPECTIVES ON INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL LAW Chair: MR. KANYIRI KARIUKI, Advocate of the High Court of Kenya & AfSIL Conference Committee Member MS. MELISSA HENDRICKSE, Legal Adviser, Amnesty International, "The Bio-logic of the Crime of Genocide: International criminal law and the destruction of African culture" DR. TAMER MORRIS, Senior Lecturer, University of Sydney, "Right of Peace and Security in Armed Conflict, an African perspective" DR. VERA PIOVESAN, Assistant Professor, Charles University, "Trajectories of Justice: Revisiting the Role of Traditional Justice Mechanisms in International Criminal Law" MR. ELVIS ONGIRI, LL.B. Candidate, Kabarak University, "Decolonising intertemporal law for the recognition of colonisation as a crime against humanity"
2.30 – 3.15 PM	CLOSING CEREMONY: LEGACIES AND HORIZONS: CONCLUDING REFLECTIONS ON AFRICA, CULTURE, AND INTERNATIONAL LAW • Chair: MS. EVA KEÏTA, Commissioner, AfSIL & Chair, 2025 AfSIL Annual Conference Committee • PROF. MAKANE MOÏSE MBENGUE, University of Geneva & Sciences Po Paris, President of AfSIL • H.E. AMB. NAMIRA NEGM, Director, African Migration Observatory & AfSIL Honorary President • PROF. HÉLÈNE TIGROUDJA, Visiting Professor of Public International Law at CIL - National University of Singapore/Aix-Marseille University
	 CONFERENCE SIDE EVENTS Academic Paper Workshop Session Early Career Meet-up

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FOLEY HOAG





Kike Aluko Wahutu is an Associate Attorney in the Entertainment Group at Greenberg Traurig, LLP, and Chair of the Advisory Board of the African Creative Economies Initiative at Harvard Law School. She has expertise in a diverse range of transactions within the entertainment industry, particularly music licensing in connection with digital, film and television, sports and marketing initiatives, as well as the representation of creative talent. She holds a JD/MBA from Harvard Law School and Harvard Business School, and a BA from Stanford University. As a classically trained musician, and with prior experience at the Nigerian Copyright Commission, Spotify, Creative Artists Agency (CAA) and Pandora, Kike brings a variety of valuable perspectives to her practice that provide her with a unique understanding of the creative, strategic, and business issues facing the music industry.



Ayla Alves is a Lecturer in Law at the University of South Australia. Her research spans international law, human rights, cultural heritage, Indigenous peoples' rights, and Latin American legal developments, with a focus on freedom of expression and religion. Her PhD at UNSW-Sydney (2023) examined pathways to regulate cultural appropriation in international law, centering Indigenous cultural heritage and Latin American approaches. A former Study Visitor at the European Court of Human Rights, she has served as co-editor of the ASIL Rights of Indigenous Peoples Newsletter and taught various law courses at UNSW. Originally from Brazil, Ayla holds an LLB from the State University of Feira de Santana, an LLM from the University of Liverpool, and is admitted to the Brazilian Bar. Her earlier work includes teaching Human Rights Law and researching Inter-American Court jurisprudence on freedom of expression. She has also gained legal experience in Portugal and France.



Youssef Aziz is a law clerk at the Constitutional Court of South Africa, contributing to the development of South African jurisprudence grounded in transformative constitutionalism. He is also a Fellow at the Centre for Applied Legal Studies (CALS) at the University of the Witwatersrand, where he focuses on international litigation and comparative approaches to state accountability and redress. A graduate of New York University School of Law, Youssef received the Jerome Lipper Prize for excellence in international law, the Kim Barry Memorial Prize for human rights advocacy, and the Salzburg Cutler Fellowship for emerging scholars in international law. He has supported impact litigation at the Center for Constitutional Rights, including Palestine v. Biden, and contributed to Al Shimari v. CACI, a landmark \$42 million judgment for Iraqi torture survivors at Abu Ghraib Prison in 2004, post-US invasion. Youssef interned at Foley Hoag LLP, where he worked on behalf of The Gambia before the ICJ, assisting in the preparation of provisional measures submissions in The Gambia v. Myanmar. In 2023, Youssef worked at the International Law Commission, assisting Professor Dapo Akande on the report on Subsidiary Means for the Determination of Rules of International Law. Youssef is Secretary on the AfSIL Burea.





Moreira Chonguiça is a celebrated Mozambican saxophonist, composer, producer, ethnomusicologist and cultural entrepreneur whose career embodies how African creatives and Creative Industries and Economy can thrive in global markets while remaining anchored in local culture. Over two decades, he has released seven award winning albums, toured internationally, and collaborated with icons such as Manu Dibango, Najee, Hugh Masekela, positioning African jazz as a distinctive global voice. Beyond the stage, he has built platforms that nurture value creation in the Creative Industry. In Mozambique, he founded the Moreira Chonguiça Foundation, More Jazz Series (Maputo International Jazz Festival – More Jazz Series) and the More Jazz Big Band youth orchestra, creating pipelines for young musicians to access training, performance, and global exposure. Moreira Chonguiça was appointed President of the Portfolio of Creative Industries and Culture for the CTA (Business Federation of Mozambique). Through cross-border collaborations and Cultural Diplomacy, including partnerships with UNESCO and the Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz in Washington DC with regular annual International Jazz Day celebrations, he demonstrates how music can serve as both cultural heritage and economic driver. As a result of his work and initiatives in the Creative Industry, underscoring the values of friendship and cooperation between nations, He was recognised as a Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the Republic of France, awarded a Commendation from the Government of Japan (Empire of Japan) for the Promotion of mutual understanding between Japan and Mozambique; awarded the Order of Merit by the Republic of Portugal for his contribution to jazz music in Mozambique; and awarded the Medal of Merit: Arts and Letters from the Republic of Mozambique for his contribution to this field in Mozambique.



Carol Cravero is an Attorney-at-Law admitted to the Italian Bar in 2015 and holds a joint PhD cum Laude in Sustainable Development and Public Procurement Law from the University of Turin (Italy) and the University of Paris Nanterre (France). She currently works as an International Legal Expert in sustainable public procurement and serves as an ASAP Research Fellow with the Yale Global Justice Program. Previously, she worked as Legal Counsel of the Lebanese Public Procurement Authority within the project for the Lebanese public administration reform funded by the European Union and executed by Expertise France. Prior to that, she worked as a Legal Affairs Officer at the World Trade Organization (WTO) for the Government Procurement and Competition Policy Group – Intellectual Property, Government Procurement and Competition Division and as the principal advisor to the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Development of Burkina Faso for the reform of their domestic procurement system with the aim of including sustainability principles and criteria in government procurement laws, policies and procedures. She has also participated in the reform of the Senegalese public procurement law, working for the African Development Bank Group. Since 2013 she has been working for the United Nations (International Training Centre of the ILO, and ILO- and IFADled projects) designing and delivering training activities on sustainable public procurement.





Ntokozo Dladla holds an LLB from the University of Cape Town. He is completing his LLM in intellectual property at the University of South Africa and he currently works in the legal unit at Open Secrets (South Africa) where he focuses on strategic legal action against multinational corporations. His research interests include the history and theory of international law, and law and literature.



Idriss Fofana is Assistant Professor of Law and Affiliate Assistant Professor of History at Harvard University. He writes and teaches in the areas of international law, comparative law, legal history, and law and colonialism. His research examines the history of international law and other forms of inter-polity order in Africa and Asia since the 1600s. Focusing on China and Sahelian West Africa, his work has explored African and Asian engagement with transnational legal regimes through subjects as varied as the international protection of private property, non-discrimination standards, the law of treaties, and international labor migration. He works primarily with sources in Chinese (classical and modern), French, Arabic (classical), and Portuguese. His scholarship has appeared or is forthcoming in the Leiden Journal of International Law, the Journal of the History of International Law/Revue d'histoire du droit international, and other publications. Before joining the faculty, he was the Reginald F. Lewis Fellow at Harvard Law School. He also served as a Judicial Fellow for Judge Abdulgawi Yusuf, then president of the International Court of Justice. Originally from Côte d'Ivoire, Professor Fofana received an undergraduate degree from Harvard College. He earned a J.D. from Yale Law School, where he participated in litigation and advocacy on matters of immigration, citizenship, and national security. He received his Ph.D. in African and Chinese history from Columbia University. He has also been a visiting scholar at Zhejiang University, Jinan University (Guangzhou), Fudan University Law School, and Paris 1 University Panthéon-Sorbonne.



Jean-Pelé Fomété, a Cameroonian national, has held the position of Deputy Registrar of the International Court of Justice since 2013 and was re-elected to this post in 2020. Previously, Dr. Fomété served as Registrar of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal in Nairobi from 2009 until 2013. The 12 years before that, he worked with the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), first as a legal adviser and special counsel to the registrar, and then as a program director at the ICTR Registry. Prior to joining the ICTR, Dr. Fomété worked as a Law Clerk at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and as Chief of the United Nations Political and Legal Affairs Service at the Ministry of External Relations of Cameroon. Dr. Fomété holds a Doctorate in international law and diplomacy from the International Relations Institute of Cameroon (1990). He also has an MBA from the Maastricht School of Management (2005).





Grace Gatere is a design lecturer at the Technical University of Kenya (TUK) and an interdisciplinary researcher bridging design, law, and sustainability. Her doctoral work investigates how piracy affects Nairobi's design community and informs practical policy responses. She teaches drawing, interior design fundamentals, and visual communication, embedding lifecycle thinking and responsible design alongside IP literacy. A graduate of Harvard Law School's CopyrightX, she is a member of the IPIRA network and holds WIPO certification in Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural (TK/TCE). She frequently presents at regional and international conferences on anti-piracy, copyright, and community-led certification. She recently attended the SARChI IP Law Symposium at the University of Cape Town.



Melissa Hendrickse is a legal adviser in the International Law and International Justice team at the International Secretariat of Amnesty International. Her work focuses on the intersection between international justice and racial justice, including crimes under international law involving or arising from racial discrimination such as genocide, apartheid and persecution. She also leads Amnesty International's project on reparations for slavery and colonialism. Melissa holds a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) from the University of Cape Town, South Africa and a Master of Laws (LL.M.) from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), where she was a recipient of the UCLA-Sonke Health and Human Rights Fellowship and worked as a Racial Justice & Human Rights student fellow at the Promise Institute for Human Rights. She is based in Johannesburg, South Africa.

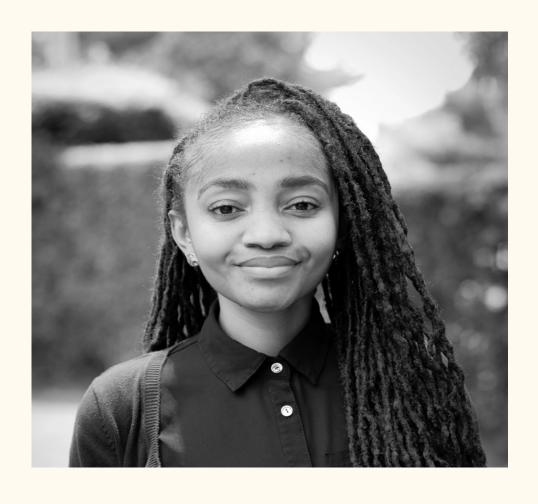


Kanyiri Kariuki is an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya with three years of post-qualification experience. He is also a Member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators in Kenya and the UK. He is a member of the Dispute-Resolution Interest Group within AfSIL and is fascinated by the intersection of International Law and Literature. As Prof. Andrea Bianchi puts it, "Legal professionals involved in dispute settlement might greatly benefit from taking a look at literature and learning more about storytelling and rhetoric."





Eva Keïta is an independent consultant specializing in public international law and interstate dispute resolution. She previously served as an Associate Legal Officer at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), where she began as a Judicial Fellow. Her earlier experience includes working in international arbitration as an intern at two leading law firms in Paris. Eva holds an LL.M. from Stanford Law School and is currently awaiting admission to practice law in New York. She completed her foundational legal studies in France, earning a law degree from Sciences Po Paris. Committed to advancing human rights, Eva spent four months practicing human rights and criminal law with a local NGO in Togo, which advocates for inmates' rights. During her studies at Stanford, she was actively involved in the Three Strikes Project and participated in representing an inmate sentenced to life for minor crimes in proceedings to request his resentencing under California law.



Aileen Kimuhu is a PGR Researcher at the University of Exeter, where her doctoral research examines how cultural and intellectual property frameworks reshape the boundaries of citizenship in Kenya. Her broader interests lie at the intersection of law, culture, history, and identity. She holds an LLB (First Class, 2014) and an LLM (Distinction, 2018) from the University of Reading, where she received the Outstanding Postgraduate Student Prize for exceptional academic performance and an insightful thesis. She published work in Democracy in Africa, The Continent, and the Nkrumah Institute exploring themes of identity, colonial legacies, and the obligations of the African diaspora. Beyond academia, she has experience in political strategy, education, marketing, and writing for eCommerce and non-profit organizations.



Apollin Koagne Zouapet holds a PhD in Law from the University of Geneva and the Diploma of The Hague Academy of International Law (Winter 2019). He is currently a Legal Officer at the International Court of Justice and a Guest Lecturer at Leiden University.





Edward Kwakwa is Senior Director, Department for Traditional Knowledge and Global Challenges, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in Geneva. He served as General Counsel at World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) from 2004 until September 2016. Kwakwa holds an LL.B. degree from the University of Ghana, an LL.M. from Queen's University in Canada, and an LL.M. and a J.S.D. from Yale Law School. Before joining WIPO, Kwakwa practiced corporate and international trade law and investment with the law firm of O'Melveny and Myers in Washington, D.C., worked as International Legal Adviser at the Commission on Global Governance in Geneva, as Senior Legal Adviser at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and as Legal Affairs Officer at the World Trade Organization (WTO). He is currently serving as Vice-President of the African Foundation for International Law, Member of the Governing Council of Africa Legal Aid and Member of the Editorial Advisory Boards of the African Journal of International and Comparative Law and the International Organizations Law Review. In September 2011, he was elected as an Associate Member of the Institut de Droit International, and became a full Member in September 2017. He served from 2001 to 2004 on the Executive Council of the American Society of International Law (ASIL), from 2012 to 2015 as Counselor of the ASIL, and as Vice President of the ASIL from 2015 to 2017. He is a Visiting Professor of Law at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, and at the University of Lausanne, and has been an Adjunct/Visiting Professor of Law at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, the University of Denver College of Law, and the University of Pretoria, South Africa, where he has been appointed as an Extraordinary Professor in Law.





Solange Laura Macamo is Director Faculty Museum of Archaeology, being Associate Professor of Archaeology and Built Heritage at the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Eduardo Mondlane University (UEM), Maputo, Mozambique.

Between 2018 and 2022, she was a Co-Investigator on the Rising from the Depths research network in East Africa, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), UK. Currently, she is the lead coordinator for two major initiatives: the Chongoene Archaeological and Biocultural Heritage Project and Creating a Community-Run Craft and Seafood Cultural Market: Enabling Social Development and Ecosystem Services in Chongoene and Xai-Xai Districts (Gaza Province, Mozambique), both funded by the Gerda Henkel Foundation. In 2020 and 2021, she coordinated the development of selection criteria for museum objects, aligning with decolonization processes in heritage practice. Concurrently, she joined the Faculty Scientific Advisory Board and has since coordinated the commemoration of World African Heritage Day (5 May) at UEM.

From 2010 to 2016, Professor Macamo served as National Director for Cultural Heritage at the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. During her tenure, she contributed to the drafting of heritage legislation, acted as the national focal point to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre on matters relating to the Island of Mozambique, and coordinated a multi-sectoral team for the preservation of Liberation Heritage. In 2023, under the guidance of Professor Paul Lane, she joined the Academic Committee of the Heritage Organization. In 2024, she became involved in the ENTANGLED project, led by Dr Abigail Moffett (University of Cambridge). Her role has been central in fostering the participation of UEM's Departments of History, Archaeology, and Anthropology, while integrating community knowledge into field practices. Her long-standing research on Zimbabwe- type sites in Mozambique has provided the project with critical archaeological perspectives.



Siran Mahama is a District Court Magistrate with nine years of experience across the Bar, Bench, and in Academia. Currently, she is pursuing a PhD in Law at the University of London, where her research examines how artificial intelligence can support alternative dispute resolution in Ghana, with attention to its legal and cybersecurity implications. Additionally, Siran holds two Master of Laws degrees. One in Security and International Law from the University of Manchester and another in Alternative Dispute Resolution from the University of Ghana. She has also completed the Artificial Intelligence Programme at the University of Oxford, and the Harvard VPAL Cybersecurity Programme, amongst others. For AfSIL 2025, Siran is presenting a paper titled; "Harnessing Artificial Intelligence for the Preservation, Protection, and Commercialisation of African Traditional Knowledge." The paper explores how technology can help protect and add value to Africa's cultural heritage through fair, community-centred legal frameworks.





Maria Chiara Malaguti is Full Professor of international law at Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Milan/Rome, Italy), where she teaches trade law and international law and economics. She specializes and acts as advisor in International and European Union Law applied to financial markets, in international investment law and most recently in all aspects related to sustainable development and social responsibility in cross-border companies. She also studies issues concerning harmonization and conflict of laws. Furthermore, Maria Chiara is legal expert to the Legal Service of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International cooperation, also assisting the State legal team (Avvocatura dello Stato) in international investment arbitral disputes. She represents Italy in all current negotiations for ISDS reform, and contributed to the drafting of the latest version of Italy's Model BIT and Member of the Italian Arbitration Committee and ADR ICC Italy, she is also an Italian delegate of the ICC Commission on Arbitration and ADR. She is currently chairperson of the UNCITRAL Working Group on Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises.

In August 2020, the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs appointed Prof. Malaguti as President of UNIDROIT, the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law. She is the first woman to hold this position. Maria Chiara is also senior legal expert to the World Bank in payment systems, financial markets and governance, having assisted more than 60 different countries in the last 15 years. She graduated in both Law and Economics at the University Alma Mater of Bologna, and received an LLM from Harvard Law School and a doctorate from the European University Institute of Florence. Maria Chiara has numerous publications, mainly focusing on financial markets, coordination of law, and sovereign debt, as well as international commerce in general.



Dimétrio Manjate is a Mozambican lawyer and consultant, focusing his practice on commercial law, contract law, labor law and arbitration. With more than a decade's experience as a lawyer, he has advised national and foreign corporate clients on the matters that constitute his areas of practice, with special emphasis on corporate governance, compliance and employment issues. He has also advises clients on strategic issues of legal relevance, particularly contractual issues involving transactions of various kinds in real estate, construction and mergers and acquisitions (M&A). He provides legal advice on collective redundancies and company restructuring. He regularly assists national and foreign clients in arbitration proceedings brought in Mozambique, with special emphasis on commercial arbitration. He represents clients in the banking sector in credit recovery and labor proceedings. Dimétrio holds a Master's degree in Legal Sciences from the Faculty of Law at Eduardo Mondlane University. He designed the Calculadora de Preparos app. He is the author of a book entitled "A Procuração Irrevogável em Moçambique" (The Irrevocable Power of Attorney in Mozambique), published in 2023. He is an arbitrator registered with the Maputo Center for Arbitration, Conciliation and Mediation (CACM).





Atupele Masanjala was called to the Bar in 2018 after graduating with a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) Degree from the University of Malawi. She also holds a Master of Laws Degree in International Trade Law from the University of Cape Town. Atupele is an Afronomicslaw Regional Representative who worked for the law firm Anchor Mooring Partners and at Standard Bank as a legal officer. Currently, Atupele is a lecturer under the Department of Private at the University of Malawi. Her research focuses primarily on a commercial law, international trade law and regional integration with a view to bring a Malawian perspective to these areas of law where Malawian voices are rarely heard.



Janete Simião Matusse is a Mozambican archaeologist and cultural heritage specialist with a focus on underwater archaeology, as well as the protection, conservation, restoration, and preservation of maritime and underwater cultural heritage. Born in Xai-Xai in 1994, she obtained her degree in Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Management from Eduardo Mondlane University (UEM) in 2019. She then participated in a specialized training program in Cultural Heritage Management at UEM, in collaboration with Uppsala University, in 2020. She is also a recipient of the SIDA-SAREC scholarship, which is administered through UEM, to support her studies and research. Currently, she is pursuing a master's degree in Underwater Archaeology at the University of Pretoria. Her research centers on the interplay between human threats and environmental challenges. Her interests include the management of underwater cultural heritage, strategies for preserving maritime sites, and the technical and organizational aspects of conserving wooden wrecks and other submerged cultural assets.





Makane Moïse Mbengue is a Professor of International Law and Head of the Department of Public International Law and International Organization at the Faculty of Law of the University of Geneva where he teaches General International Law, International Environmental Law, International Investment Law, Climate Change and International Law, International Water Law, International Dispute Settlement Law and Philosophy of International Law. Prof. Mbengue is also an Affiliated Professor at Sciences Po Paris (School of Law) where he teaches General International Law, the Law of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and Dispute Settlement in the Law of the Sea. He has served as the President of the African Society of International Law (AfSIL) since 2017. He has also acted and acts as expert for the African Union, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR), the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Islamic Development Bank, the World Trade Organization, the West African Monetary Union, the League of Arab States, African Regional Economic Communities (ECOWAS, COMESA, EAC and ECCAS), the Senegal River Development Organization, the Niger Basin Authority, the Lake Chad Commission and the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) among others. He also acts as counsel and arbitrator in disputes before international courts and tribunals (in particular, before the International Court of Justice and in investment cases) and as advisor for governments. He is the author of several publications in the field of international law.



Ines Mesek is an Associate Legal Officer at the International Court of Justice, where she previously also served as a Judicial Fellow. She is currently pursuing a PhD in international law at the University of Geneva under the supervision of Professor Makane Moïse Mbengue, focusing on the notion of dispute before the International Court of Justice. Ines holds a Bachelor of Law and a Master's in International and European Law from the same university and a LLM in International Law from the Geneva Graduate Institute. Before joining the Court, Ines Mesek worked as a Teaching Assistant at the University of Geneva, where she provided academic support for the courses in Public International Law, Current Issues of International Law through the Case-Law of International Courts and Tribunals, International Environmental Law, and International Investment Law. She also served as the Coordinator of the Geneva Summer Courses in International Law and International Humanitarian Law working closely with the Directors of this Summer School. In parallel, during her studies, she gained practical experience in international civil aviation law as well as in Swiss domestic law, particularly in the field of philanthropy, working in two law firms based in Switzerland.





Karim M'ziani is a Legal Counsel at the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), and the Registrar of the Mauritius International Arbitration Centre, in Port Louis, Mauritius. He serves as AfSIL's Deputy Secretary General. Karim completed his law studies in France, China and Argentina. He undertook an LL.M. at Duke University, where he studied as a Fulbright scholar. As part of his scholarship, Karim focused his research on international arbitration in Africa and organized and moderated a successful conference relating to the China-Africa relationship with panelists from Eurasia Group, the World Bank and Yale University. He is also the recipient of the Georges Lurcy fellowship, the François Monahan scholarship, the Duke Merit scholarship and France Fulbright Alumni Prize. Prior to joining the PCA and MIAC, Karim worked at leading law firms in France, Argentina, and the United States on high profile State-to-State, investor-State, and commercial disputes involving parties from the African continent and beyond. He is admitted to practice in New York and Paris, and speaks English, French, Spanish, and Mandarin.



Elvis Mogesa Ongiri is a final year undergraduate law student at Kabarak University and the current Editor-in-Chief of Kabarak Law Review. He has a keen interest in critical international law having published in reputable international law platforms such as American Journal of International Law: Unbound and Opinio Juris. His recent publication in AJIL Unbound, "Decolonizing Intertemporal Law through the Lens of the Mau Mau Reparations Campaign", appears in the symposium What Can International Law Repair? (Cambridge University Press, 2025) alongside reputable scholars of international law. He previously published "Africa and International Law: An Ode to Taslim Olawale Elias" in Kabarak Law Review vol. 2 (2023).



Tamer Morris is a senior lecturer at the University of Sydney, where he teaches and researches in international law, United Nations peacekeeping, and international humanitarian law. Tamer also teaches in private international law and the conflict of laws. Tamer was awarded his PhD from the University of Sydney in 2021. He has published his recent book on The Protection of Civilians: A Legal Obligation was published in 2024. Tamer is also the co-editor of the Journal of International Humanitarian Studies. Tamer's current research focus is on the protection of civilians, UN peacekeeping and the legal responsibility of the State to protect. Tamer hopes that one day he will be able to become president of a glass blowing institute, but sadly, he cannot glass blow.





Webber Ndoro is a heritage professional from Africa. He has lectured on Heritage management at the University of Bergen, Norway, and the University of Zimbabwe as well as at the University of Cape Town, South Africa, where he is an honorary Professor. From 1998 to 2007, Webber Ndoro worked within ICCROM for the Africa 2009 program as the Programme Coordinator. He then became the Executive Director of the African World Heritage Fund (AWHF) 2008 to 2017, before returning to ICCROM in 2018 to 2023 as Director General. He is working as Director of Heritage Centre in the Islamic world at ICESCO since 2024. He has published numerous articles and co-edited several books on the conservation of African heritage, including Your Monument Our Shrine: The Preservation of Great Zimbabwe (ICCROM 2005), The Archaeological Heritage of Africa (Cambridge 2011) Managing Heritage in Africa: Who Cares? (Routledge, 2018) and Cultural Heritage Management in Africa: The Heritage of the Colonized (Routledge, 2022).



Namira Negm is the first Director of the African Migration Observatory and Honorary President of the African Society for International Law. She is a Visiting Professor at the Geneva Summer School in International Law and International Humanitarian Law (Geneva University), Member of the Editorial Board of the International Organizations Law Review and Member of the Advisory Board of the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law (Malta). She is a seasoned diplomat, professor and international advocate. Negm was the first female Legal Counsel of the African Union, the first and only African/Arab/Muslim/ Egyptian female that addressed both the ICJ and the ICC (Advisory Opinions of Chagos, the illegality of the occupation of the Palestinian Territories and the Jordan's Appeal in AlBashir case). She has also negotiated numerous international and African multilateral legal documents and Conventions. She is a Justitia Award Laureate for 2023 (International Leaders/Lifetime Award). She was also chosen among 100 Egyptian Female Heroes by WoEgypt's Heroes 2020. Negm is the former Ambassador of Egypt to Rwanda, Former Legal Advisor of the Egyptian Mission to the UN in NY, and former Visiting Professor at the American University of Cairo and University of `Rwanda. She carries a PhD in Public International Law from University of London (2006) and LLM in Public International Law from King's College London (1996). She has many academic and non-academic publications. Her publications include a book entitled 'The Transfer of Nuclear Technology under International Law: Case Study of Iraq, Iran and Israel', and another entitled 'An Introduction to the African Union Environmental Treaties' and Articles on 'The Role of Egypt in the Negotiations of the Crime of Aggression', 'The African Union Humanitarian Law Policy: An Analysis of Africa's Regional Institutions and Practice', 'The African Union Sanctions Regime in case of Unconstitutional Change of Government', and'The Ethio-Eritrea Commission.'



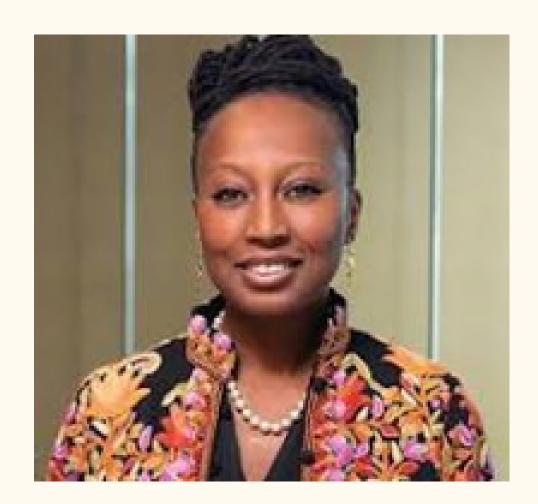


John Nyanje is a consultant with LawCom Institute and doctoral research and teaching fellow for the Africa Multiple Cluster of Excellence at the University of Bayreuth in Germany and the Leibniz University in Hannover Germany. His research work at the Cluster involves multidisciplinary research on the dispute resolution mechanisms of African Courts and Tribunals in relation to boosting trade in the different economic blocks in Africa. Additionally, he teaches and researches International Law and Dispute Settlement, Climate Change and the Politics of International law and Comparative law. He holds an LLM in International Law and Dispute Settlement from the MIDS, a joint program of the Graduate Institute of Geneva and the University of Geneva. He is also admitted to the bar in Kenya as an advocate of the High Court of Kenya. He continues to work as a dispute settlement lawyer having had experience working for law firms in Switzerland and Kenya where advises clients and worked on cases in public international law, international commercial arbitration, investment arbitration and Sports arbitration in institutions such as ICJ, ACHPR, ICC, LCIA, SCAI, SIAC, PCA, ICSID, CAS, NCIA, KIAC and also ad-hoc tribunals. He has also advised clients on cross border investments in multiple jurisdictions.

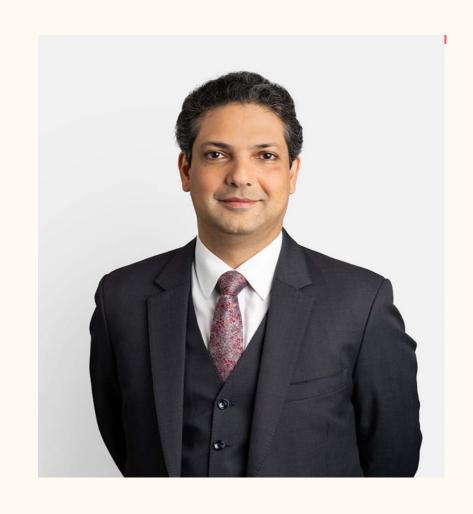


Jacob Omorodion is Head of International Partnerships and Vice-Chair of the Development Board, Museum of West African Art (MOWAA). Mr. Omorodion has experience acting on a range of disputes, particularly within the infrastructure, energy, and intellectual property sectors. He has worked under a variety of arbitral rules, including the UNCITRAL, ICC, ICSID, LCIA, BCDR and JAMS rules. He has experience dealing with disputes arising out of Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, East Asia, and Central Asia, among others. His practice also involves international litigation, such as contractual disputes arising out of international partnerships in the entertainment industry. Mr. Omorodion also maintains an active pro bono practice, including advocacy on behalf of victims of human rights violations. Mr. Omorodion's pro bono practice often involves interpretation of international treaties and instruments. Mr. Omorodion is currently expanding his practice to include art & heritage law, with a particular interest in matters concerning the repatriation of looted and/or wrongfully obtained art. Mr. Omorodion is a member of the Bureau (leadership) of the African Society of International Law, where he serves as Commissioner. Mr. Omorodion also serves as a member of the Advisory Board (leadership) of the African Creative Economies Initiative at Harvard University. At Harvard Law School, Mr. Omorodion was President of the Harvard International Arbitration Law Students' Association (HIALSA), a Class Marshal of the Class of 2020, and a member of the Harvard African Law Association. Prior to Harvard, Mr. Omorodion completed his MSc in Global Governance & Diplomacy at the University of Oxford and his BA in Political Science at McGill University.





Tafadzwa Pasipanodya is a partner in the international litigation and arbitration department of the law firm of Foley Hoag LLP and chair of its Africa practice. She has represented sovereign states and state entities from all over the world in international disputes before the International Court of Justice, the International Tribunal of the Law of the Sea, and arbitration tribunals constituted pursuant to various arbitral rules, including ICSID, UNCITRAL, the ICC, and the SCC. These disputes have addressed a broad array of matters, including mining, energy, the environment, human rights, taxation, infrastructure, the law of the sea, and territorial boundaries. Tafadzwa was included in Global Arbitration Review's 2023 "45 under 45" guide to leading figures of the international arbitration bar under the age of 45, named to Africa's 30 Arbitration Powerlist by Africa Arbitration Academy, Africa Arbitration and AYA, and is ranked by Latinvex as one of the top 32 female lawyers working on Latin American matters. Tafadzwa is a member of the ICC's Court of Arbitration and Vice President of the African Society of International Law. She holds a Juris Doctor from New York University School of Law, a Master in Public Affairs from Princeton University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and French from Macalester College.



Jamsheed Peeroo is a dual-qualified barrister practising from 36 Stone in London as well as at the Mauritian Bar. He also sits as arbitrator. He serves as AfSIL's Secretary General. He has worked extensively on commercial and investment arbitrations and cross-border litigation from Paris, Mauritius and London and has been described on Legal 500 as "first-rate" and on Chambers & Partners as "a very well-respected arbitration practitioner internationally". Jamsheed has been involved in high-profile disputes across the African continent. His practice covers various sectors including energy, mining, construction, infrastructure, fisheries, pharmaceutical, shipping, finance, offshore corporations and trusts, and telecommunications and IT. Jamsheed studied law (LLB) at Cardiff Law School, International Business Law at University College London, and Private International Law at the Sorbonne Law School (University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne) where he also wrote his PhD.





Vera Piovesan is an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law, Charles University, Prague, and a member of the University Centre for Conflict and Post-Conflict Studies. Her research lies at the intersection of international criminal law and anthropology, with a particular focus on criminal law theory. She holds a PhD and a master's degree in international law from the Geneva Graduate Institute, and a combined bachelor's and master's degree in law from Bocconi University. Before joining Charles University, Vera lectured at Durham University and the European Forensic Institute, and worked in various capacities at the Global Migration Centre, the Program on International Law and Armed Conflict, the International Criminal Court, and in private practice.



Miguel Ângelo Raimundo is a Mozambican consultant and researcher specializing in Heritage, Community Development and biocultural heritage preservation. His published works reflect an integrative approach to heritage management, economic empowerment, and sustainable development. Among his most recognized publications is Developing the Urban Historic Landscape Approach for Heritage Preservation on Ilha de Moçambique (Raimundo, 2023), published in the Heritage and Urban Studies Journal (Vol. 8, Issue 2, Heritage Preservation Press) MDPI. This paper explores how the Urban Historic Landscape (UHL) approach can harmonize urban growth with the conservation of Mozambique's historic environments, emphasizing the socio-economic role of cultural landscapes in local development. Another significant contribution is The Marketplace and Stimulating Retailing Business for Heritage Preservation: Community Social and Economic Benefits in the Xai-Xai and Chongoene Beach Areas, Gaza Province, Mozambique (Raimundo, forthcoming 2024), accepted for publication in the Monaco Museum Journal of Cultural and Economic Heritage. This study examines the establishment of community cultural markets as mechanisms for heritage preservation and social inclusion, highlighting the role of traditional crafts and seafood markets in strengthening Mozambique's coastal economies.



Judge Raymond Ranjeva served on the International Court of Justice (ICJ) from February 1991 to February 2009 and was Vice-President of the Court from 2003 to 2006. He holds a Bachelor of Laws from the University of Madagascar (1965), advanced studies in political science and public law in Paris, and a Doctorate in Law from Panthéon-Assas University (his thesis examined succession of international organizations in Africa). Before his ICJ appointment, he was a Professor of Public Law at the University of Madagascar (1981–1991) and served in university leadership roles, including Rector. He has lectured at the Hague Academy of International Law (1987 and 1997) and is well known for his contributions to public international law, sovereignty, and African perspectives in global jurisprudence. His judicial career at the ICJ spanned key decisions on territorial disputes, maritime delimitation, and the balance between sovereignty and global norms. Judge Ranjeva was the founding president of the African Society of International Law





Jackson Shaw Kern is an international lawyer who advises and represents both sovereign and private clients in complex international disputes and advisory matters. Known for his strong litigation instincts, he has achieved successful outcomes in high-stakes proceedings spanning merit assessment, advocacy, witness examination, and postaward practice. Beyond litigation, he counsels clients on minimizing risks in international commerce, investment, and public affairs.A former visiting fellow at the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law (Cambridge), Jackson has also visited law firms in London, Lima, and Kuala Lumpur. He frequently lectures worldwide, including at Peking University, the National University of Singapore, Addis Ababa University, and ICSID. He is co-author of Arbitrating the Conduct of International Investors (CUP, 2017). Raised in the Middle East, Jackson holds degrees from McGill and Seattle University (JD, summa cum laude). He is admitted to the Bars of New York, Washington, DC, and Montana.



Hélène Tigroudja is Professor at Aix-Marseille University (France) and Visiting Professor of Public International Law at CIL - NUS (Singapore). Since 2019, she has served as an Independent Expert of the United Nations Human Rights Committee in charge of the supervision of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. In 2025, she was elected Vice-Chair of the UN Human Rights Committee. For several years, she has also served as lead expert for UNESCO missions on Protection of the Safety of Journalists and the Role of the Judiciary. She is the co-Director of the Masters 2 Humanitarian Action and Law and co-director of the Legal Clinic of Human Rights (Aix-Global Justice). She publishes extensively in public international law and international human rights law. In this regard, she recently published her collected Course at the Hague Academy of International Law on « Armed Conflicts and International Human Rights Law » (Brill, 2025) and she co-authored International Rights Law - A Treatise published by Cambridge University Press (2025)).





Steve Tiwa Fomekong is an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Law of Université Laval. Prior to joining this Faculty as a professor, he worked as a lecturer and research professional, and taught at various universities, institutes, and summer schools in Quebec, Canada, and Africa. He also completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Centre for International Studies (CERIUM) at Université de Montréal, where he served as a Research Fellow on Africa. He is a member of the Interdisciplinary Research Centre on Africa and the Middle East (CIRAM), where he also served as coordinator, and has contributed to research projects such as "Promotion et renforcement du droit international humanitaire: Une contribution canadienne (Osons le DIH!)." His research focuses on contemporary humanitarian issues, particularly the legal protection of victims of armed conflicts, as well as the interactions between international law and regional legal regimes, especially in the field of the protection of persons. His work has been published in journals such as the International Review of the Red Cross, the African Human Rights Yearbook, the Quebec Journal of International Law, and the African Yearbook of International Humanitarian Law. In addition to his academic research, Professor Tiwa Fomekong has practical experience in the field of human rights education and advocacy. He has served as a Senior Advisor on Human Rights Education at Equitas | International Centre for Human Rights Education and has worked as a consultant in international law for various human rights organizations in Canada and Africa



Judge Dire Tladi is a Judge of the International Court of Justice, the first South African ever elected to serve on the Court.

Alongside his judicial role, Judge Tladi is a distinguished scholar and practitioner of international law. He is a Professor of International Law at the University of Pretoria, where he holds the National Research Foundation South African Research Chairs Initiative (SARChI) Chair in International Constitutional Law and the Future Africa Chair in Global Equity for Africa. He has authored over 100 academic publications—including articles, books, and chapters—and holds a BLC LLB (cum laude) from the University of Pretoria, an LLM from the University of Connecticut, and a PhD from Erasmus University Rotterdam. From 2012 to 2022, Judge Tladi served as a member of the United Nations International Law Commission, where he held several leadership roles: Chair (2022), First Vice-Chair (2021), General Rapporteur (2014), Chair of the Drafting Committee (2013), and Special Rapporteur on Peremptory Norms of General International Law (2015-2022). He is a member of the Institut de Droit International, serving on its Programme Committee and various commissions on social justice, the global commons, and sustainable development. He has appeared before leading international tribunals, including as counsel for South Africa and the African Union before the ICC, co-counsel before the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, and expert counsel in ICSID proceedings.





Benjamin Traoré holds a Doctorate in Law from the University of Neuchâtel (Switzerland), an LLM in International Law from the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights and a Master in Public Law from the University from Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso). Prior to joining UM6P, Prof Traoré worked as the Project Manager for the African Coalition for Corporate Accountability (ACCA). His work and research focused on the role of law in regulating business-related human rights and environmental impacts in Africa, traditional fields of international law and international relations, peace and security in Africa, human rights, international humanitarian law as well as the law related to refugees and internally displaced persons. He has published many academic articles and he is the author of a seminal book on The Interpretation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions, Helbing, Basel, 2020, 796 pages