



AFRICAN BAR ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION DU BARREAU AFRICAIN

رابطة المحامين الأفارقة

www.afribar.org "The fearless voice of the Legal Profession"

in collaboration with the
Ghana Bar Association



Theme: "FOREIGN INTERESTS IN AFRICA- EXPLOITATION OR INVESTMENT"



Sun 19th - Thur. 23rd, October, 2025

CALL FOR PAPER

Africa stands at the center of global attention due to its abundant natural resources, burgeoning markets, and strategic geopolitical position. Countries such as China, Russia, and those of the West have increased or sought to increase their engagement with the continent, offering investments, infrastructure development, and strategic alliances. In the last few years, African countries have been reassessing the relationships with their foreign partners. Some countries have jettisoned old and hitherto established relationships and opted for new ones with the hope of a better live for their people and more development for the countries. While these relationships bring opportunities for growth and development, they also present challenges, such as the risk of resource exploitation, debt dependency, and erosion of sovereignty. The reassessments and realignment of relationships seem also to present opportunities for a new renaissance in Africa. This conference aims to provide a platform for African legal practitioners, policymakers, scholars, and stakeholders to critically analyse the role of foreign interests in shaping the continent's trajectory. The discussions will focus on harmonizing these engagements with Africa's aspirations for self-reliance, sustainable development, and economic integration under the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA). The African Bar Association (AfBA) invites submissions for its 2025 Annual Conference to explore the interplay between foreign interests and Africa's aspirations across various sectors.



We welcome papers addressing the intersection of foreign influence with the following areas: Proposed Sub-Themes and Areas of Interest

1. Access to Justice and Human Rights:

- * The impact of foreign aid and programs on access to justice in Africa.
- * Global influence on Africa's human rights frameworks.

2. AfCFTA and Regional Integration:

- * Aligning foreign partnerships with AfCFTA goals.
- * Legal challenges in cross-border movement of goods and services.

3. Aviation Law:

- * International aviation agreements and their effect on African skies.
- * The role of foreign investments in Africa's aviation industry.

4. Banks and Banking:

- * The influence of global financial institutions on Africa's banking laws.
- * Regulation of cross-border financial transactions in the digital era.

5. Business Regulation and Good Governance:

- * Balancing foreign corporate interests with local regulatory frameworks.
- * The role of foreign powers in promoting governance reforms and elections.

6. Capital Markets and Financial Instruments:

- * International investments in African securities and capital markets.
- * Legal implications of emerging financial instruments, including cryptocurrencies.

7. Construction and Mining Law:

- * Foreign-led infrastructure projects: opportunities and legal challenges.
- * Mining agreements with global powers: sustainability and sovereignty.

8. Corruption, Terrorism, and Wars:

- * The role of foreign nations in combating corruption and terrorism.
- * Legal frameworks addressing the impact of foreign arms sales on African conflicts.

9. Customs, Excise, and Taxation:

- * Harmonizing foreign trade policies with local customs regulations.
- * Taxation of multinational corporations in Africa.

10. Dispute Settlement and Judgment Enforcement:

- * Arbitration and mediation in resolving foreign investment disputes.
- * Challenges in enforcing international judgments in Africa.



11. Factories, Land Law, and Oil & Gas Law:

- * Industrial development driven by foreign investments: benefits and pitfalls.
- * Land acquisition laws in large-scale foreign projects.
- * Legal issues surrounding oil and gas exploration, exploitation, and gas flaring.

12. Health and Medical Law:

- * The impact of foreign health programs and investments on Africa's healthcare systems.
- * Addressing global pharmaceutical interests and medical ethics.

13. Intellectual Property and Media, Sports, and Entertainment Law:

- * Foreign influence on IP laws and Africa's creative industries.
- * International collaborations in sports and entertainment: legal perspectives.

14. Maritime Transport and Movement of Goods:

- * Global shipping agreements and Africa's maritime laws.
- * Foreign-led logistics infrastructure projects and legal ramifications.

15. The Environment and Sustainability:

- * Legal responses to foreign investments in environmentally sensitive areas.
- * Addressing global climate agreements and their implementation in Africa.
- * Environmental degradation caused by foreign-led industrial projects.

16. Artificial Intelligence and Digital Transformation:

- * The role of foreign technology in shaping Africa's AI policies and innovation ecosystems.
- * Regulatory frameworks for AI and the implications of foreign tech dominance.

17. Telecommunications and Consumer Protection:

- * Foreign telecommunications companies and Africa's regulatory landscape.
- * Legal protections for African consumers in the era of digital globalization.
- * Data privacy, cybersecurity, and foreign technology providers.

18. Family Law and Judgment Enforcement:

- * The influence of international conventions on African family law.
- * Enforcing family law judgments across borders.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

1. Abstracts:

- * Maximum of 300 words.
- * Include the title, author's name, affiliation, and contact information.



2. Full Papers:

- * Should not exceed 8,000 words (excluding references).
- * Must follow OSCOLA referencing guide.

3. Format:

- * Submissions in Word format (.docx).

4. Language:

- * Papers may be in English, French or Arabic.

5. Deadlines:

- * Abstract Submission Deadline: 31st May 2025.
- * Full Paper Submission Deadline: 15th September 2025.

Key Dates

- * Abstract Submission Deadline: 31st May 2025
- * Notification of Acceptance: 30th June 2025
- * Full Paper Submission Deadline: 15th September 2025
- * Conference Dates: 19th to 23rd October 2025

Submission Information Send all enquiries, abstracts and final papers to afba.conference@afribar.org

R U Ezeani