



AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL LAW (AUCIL)

FIRST EDITION OF AUCIL AWARD FOR PhD THESIS ON INTERNATIONAL LAW

GUIDELINES OF SUBMISSION AND ASSESSMENT

The African Union Commission on International law (AUCIL) is an independent legal advisory organ of the African Union (AU) that contributes to the codification and progressive development of international law in the African continent. In the current context of integration of the continent, AUCIL is strategically placed to highlight and acknowledge the important role the law plays, particularly international law.

In line with the Mandate of the AUCIL and Objective 4 of its strategic plan 2019 – 2021, of promoting the teaching, study, publication, and dissemination of literature on international law in Africa, the AUCIL PhD Award has been introduced to highlight an outstanding and high quality legal writing in the field of international law with a specific focus on Africa. Its objective is to provide encouragement to young and intermediate specialists of public international law who have completed their PhD not more than three (3) years ago (at the date of closure of the applications) and whose work was related to International Law with a focus on African issues and the field of AU law.

The winner of the AUCIL PHD Award will have his/her work published and disseminated by a well-known Publisher.

ELIGIBILITY OF APPLICANT:

- Applicant must be aged maximum 40 at the time of submission;
- Have a PhD completed not more than three years at the date of closure of applications;
- Applicant must be a national of an AU Member State;
- Female candidatures are highly encouraged.

CRITERIA FOR SUBMISSION:

- Entries that have already been awarded a prize of a **similar nature** will not be considered.
- Entries should address topics in the field of international law with a specific focus on African issues and AU Law.

- The Application letter should state among others: list of all publications; reasons for applying for the Prize; whether the work has not been published or is not under contract of publication; and the author's consent to anonymity in his/her work (*i.e. all references to name, university or any identifying information should be edited out of the submitted work*).
- The Curriculum vitae should indicate among others: nationality, date and place of birth, and full address.
- Entries shall be in the form of thesis.
- Due to COVID-19, only electronic submissions will be considered.
- All entries must be submitted to the AUCIL Secretariat at the designated addresses: olc-registry@africa-union.org and diopp@africa-union.org .
- All entries must be in pdf version containing: the application letter; the CV; the proposed work for publication; the executive summary; the proof of completion of doctoral degree; and the Thesis defense report, or details on the date of defense of the thesis as well as the composition of the jury.
- Submissions can only be made once; multiple entries will be disqualified.
- Abstracts shall not be considered for the Prize.
- Failure to meet the above criteria will lead to disqualification.
- By submitting an entry, candidates agree to be bound by these guidelines.

ASSESSMENT STANDARDS:

- A jury for the AUCIL PHD Prize will consist of five (5) senior lawyers, internationally renowned legal practitioners or professors of law who will be chosen by the Members of AUCIL. Due consideration will be given to Diversity criteria including nationality, working language and gender. The jury will be assisted by the AUCIL members.
- The AUCIL Secretariat will make the first screening for admissibility of the entries based on these guidelines.
- The jury will only be made aware of the identity of the candidates for each work once its decision has been taken.
- Only short-listed candidates will be notified.
- Once the winner has been decided, he/she will be contacted by the AUCIL secretariat and informed accordingly. All short-listed candidates, will then be informed of the result as well.
- After the award, the publisher shall include a reference to the AUCIL PHD Award in any promotional material and subsequent publications.
- AUCIL reserves the right to modify or cancel the competition, if circumstances arise. No liability for damages will be held by AUCIL.
- There is no appeal against the decision of the jury.