

AFRICAN UNION

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Call for papers

11TH AUCIL FORUM

Theme:

***“International Law, WTO Reform and
Implementation of the AfCFTA”***

Venue:

African Union Headquarters, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Date: 22-23 May 2025

By

Prof. Alain Didier Olinga (Chairperson of the Forum)

Prof. Samia Bourouba (Rapporteur of the Forum)

1. The African Union Commission on International Law (AUCIL) as the advisory body of the African Union (AU) on International Law, supports the organization's goals and core principles. In particular, it is dedicated to defending the interests of the African continent internationally by contributing to the codification and progressive development of international law.
2. In order to carry out its purposes and objectives, the AUCIL organizes a range of programs and activities, such as the Forum, which is held annually and serves as a forum for discussion and engagement on matters of concern to Africa, as viewed through the lens of International Law and AU Law.
3. The AUCIL, as per the decision made by the Plenary during its 24th Ordinary Session held in May 2024, will continue its longstanding tradition of staying updated on contemporary developments in international law at its annual Forum. In this regard, the 11th AUCIL Forum will take place from 22 to 23 May 2025 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia under the theme ***"International Law, WTO Reform and Implementation of the AfCFTA"***. However, online participation of panelists and other participants is envisaged to take care of cases of force majeure.
4. The AUCIL extends an invitation for scholars and researchers in International Trade Law, national trade policy negotiators, AfCFTA stakeholders, trade policy officials from the Regional Economic Communities, and legal and trade officials from the AU, practitioners and other parties/people interested in contributing to the 11th AUCIL Forum.
5. Contributions may cover, *inter alia*, the following areas:
 - i. AfCFTA, RECs and WTO trade regimes– Coherence, and potential conflicts;
 - ii. Intellectual property and traditional knowledge – Protecting African heritage in global trade;
 - iii. WTO Decision-making reform – Legitimacy, efficiency, and structural changes;
 - iv. Sustainability and trade – Balancing liberalization with environmental goals;
 - v. Special and Differential Treatment – Assessing its relevance for developing countries;
 - vi. WTO reform and Africa's development – Aligning reforms with Africa's economic priorities;
 - vii. Illicit trade and dangerous trade – Crimes, security, and international trade;
 - viii. Food trade, Right to food and food safety;
 - ix. International trade and energy security in Africa;
 - x. Health and trade Post-COVID-19;
 - xi. Safeguard Measures under the WTO and the AfCFTA;
 - xii. WTO, AfCFTA, protection of human rights and inclusion of women and young people in trade;
 - xiii. Labour protection and international trade;
 - xiv. Fairness and effectiveness of Trade Dispute Settlement in the WTO and the AfCFTA;

- xv. E-Commerce Regulation in Africa;
- xvi. Other Emerging Trade Issues – New trends and legal considerations.

6. Proposals for individual or collective papers, including title and abstract not exceeding 300 words, author's surname, given names, academic or professional qualities and institutions, including telephone (WhatsApp number) and electronic (email address) contact details, accompanied by a one-page curriculum vitae, must be sent **by 15 March 2025** to the following addresses:

Mr Olatoundji Francis Adanlao

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In all correspondences, please copy:

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7. After reviewing all submissions, an email will be sent to the authors of the selected papers by **25 March 2025**. The final versions of these papers, limited to a maximum of twenty (20) pages in font size 12, must be submitted to the same addresses **no later than 1 May 2025**. Selected papers will be published in the AUCIL Journal.
8. The AUCIL will cover travel and subsistence expenses for authors whose papers are selected and who submit the final version by the specified deadline, in accordance with AU Rules and Regulations and subject to available resources.