

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



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**THE 3RD FORUM OF THE AFRICAN UNION ON INTERNATIONAL LAW AND
AFRICAN UNION LAW
1st – 2nd December 2014
ADDIS ABABA (ETHIOPIA)**

Original: English

CONCEPT NOTE

Theme: “Codification of International Law at the Regional Level in Africa”

INTRODUCTION

The African Union Commission on International Law (AUCIL) was established in 2009 as an independent legal advisory organ that would contribute to the codification and progressive development of international law in the African continent. The AUCIL is created at a time when the African continent is increasing its engagement with the rest of the world and putting a greater emphasis on the role of law, especially international law, in dealing with the problems facing the African continent and the global community more generally.

To this end the AUCIL created a Forum on International Law and African Union Law. The Forum seeks to bring together African scholars, legal experts and practitioners from the continent as well as from the Diaspora and serves as a platform for discussing and interacting on matters of interest for Africa through the prism of international law and the African Union law.

THEME

The selected theme for the Third Edition of the AUCIL Forum is:

“Codification of International Law at the Regional Level in Africa”.

VENUE OF THE FORUM

The Forum will be held at the **Headquarters of the African Union, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.**

BACKGROUND

At a time when the African continent envisages increased commitment to the process of accelerating the integration of the continent, and taking a legal approach, particularly an international legal approach, alongside the political approach in that endeavor, the chosen theme for the second edition of the forum *“Codification of International Law at the Regional Level”* remains of great relevance.

While the previous Forum of the AUCIL dealt with the African Regional Economic Communities (RECs), under the theme of “Law of Regional Integration in Africa”, this 3rd AUCIL Forum will have as main objective to contribute to and shape the development of international law by considering further codification of the international law of Africa in fields where there has already been extensive State practice, precedent and doctrine in the African continent.

Codification can be seen as a process to acknowledge and promote the international law of Africa. Many steps have already been taken in this connection by the African Union to collaborate with scholars, universities, research centres, international institutes in order to promote the study of the international law of Africa at the regional level. This Forum serves to encourage and continue these efforts.

OBJECTIVES OF THE FORUM

The objectives of the Third Edition of the AUCIL Forum on “**Codification of International Law at the Regional Level in Africa**” are as follows:

- I. Conduct a survey of the field of international law in the African continent with a view to select areas for codification.
- II. Analyse ways for the progressive development of the International Law in the continent through codification.
- III. Establish a partnership in the study and teaching of international law as it concerns the African Union (AU) with universities and international institutes in Africa under the auspices of the AUCIL.
- IV. Carry on the study, teaching, dissemination and vulgarisation of literature on international law of Africa.

TOPICS

The discussions will focus on the following topics:

- I. The Codification of International Law in Africa: Context, Methods and Challenges
- II. Relation of the Law of the AU and the Law of the RECs
- III. Codification in the Field of Human Rights
- IV. Codification in the Field of Transitional Justice
- V. Role of Regional Courts in Developing International Law
- VI. Future Areas of Codification at the African Regional Level

In addition, the experience of some international and regional Organisations in the field of codification will be considered.

FORMAT OF THE FORUM

The forum will adopt a participatory approach to allow for broad discussions and inputs from all participants.

Each session will have two presentations and discussions.

Each topic mentioned above will be treated by a specialist of law based on detailed paper, which shall be 15 to 20 pages long.

Twenty minutes will be allotted to the author of the paper to present her/his work. Afterward, a debate will be open to the public (forum)

A minimum of forty minutes will be allotted to general discussion of the forum on the topic under study.

Summary of the presentations will be made by PowerPoint.

Arabic, English, French and Portuguese are the working languages of the Forum.

PARTICIPANTS

The target participants to the Forum are scholars, academics and officials working on or dealing with codification of public international law : Legal Counsels of Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the AU members States, Ministries of Justice of the AU members States, Diplomatic Institutes in the AU member States, the Permanent Representatives accredited to AU, representatives of International Organizations in Addis Ababa, Representatives of RECs in Addis Ababa, Legal Advisors of RECs, AU Organs, African Members of the United Nations International Law Commission (UNILC), African Members of International Court of Justice (ICJ), Faculties of Law in AU Member States, African scholars from the continent and the Diaspora, Centers of research on public international law, International and Regional Organisations, etc.

CONFIRMATION OF PARTICIPATION

Confirmation of participation should be communicated to AUCIL Secretariat **latest 15 November 2014**.

PROGRAMME

The programme of the 3rd Forum will be circulated and posted on the AU Website in due course. The moderators will be the members of AUCIL.

THE EXPECTED OUTPUTS OF THE FORUM

- I. A Publication which will be drawn from the papers selected as inputs to the Forum; and
- II. A Report of the Forum proceedings, which will be presented to the next session of the AUCIL when considering specific areas for codification of international law in Africa and the possible drafting of new treaties.

OUTCOMES OF THE FORUM

- I. Identify the key challenges of the codification of international law in Africa;
- II. Establish specific areas for codification of international law in Africa;
- III. Accelerate the progressive development of international law at the continental level;
- IV. Promote the study, teaching and dissemination of international law in Africa; and
- V. Strengthen the partnership between research centres, universities, AU Member States, RECs, and the AUCIL;

ACCOMODATIONS AND LOGISTIC ARRANGMENTS

Due to budget constraints, AUCIL will not be able to take in charge the participants to the Forum. The average price for a single hotel room may range from 80 to 150 USD per night.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Visitors to Ethiopia require an entry visa. Participants coming from countries with no Ethiopian diplomatic or consular Missions should send a copy of their passport page with the relevant information by e-mail to the AUCIL secretariat for the necessary arrangements.

A vaccination certificate may be required for travelers coming from countries with risk of Yellow Fever transmission.

Non-residents travelling to Ethiopia must declare any/all foreign currency to the Customs upon arrival.

Non-residents departing Ethiopia may carry a maximum of 3000 USD (or its equivalent in other foreign currencies).

Any traveler entering or exiting Ethiopia may carry a maximum of 200 Ethiopian Birr on their person or in their luggage.

Currency rate: 1 USD = 19.85 Birr, 1 Euro= 25.48Birr (official rate on 25 September 2014).

The voltage in Ethiopia is 220 V. The plugs used in Ethiopia are D or J or L; participants are encouraged travel with a universal plug adapter.

The Temperature in Addis Ababa in November – December ranges from 14 to 23 Degrees C. Little rain is expected during that time of the year.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information on this forum and for confirmation of participation, please contact:

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