



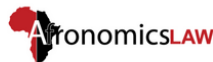
## AFRICAN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW NETWORK (AfIELN)



**GIMPA**  
Faculty of Law



Society of International Economic Law



AFRICAN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW NETWORK (AfIELN)

# 6th Biennial Conference

*Theme:*

**International Economic Law in an Era of Multiple Crises: Opportunities and Challenges for Africa**

**21st – 24th June, 2023**

Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA), Accra, Ghana



**Register Now** [afieln.org/2023-conference](https://afieln.org/2023-conference)

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The AfIELN is a regional network under the auspices of the Society of International Economic Law (SIEL). AfIELN is an organisation aimed at academics, industry practitioners, policy experts and officials with interest in the field of International Economic Law (IEL) in Africa.

Should you wish to include an item in the next AfIELN newsletter, please contact us: [afieln.siel@gmail.com](mailto:afieln.siel@gmail.com)

Follow us: @af\_ieln

## MESSAGE FROM THE AfIELN PRESIDENT & THE CONFERENCE CHAIR

Africa, a continent brimming with potential, is at a crucial crossroads amidst a confluence of crises that challenge its socioeconomic fabric. The launching of the operational phase of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the recent conclusion of three Phase II instruments in the areas of competition policy, investment, and intellectual property rights are excellent achievements toward the realisation of the dream of the African Union's Founders. However, these tremendous steps seem to have been overshadowed by global geopolitical tensions, the rising cost of living, and the ensuing cascade of sovereign debt crises in a post-pandemic recovery world.

The crises transcend national boundaries, affecting the lives of millions and demanding our urgent attention. In the context of this reality and urgency, we will unpack international economic law from African-centred perspectives during the forthcoming African International Economic Law Network conference. The Conference will hold at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA) from the 21st to the 24th of June 2023.

We are pleased with the responses to the call for papers, which closed on 5 January 2023. We want to heartily congratulate those whose papers were accepted. Even if you did not submit an abstract, you are welcome to attend and be part of what will be a very enriching multi-stakeholder gathering of scholars, practitioners, professionals, and policymakers interested in International Economic Law in Africa. As you prepare for your trip to Accra, we invite you to think of concrete ways that you can strategically contribute to International Economic Law from African perspectives to move the work of the Network forward. On our part, we remain committed to our founding vision of providing a thriving forum for research, study, the exchange of ideas and formulation of practical African-centred proposals.

Information concerning the conference draft programme and registration are available on the conference website, accessible at <https://afieln.org/2023-conference>. The website also contains important information about immigration requirements, accommodation, local transportation and other frequently asked questions (FAQs). It will be populated continuously, so we encourage you to visit it regularly for updated information. You will receive updates on the conference's final programme in the coming days.

### A Note on the Keynote Speakers

We are delighted to announce that the Keynote Speakers of the Sixth Biennial Conference are Dr Joy Kategekwa from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Professor Richard Frimpong Oppong. Dr Kategekwa, a leading trade, investment and development law expert, is currently the Strategy Advisor on Africa at the UNDP in New York. Prof. Oppong, a Professor of Law at California Western School of Law and a Fellow of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences, researches and works extensively on Africa. More about them is available in other sections of this newsletter.

We look forward to seeing you in Accra.



*Dr. Titilayo Adebola*  
*AfIELN President*



*Dr. Regis Y. Simo*  
*Conference Chairperson*



**MESSAGES FROM GIMPA**



**The Center of Excellence**

**MESSAGES FROM GIMPA LAW**



*Dr. Kwaku Agyeman-Budu  
Dean of GIMPA LAW*

On behalf of the Governing Council and Management of the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA), I look forward to welcoming you all to Ghana and to the Faculty of Law at GIMPA to participate in the Sixth Biennial Conference of the African International Economic Law Network.

GIMPA Law is the ideal setting for a conference of this nature, as the pursuit of legal scholarship is at the heart of our very existence. Since its establishment in 2010, GIMPA Law has quickly emerged as the preeminent centre of learning; emerging among the cluster of Ghanaian Law Faculties as the Faculty of choice. Our rigorous standards and tested pedagogies prepare our students for an increasingly competitive legal marketplace. The carefully crafted atmosphere within the school presents a congenial environment for students to fully achieve their potential and advance nascent talents in the law.

With our deep-rooted belief in the efficacy of practical lawyering, GIMPA Law provides clinical legal education, including student participation in conferences, law clinics, moot courts and practical courses of study from the first year of enrollment through to graduation.

Under the auspices of the GIMPA Law Conferences Series, we have organized several national and international conferences since 2016 and we look forward to hosting the Sixth Biennial Conference of the African International Economic Law Network.

On behalf of the Conferences and Seminars Committee of the Faculty of Law at GIMPA I am elated to be part of those who are making the Sixth Biennial Conference of the African International Economic Law Network (AfIELN) happen.

As an institution of excellence, GIMPA is proud to be part of this Conference, considering the apposite theme: International Economic Law in an Era of Multiple Crises: Opportunities and Challenges for Africa. It would be impossible to attain "The Africa We Want" without engaging in discourses on the challenges that the continent faces and cannot but surmount. It is only then that we would be able to harness human and other resources to take full advantage of the plethora of opportunities that this well-endowed continent has to offer.

We look forward to welcoming you to GIMPA soon to share our experiences and learn more from yours in a pedagogic setting, to galvanize African expertise to propel the continent into prosperity and to establish contacts for long-lasting and mutually beneficial relationships. We promise you that it will be worth your while and are eager to welcome you to GIMPA.



*Ms. Humu-Annie Sein  
Chair - Conferences Committee GIMPA Law*

## CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS' PROFILES

### *Dr. Joy Kategekwa*

Dr. Joy Kategekwa is a global thought leader on international trade, industry, investment development, policy and capacity development. She is the current Strategic Advisor to the Assistant Administrator and Director, United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Regional Bureau for Africa in New York. She has 19 years of experience straddling top multilateral trade and development organisations where she has influenced global, regional and national trade policy and strategy landscapes.

She is a key proponent for dismantling barriers to intra-African trade and boosting capacities for industry and investment in Africa. At the UNDP, she leads oversight on the AfCFTA portfolio having being the Founding Head of the UNCTAD Regional Office for Africa in Addis Ababa. At UNCTAD she strategized the creation of the AfCFTA and led advisory missions to the African Union Commission, Regional Economic Communities and AU Member States to champion trade – led growth and capacity development strategies. She has previously served at the WTO Secretariat in Geneva, leading the WTO African Group, coordinating African missions and experts on negotiations on special and differential treatment in WTO Agreements.

Prior to this, she served as Oxfam International's Trade and Investment Advisor in the Geneva Advocacy Office, and led the work programme on Trade in Services at the Geneva-based South Centre and as legal officer at Uganda's Permanent Mission in Geneva. She is the author of the book: "Opening Markets for Foreign Skills: How Can the WTO Help?" She holds a Ph.D in International Trade Law from the World Trade Institute – University of Berne, a Master's Degree in Trade and Investment Law from the University of Cape Town and a Bachelor of Laws from Makerere University.



### *Prof. Richard Oppong*

Prof. Richard Frimpong Oppong is a widely acclaimed academic in international law with a special focus on Africa. He has taught at academic institutions in the United Kingdom, Canada, the Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Ghana, South Africa, Tanzania, Malawi, and Uganda. In 2012, he held the post of Director of Studies (Private International Law) at The Hague Academy of International Law. He was admitted to the Ghanaian Bar in 2003. He is a Fellow of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences, a Member of the Royal Society of Canada's College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists, and an Associate Member of the International Academy of Comparative Law.

His research interests are in private international law (conflict of laws), contracts and international commercial law, regional economic integration and trade, and international dispute settlement. He has authored; 'The Government of Ghana and International Arbitration' (2017), 'Private International Law in Commonwealth Africa' (2013) and 'Legal Aspects of Economic Integration in Africa' (2011), and is a co-author of 'Private International Law in Nigeria' (2020). He received the 2013 American Society of International Law prize in Private International Law and the 2014 James Crawford Prize of the Journal of International Dispute Settlement for his scholarship. He is a member of the Advisory Board of the Yearbook of Private International Law and the Journal of Private International Law, and an Assistant Editor to the Global Journal of Comparative Law. He was a member of the Working Group of The Hague Conference on Private International Law that drafted The Hague Principles on Choice of Law in International Commercial Contracts, 2015.

He completed his PhD at the University of British Columbia, and Post-doctoral studies at the Schulich School of Law, Dalhousie University. He holds Master of Laws degrees from Harvard Law School and the University of Cambridge, and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Ghana.





## 2023 CONFERENCE TECHNICAL PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

The 6th Biennial Conference at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA) Accra, Ghana, from 21-24 June 2023, is an opportunity for leading academics, researchers, students, policy experts, industry practitioners and professionals interested in shaping the field of International Economic Law through the lens of Africa to come together to share ideas and experiences. Few such opportunities come along for African scholars. Bearing in mind the costs of attending such events, we have partnered with key organizations, firms, academic networks, and individuals to help make this possible through their grants and sponsorships.

We thank our sponsors for partnering with the Network to make the conference a reality. We look forward to welcoming other sponsors in due course. If you would like to sponsor this conference, kindly send an email to [afieln.siel@gmail.com](mailto:afieln.siel@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing all our conference speakers and participants in Accra later this month.

TECHNICAL PARTNERS

### AFRONOMICS LAW

Afronomicslaw is a registered Non-for-Profit Corporation that focuses on international economic law and public international law themes as they relate to Africa and the Global South. A major goal of Afronomicslaw is to amplify the voices and issues that are not often part of the conversation in the scholarship and practice in these areas. For more information about Afronomicslaw visit <https://www.afronomicslaw.org/about>.

### SOCIETY OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW (SIEL)

SIEL is a membership organization for academics and academically minded practitioners and officials in international economic law in all parts of the world. It promotes and facilitates co-ordination, collaboration, networking, and debate between IEL scholars and practitioners and national and regional IEL organizations. For more information about SIEL, visit <https://www.sielnet.org/>.

### UNDP AFRICA

UNDP is the leading United Nations organization fighting to end the injustice of poverty, inequality, and climate change. Working with our broad network of experts and partners in 170 countries, we help nations to build integrated, lasting solutions for people and planet. Learn more at <https://www.undp.org/> or follow us @undpafrika on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn



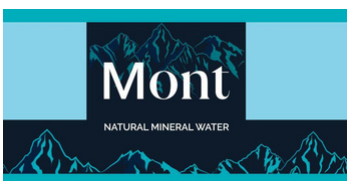
### AFRICA FINANCE CORPORATION

AFC is a multilateral financial institution, created by African sovereign states to provide pragmatic solutions to Africa's infrastructure deficit and challenging operating environment. For more information about AFC, visit <https://www.africafc.org/>.



### PROF. SURESH NANWANI

Professor Nanwani is a professor in practice at Durham University School of Government and International Affairs. He has more than 30 years of development work experience in international organizations including the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. You can contact Professor Suresh on LinkedIn [https://www.linkedin.com/in/suresh-nanwani-phd-0aa8a9217/?locale=de\\_DE](https://www.linkedin.com/in/suresh-nanwani-phd-0aa8a9217/?locale=de_DE).



### MONT NATURAL MINERAL WATER

Mont water is produced by Ashfar Group which is a diversified Pan African business enterprise with footprint across West, East and Southern Africa. For more information about Mont Waters see [www.ashfargroup.com](http://www.ashfargroup.com). Contact them at [Mont@montwater.com](mailto:Mont@montwater.com).



### PEDRO'S PREMIUM OGOGORO

For the increasingly discerning imbiber, Pedro's premium ogogoro, is a batch distilled, 100% organic palm spirit. Handcrafted in Nigeria's riverine communities and then refined in Lagos, Pedro's is spearheading a new African narrative, audaciously unsurpassable and unapologetically local.

SPONSORS

## MESSAGE FROM AFRONOMICSLAW.ORG



[Afronomicslaw.org](https://afronomicslaw.org) is a platform that hosts a series of publication opportunities that focus on international economic law and public international law themes as they relate to Africa and the global South. Established in 2019, a major goal of Afronomicslaw is to amplify the voices and issues that are not often part of the conversation in the scholarship and practice in these areas. The formal launch of [Afronomicslaw.org](https://afronomicslaw.org) happened at the 2019 African International Economic Law Network in Nairobi, Kenya.

Afronomicslaw blog is the most frequently visited platform on issues of international economic law and public international law. Afronomicslaw is understood by its audience and those who work in adjacent fields as the leading platform on African international economic law issues. The Analysis section of [Afronomicslaw.org](https://afronomicslaw.org) publishes two types of content on issues of international economic law and public international law, and related subject matter, relating to Africa and the global South. First, individual blog submissions which readers are encouraged to submit for consideration. Second, feature symposia, on discrete themes and book reviews that fall within the scope of the subject matter focus of [Afronomicslaw.org](https://afronomicslaw.org).

Besides the blog, Afronomicslaw has a very active [Academic Forum](#) that works with over 200 early career scholars, practitioners, and scholars throughout Africa. It convenes periodic forums through which it encourages and builds core research skills in teaching, research, theory, methods, and writing as well as developing content for [Afronomicslaw.org](https://afronomicslaw.org).

Afronomicslaw also convenes the [African Sovereign Debt Justice Network](#) which is a coalition of citizens, scholars, civil society actors, and church and religious groups committed to exposing the adverse impact of unsustainable levels of African sovereign debt on the lives of ordinary citizens and advocating for fundamental reforms of the global debt and financial architecture.

Afronomicslaw also convenes [Indabas](#) or important conversations about topical issues in international economic law in Africa with individuals working on those issues that are recorded on video and posted on the website. These indabas are uploaded on [Afronomicslaw's YouTube Channel](#).

Further, Afronomicslaw hosts the [African Journal of International Economic Law, \(AfJIEL\)](#) which is the peer review journal of record on international economic law issues relating to Africa and the Global South. The AfJIEL is a free access journal published with the support of Sheria Publishing House – a publishing house committed to providing high quality, affordable and accessible materials on African and Third World scholarship and practice.

Afronomicslaw is primarily run by its four editors (James Gathii, Olabisi D. Akinkugbe, Titilayo Adebola, and Ohio Omiunu). Its African Sovereign Debt Justice Network now has a Senior Fellow and a Legal and Policy Officer who assist with the Program work.

Please feel free to be in touch with us in person in Accra or by email ([afronomicslaw@gmail.com](mailto:afronomicslaw@gmail.com)) with any inquiries or publications you may wish to submit.

## CompaRe CALL FOR PAPERS

### Smart and lean integration: finding regional solutions to global challenges

CompaRe is calling for papers for its conference on the 31st August - 1st September 2023. The conference explores the potential of regional collaboration in meeting some of the key challenges facing our world today in a smarter and leaner way. The focus is on three core challenges: climate change, migration and economic collaboration in a digital, renationalizing reality, in the context of two key underlying academic challenges: the methodology of comparative legal integration and the challenges raised by the overlap between regional initiatives and between regional and even larger, global initiatives.

Please submit an abstract in English of a maximum of 500 words detailing the core research question, the region(s) studied and the approach taken. The submission should also include a short biography of no more than 200 words. The submissions should be sent to Prof. Dr Armin Cuyvers before 7 July 2023 on the following email address: [a.cuyvers@law.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:a.cuyvers@law.leidenuniv.nl)



## AfIELN EVENTS

### Previous Events

#### Career Seminar for Students & Early Career Professionals

On Tuesday March 14th 2023, the African International Economic Law Network proudly hosted a career seminar for students and early career professionals. The impetus for this was to close an identified gap in career guidance and mentorship in our schools and networks. We were honoured to have eminent speakers representing an array of professions in international economic law who spoke about the requisite knowledge, skills, experience, and personal traits required for their roles. These were: H.E. Mrs. Usha Dwarka-Canabady, the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Mauritius to the United Nations, who spoke about her career in trade negotiation. Mr Rob Davies, the former Minister of Trade of the Republic of South Africa Minister shared insights on the important role of trade policy-making. Our representative of international organizations was Dr Edwini Kessie who has had a long and distinguished career at the World Trade Organization and is currently the Director of the Agriculture and Commodities Division. We ended the session with advice on pursuing a career in academia from Ms Humu-Annie Seini who is a Lecturer in the Faculty of Law at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration.

The Network is looking forward to welcoming speakers in our panels, plenaries, and keynotes during our biennial conference which will be held in approximately two weeks time. One of the exciting features of the programme is that it features a significant number of early career scholars, some of whom will be presenting papers in a conference of this scale for the first time. This is welcome because it signifies growth in capacity and new voices and innovative approaches that will strengthen the Network. In support of these young scholars, the Network facilitated a hands-on workshop on May 23, 2023. Our facilitators were Ohio Omiunu, Amaka Vanni, and Olabisi Akinkugbe who advised participants on preparing for their conference presentations and options for their papers post the conference.

### Forthcoming Events

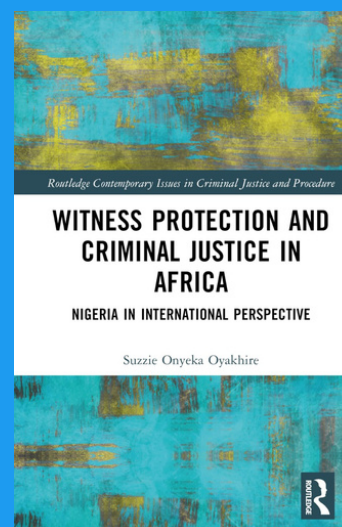
#### Prof Suresh Nanwani Prize for Early Career Scholars

The African International Economic Law Network is excited to announce that there will be a prize that will be awarded for the most outstanding paper on any area of international economic law presented by an early career scholar at its upcoming conference. This prize is sponsored by Dr. Suresh Nanwani, who is a Professor of Practice at Durham University, United Kingdom.

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

- Desmond Oriakhogba, *The Right to Research in Africa* (Springer 2023).
- Suzzie Oyakhire, *Witness Protection and Criminal Justice in Africa* (Routledge, 2023).
- James T Gathii, 'Beyond Color-Blind National Security Law', in Matiangai Sirleaf (ed), *Race and National Security* (Oxford University Press 2023)
- James T Gathii, 'Beyond Color-Blind International Economic Law' 117 *American Journal of International Law Unbound* (2023).
- Antony Odhiambo and Tomasz Milej, 'AfCFTA as an anti-colonial project: some aspects of trade and investment' 2:1 *African Journal of Commercial Law* (2023).
- Harrison Mbori, 'Trade remedies as emancipatory mechanisms for competitive price differentiation challenges within and outside the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)' 2:1 *African Journal of Commercial Law* (2023).
- John S Nyanje, 'Match fixing in investor state arbitration: Process & Industrial Developments Limited v Federal Republic of Nigeria' 2:1 *African Journal of Commercial Law* (2023)

We congratulate Dr. Suzzie Oyakhire, a member of the AfIELN Executive Committee, on the publication of her new book, *Witness Protection and Criminal Justice in Africa*. The book examines the concept of witness protection which is still at an early developmental stage in several African countries including Nigeria, from a legal and institutional perspective. Recent developments in Nigeria highlight the need to clarify legal and conceptual issues within the existing legal framework for protecting witnesses. Using the Nigerian case study, the book illustrates some obscurities inherent in the concept of witness protection. These are highlighted around five critical areas: the definition of witness protection; the scope of beneficiaries requiring protection; the nature of crimes necessitating protection; the nature of protective measures; and the administrative control of witness protection.







**Dr Ashmizo Afadameh**

I will be attending the 6th Biennial Conference of The African International Economic Law Network (AFIELN)



**Adetutu Oluwaseyi**

I will be attending the 6th Biennial Conference of The African International Economic Law Network (AFIELN)



**James Thuo Gathil**

I will be attending the 6th Biennial Conference of The African International Economic Law Network (AFIELN)



**Florence Shako**

I will be attending the 6th Biennial Conference of The African International Economic Law Network (AFIELN)



**Imarha Reuben**

I will be attending the 6th Biennial Conference of The African International Economic Law Network (AFIELN)



**Titilayo Adebola**

I will be attending the 6th Biennial Conference of The African International Economic Law Network (AFIELN)



**Ohlo Omlunu**

I will be attending the 6th Biennial Conference of The African International Economic Law Network (AFIELN)



**JANET MACHARIA**

I will be attending the 6th Biennial Conference of The African International Economic Law Network (AFIELN)



**Suzzle Onyeka Oyakhire**

I will be attending the 6th Biennial Conference of The African International Economic Law Network (AFIELN)



**Jonathan Bashi**

I will be attending the 6th Biennial Conference of The African International Economic Law Network (AFIELN)



**Vellah Kedogo Kigwiru**

I will be attending the 6th Biennial Conference of The African International Economic Law Network (AFIELN)



**Olabisi D. Akinkugbe**

I will be attending the 6th Biennial Conference of The African International Economic Law Network (AFIELN)



**I will be among the speakers**

I will be attending the 6th Biennial Conference of The African International Economic Law Network (AFIELN)



**Kevin Klpchirchir**

I will be attending the 6th Biennial Conference of The African International Economic Law Network (AFIELN)



**Caroline Ncube**

I will be attending the 6th Biennial Conference of The African International Economic Law Network (AFIELN)



**Osione Oseni-Elamah**

I will be attending the 6th Biennial Conference of The African International Economic Law Network (AFIELN)



**Harrison Mbori**

I will be attending the 6th Biennial Conference of The African International Economic Law Network (AFIELN)



**Sand Mba-Kalu, (Panellist)**

I will be attending the 6th Biennial Conference of The African International Economic Law Network (AFIELN)



**Nona Tamale**

I will be attending the 6th Biennial Conference of The African International Economic Law Network (AFIELN)



**Regis Y. Simo**

I will be attending the 6th Biennial Conference of The African International Economic Law Network (AFIELN)