



**AFRICAN SOCIETY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW  
15TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

# **AFRICA AND THE CHALLENGE OF REPARATION IN INTERNATIONAL LAW**

**6-7 November 2026**

**Kigali, Rwanda**

**CALL FOR PAPERS**



The African Society of International Law (AfSIL) invites abstracts for its 15th annual conference on the theme **“Africa and the Challenge of Reparation in International Law.”** The conference will convene leading practitioners, scholars, policymakers, and adjudicators to examine the legal architecture, jurisprudence and practice of reparation across international fora, with a particular focus on African perspectives and priorities.

Reparation is a critical issue in contemporary international law and international relations. It features prominently in global discourse and is increasingly in proceedings before international courts and tribunals. In recent years, there has been notable growth in both the number of bodies adjudicating claims for reparation and the variety of disputes and advisory opinions addressing reparative measures. As an illustration, the International Court of Justice, which had issued only one decision on compensation in its first 66 years of existence, has issued three judgments on this issue in different contexts over the last 14 years.

Across the spectrum of international adjudication—inter-State courts and arbitral tribunals, investor–State and commercial arbitration, international criminal courts, and human rights bodies—questions of reparation arise persistently and in varied forms. Proposals to create specialized reparation mechanisms, particularly in relation to armed conflict and serious human rights violations, further illustrate the centrality and complexity of the subject.

Despite codification and progressive development efforts, including the International Law Commission’s work on State responsibility and international liability, significant questions remain. These include whether there exists a general regime of reparation applicable across fields of international law; how international courts and tribunals identify and assess appropriate forms and modalities of reparation; and how reparative obligations relate to primary rules, including those protecting essential community interests and obligations *erga omnes* and peremptory norms.

Moreover, despite the salience of reparation in international legal practice, it has generated relatively weak interest among international legal researchers. As one author pointed out in the introduction to a special issue of the *Revue Belge de Droit International* devoted to reparation in international jurisprudence (RBDI, 2025/1), reparation is relegated to the periphery in theory, very often mentioned briefly at the end of international law textbooks, or in a piecemeal manner in articles dealing with specific aspects.

For Africa, the issue of reparation—especially for historical wrongs such as slavery, colonialism and apartheid—has long been a matter of paramount importance. From the inception of the Organisation of African Unity, reparatory justice has been integral to the broader project of decolonization and restorative accountability for harms suffered by the continent, Africans, and people of African descent. This commitment has been articulated and refined in initiatives such as the 1993 Abuja First Pan-African Conference on Reparations, the 2022 Africa–Diaspora Summit on Reparations, and the 2023 Accra Reparations Conference. In 2023, the African Union Heads of State and Government designated the 2025 Theme of the Year as “Justice for Africans and People of African Descent Through Reparations,” framing a critical and forward-looking dialogue that addresses both historical injustices and contemporary structural inequities. AfSIL’s 15th annual conference builds on these efforts by advancing rigorous, practice-oriented debate on law, policy and implementation concerning reparation.

The conference will interrogate foundational concepts and practical modalities of reparation in international law, assess convergences and divergences across regimes and institutions, and examine Africa’s proposals, contributions and claims. AfSIL welcomes proposals that offer theoretical innovation, empirical analysis, comparative insight, or practice-based evaluation, with clear implications for counsel, adjudicators, negotiators and policymakers.

## Conference Themes

AfSIL invites submissions from academics and practitioners of any nationality. Contributions may address one or more of the following areas, but are not limited to them:

1. Foundations, functions and content of reparation in international law
2. Africa, theoretical approaches to reparation and justice
3. Africa and the codification of rules on reparation in international law
4. Equity considerations and reparation in international law
5. *Jus cogens*, obligations *erga omnes* and reparation
6. Reparation, common law and special regimes in international law
7. Africa and reparation for past crimes (incl. colonialism, slavery, apartheid)
8. Reparation before international courts and tribunals
9. Non-contentious reparation in international law
10. Reparation and unilateral sanctions in international law

## Submission Guidelines

Please submit to [contact@afsilsadi.org](mailto:contact@afsilsadi.org) an abstract of 300-500 words (in English or French), together with the following:

- Title of the paper submitted
- Brief biography or CV
- Contact details

### Timeline

- Deadline for submission of abstracts: **20 February 2026**
- Notification of acceptance: **9 March 2026**
- Deadline for participation confirmation and conference registration: **23 March 2026**
- Deadline for submission of full papers: **7 September 2026**
- Conference dates: **6-7 November 2026**
- Deadline for optional submission of final papers for publication: **22 February 2027**

### Venue and Expenses

- The conference will take place in Kigali, Rwanda. Remote participation will not be available.
- All selected authors must register for the conference and will be eligible for a reduced conference registration fee.
- AfSIL cannot provide funding for the travel or accommodation.

The Society welcomes emerging voices and encourages submissions from early-career scholars and practitioners.

For any questions regarding the conference, please email [contact@afsilsadi.org](mailto:contact@afsilsadi.org)