



**AFRICAN UNION CONTINENTAL CAPACITY-BUILDING PROGRAMME
IN INTERNATIONAL LAW AND AFRICAN LAW**

**INTERNATIONAL LAW SEMINAR FOR AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
7 to 18 August 2017**

Deadline for applications: 9 June 2017

GENERAL INFORMATION: The Constitutive Act of the African Union sets forth the following objectives to meet the needs of Africa: to achieve greater unity and solidarity between the African countries and the peoples of Africa; to encourage international cooperation, taking due account of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; to promote peace, security and stability on the continent; to promote democratic principles and institutions, popular participation and good governance; to promote and protect human and peoples' rights in accordance with the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and other relevant human rights instruments; to establish the necessary conditions to enable the continent to play its rightful role in the global economy and in international negotiations; to promote sustainable development as well as the integration of African economies; to promote co-operation in all fields of human activity to raise the living standards of the African peoples; and to advance the development of the continent by promoting research in all fields.¹ The African Union is guided by the following principles in performing its functions to achieve those objectives: peaceful resolution of conflicts among Member States of the Union; peaceful co-existence of Member States and their right to live in peace and security; promotion of gender equality; and respect for democratic principles, human rights, the rule of law and good governance.²

The Commission of the African Union (Office of the Legal Counsel) presented the Concept Note on the Establishment of the African Union Continental Capacity-Building Programme in International Law and African Law (AU CCBP) at an information session held for Member States on 21 February 2017. The African Union Continental Capacity-Building Programme in International Law and African Law is intended to promote the fundamental objectives of the African Union and the aspirations of the African peoples, guided by the common vision of a united and strong Africa, to promote peace, security and stability as a prerequisite for the implementation of its development and integration agenda, to promote and protect human and peoples' rights, consolidate democratic institutions and culture, and to ensure good governance and the rule of law for the benefit of Africa.³ The AU Continental Capacity-Building Programme would consist of activities to further three fundamental goals: (1) the organization of seminars to promote international law and African law education; (2) the preparation of legal publications to promote knowledge of international law and African law; and (3) the organization of practical training courses and technical assistance projects to promote the implementation of international law and African law.

The first International Law Seminar for African Universities was held at the Kofi Annan Centre in Ghana in 2016 to promote capacity building in international law education for members of the law faculty of academic institutions in Africa and to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law proposed by Ambassador Emmanuel K. Dadzie of Ghana and established by the General Assembly in 1965. The second International Law Seminar for African Universities will be conducted by the African Union Office of the Legal Counsel under the African Union Continental Capacity-Building Programme in International Law and African Law. The African Union Leadership Academy (AULA) will provide essential cooperation and assistance for this seminar in accordance with

¹ Constitutive Act of the African Union, Article 3.

² Article 4.

³ Preamble.

its mandate for capacity-building within the framework of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, in particular to develop content and professional skills for young African law faculty members to promote education on AU legal instruments at national universities in AU Member States. The Codification Division of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs will also cooperate with the African Union in conducting this seminar under the UN Programme of Assistance.⁴ The seminar will be conducted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 7 to 18 August 2017. The goal is to establish an annual international law seminar for professors, lecturers and researchers with the law faculty of academic institutions in Africa to increase international law and African Union law education for students studying at academic institutions across the continent under the AU CCBP.

OBJECTIVES: The International Law Seminar for African Universities is intended to enable qualified academics to deepen their knowledge of international law and African Union law as well as the work of the United Nations and of the African Union in the field of international law. It will provide high-quality training by leading scholars, jurists and practitioners from different regions and legal systems on a broad range of core subjects of international law as well as specific subjects of particular interest to Africa to enhance the expertise of the participants and thereby strengthen the teaching and research capacity of their institutions. The interactive nature of the training allows the participants to share experiences and exchange ideas, which promotes greater understanding and cooperation on legal matters in the region. The seminar will also facilitate cooperation among academic institutions in Africa and thereby contribute to the African Union's goal of establishing the AU Association of Academic Institutions in Africa to promote international law and African Union law education throughout the continent under the AU CCBP.

FUNDING: The seminar is funded by a generous voluntary contribution provided by Germany to promote capacity building in international law and African Union law education for academic institutions in Africa.

COURSE CONTENT: The two-week seminar will include lectures on the following subjects: International Law; African Union Law and Institutions; African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance; International Trade Law; Continental Free Trade Area; the Law of the Sea; the African Charter on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa; International and African Human Rights Law; International Humanitarian Law; and International Criminal Law.

METHODOLOGY AND TRAINING MATERIALS: The training course will be conducted in the form of interactive seminars and discussions to allow a maximum exchange of views. A comprehensive set of training materials will be provided to participants at the beginning of the training course. Certificates will be awarded to those participants who have completed the training seminar in its entirety.

PARTICIPANTS -- QUALIFICATIONS AND SELECTION PROCESS: The seminar is open to faculty members of academic institutions in Africa. To qualify for this seminar, candidates must have a legal background with professional experience in the field of international law education or research. The seminar will accommodate up to 30 participants. When selecting participants for the seminar, due consideration will be given to the candidates' qualifications, the scope of their professional duties, the relevance of the training to their professional duties as well as the geographic and gender balance of the participants. Applications from female candidates are encouraged.

VENUE AND COURSE LANGUAGE: The seminar will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 7 to 18 August 2017. It will be conducted in English. Fluency in spoken and written English is required. Applicants whose mother tongue or language of instruction is not English are required to submit proof of their language abilities.

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS AND ACCOMMODATION: Fellowship participants will receive economy airfare, accommodation and a stipend. Self-funded participants bear costs associated with their participation (travel, accommodation and living expenses). Training materials will be provided to all participants.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Friday, 9 June 2017: Application forms are available at: www.au.int Candidates must submit a completed application form by email to the African Union Leadership Academy AULA@africa-union.org with copy to Ms. Betelhem Arega, Betelhema@africa-union.org and Ms. Virginia Morris, morrisv@un.org no later than **Friday, 9 June 2017**. Incomplete and late applications will not be considered.

⁴ General Assembly resolution 71/139, paragraph 20.