

ACHIEVING THE 2030 AGENDA AND AGENDA 2063: THE RULE OF LAW AS A DRIVER OF AFRICA'S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

June 1-2, 2016

Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania

A conference organized by the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) in cooperation with the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania with the support of the Government of Italy



This Conference, as part of IDLO's larger Africa Initiative, is intended to provide a platform for African leaders, policymakers and experts to engage in strategy and policy discussions, exchange knowledge and experience, and strengthen partnerships within Africa and with the international community to further advance the rule of law in Africa as an integral element in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union's Agenda 2063.

BACKGROUND

Africa is a continent with enormous wealth in culture, resources and opportunity. It is home to many of the world's fastest growing economies and most dynamic demographic trends. By 2050, the continent is set to host over a quarter of the world's working population. Yet, despite these and other promising indicators of development, Africa continues to face significant challenges: poverty, growing levels of inequality and heightened vulnerability to climate change. It has also witnessed some of the world's most entrenched conflicts, humanitarian crises and refugee flows.

In May 2013, the African Union initiated their 50 year development action plan, Agenda 2063, which lays out the Pan-African vision in seven aspirations. Throughout the continent, as established in Agenda 2063, there is increasing recognition that the rule of law is an indispensable means to promote sustainable development.

In September 2015 the UN General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which includes a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 corresponding targets. The SDGs will orient the next 15 years of global investment in development priorities, following the Millennium Development Goals.

Importantly, both aspiration 3 of Agenda 2063 and SDG 16 of the 2030 Agenda point to the rule of law and access to justice as drivers and outcomes of sustainable development. The rule of law is also of cross-cutting relevance to all development goals and aspirations, in terms of enabling participatory, accountable and equitable processes in the economic, social and environmental spheres.

The African Union's Common African Position (CAP) on the post-2015 development agenda provides an agreed set of specific African priorities, many of which are mirrored by the SDGs and fully aligned with Agenda 2063. The CAP highlights the need to build productive capacities, including greater access to quality education and health care, youth development and women's empowerment, sustainable resource management, environmental degradation and climate change as well as the promotion of peace and security, and the establishment of a more accountable global governance architecture. Advancing justice and the rule of law is central to the enabling environment to achieve these priorities.

Against this backdrop, the Conference, *Achieving the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063: the Rule of Law as a Driver of Africa's Sustainable Development*, will focus attention on how the rule of law can enable and ensure the realization of global and continental priorities.

As the only inter-governmental organization devoted exclusively to advancing the rule of law and development, IDLO is organizing this Conference as the first part of a larger Initiative to further advance sustainable development through concrete measures underpinned by the rule of law. The Initiative seeks to support the rule of law and development in Africa by:

1. Generating greater awareness and political commitment
2. Exploring and initiating programming opportunities for concrete action
3. Encouraging evidence-based research and policy development on the issues
4. Supporting and strengthening national and regional networks and partnerships in Africa

OBJECTIVES

This Conference offers a platform to discuss and exchange knowledge, experience and good practice. It seeks to encourage and facilitate the establishment of strategic networks and partnerships among key actors and players to advance the realization of the SDGs.

Drawing on contributions from African political leaders, senior policy makers, experts and practitioners, the Conference will convene key national, regional and international stakeholders to:

- a. Identify opportunities, challenges and strategies to maximize the contribution of the rule of law to sustainable development; and
- b. Promote networking and partnerships for action among Conference participants and other actors with the aim of strengthening the rule of law and sustainable development in Africa.

THEMATIC AREAS

It is widely recognized in Africa and globally that the rule of law is a necessary, integral part of development. There is increasing realization that equitable, inclusive and sustainable development will remain elusive until and unless a culture of justice and the rule of law are deeply embedded in government and society.

Consultations so far have indicated interest in the following themes:

1. Effective, accountable and inclusive institutions with a focus on the justice sector
2. Gender equality, access to justice and empowerment of women and girls
3. Health and well-being through the rule of law and access to justice
4. Economic development through the rule of law

Discussions on these themes will be addressed through the prism of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs, including SDG 16¹, as well as the aspirations set out in Agenda 2063, including aspiration 3². Approaches to reliable measurement of progress on the SDGs and Agenda 2063 as well as sourcing of funding have also been identified as priorities for the discussion.

PARTICIPANTS

The Conference proposes a multidisciplinary and inclusive approach, engaging a wide range of African stakeholders including political leaders; parliamentarians; senior government officials; members of the judiciary; law and development experts, practitioners and policy makers; and civil society leaders. Representatives of the international community and the private sector will be invited to contribute to the discussions.

ORGANIZATION

The Conference is being organized by IDLO in cooperation with the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania in Dar es Salaam on June 1-2, 2016. In designing the Conference, IDLO has benefitted from the advice and support of leading African personalities, including Former President of Tanzania Benjamin Mkapa, Chief Justice Willy Mutunga of Kenya, Justice Albie Sachs of South Africa, and others.

The Conference will comprise high-level segments as well as working level sessions providing for interactive discussions that will take stock of past achievements and challenges and propose policies and strategies on how to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda and the Pan-African vision set out in Agenda 2063.

The International Development Law Organization (IDLO) enables governments and empowers people to reform laws and strengthen institutions to promote peace, justice, sustainable development and economic opportunity.

¹ “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”.

² “An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law”