**Second Annual Forum on China-Africa Law**

**Theme**: Investment Protection Under the Investment Protocol to the AfCFTA and Chinese Investments

**Date**: June 27th–28th, 2025

**Venue**: School of Law, Xiamen University, China

#### Organizers:

* School of Law, Xiamen University
* African Institute of International Law (AIIL)

### Background

The inaugural China-Africa Law Forum, held on July 30-31, 2019, in Beijing, China, brought together legal scholars, practitioners, and policymakers from both regions. This forum served as a platform to foster dialogue on legal issues pertinent to China and Africa.

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement, which commenced on January 1, 2021, represents a milestone in Africa's economic integration efforts. The Investment Protocol to the AfCFTA aims to promote intra-African investments while providing legal certainty and protections for all investors. As China remains a significant investment partner for Africa, the need to examine reciprocal benefits, challenges, and opportunities under this protocol is critical.

This forum aims to explore the implications of the AfCFTA Investment Protocol for both African and Chinese stakeholders, fostering a mutual understanding of investment protection mechanisms and encouraging collaboration for sustainable development.

### Objectives

1. Analyze the relationship between the AfCFTA Investment Protocol and other International Investment Agreements concluded by African countries.
2. Examine how the AfCFTA Investment Protocol can enhance legal protections for African and Chinese investors alike.
3. Highlight African investment opportunities in Chinese markets under reciprocal arrangements.
4. Facilitate a balanced dialogue among African and Chinese legal scholars, practitioners, and policymakers.
5. Identify challenges and opportunities in harmonizing investment protection standards to benefit both regions.
6. Strengthen capacity-building initiatives for African legal professionals to address global investment challenges.

### Participants

* Legal scholars and academics from China and Africa.
* Practicing lawyers specializing in international investment law.
* Policymakers and government officials from both regions.
* Representatives from international organizations and think tanks.
* Graduate and postgraduate students with a focus on international law.

### Format

The forum will feature keynote speeches, panel discussions, and breakout sessions over one and a half days. Proposed topics include:

* Overview of the AfCFTA Investment Protocol.
* Comparative analysis of investment protection standards in Africa and China.
* Opportunities for African investors in China under the AfCFTA.
* Case studies of mutual investment benefits.
* Dispute resolution mechanisms under the AfCFTA.
* Strategies for promoting sustainable and equitable investment practices.

### Expected Outcomes

1. Enhanced understanding of the AfCFTA Investment Protocol among African and Chinese stakeholders.
2. Identification of best practices for equitable investment protection benefiting both African and Chinese investors.
3. Strengthened networks between African and Chinese legal professionals, fostering collaborative partnerships.
4. Concrete policy recommendations for harmonizing investment protection standards to enhance mutual benefits.
5. Capacity-building initiatives for African legal scholars and practitioners.
6. Increased awareness of African investment opportunities in Chinese markets.

### Participation Expenses

Participants are kindly informed that they will be responsible for covering their international travel expenses to and from Xiamen, Fujiang Province, China. However, the School of Law at Xiamen University will generously provide local accommodation, meals, and transportation for the duration of the Forum.

### About the Organizers

**The African Institute of International Law (AIIL)**: AIIL is dedicated to promoting the rule of law and rules-based regional integration in Africa. Its mission encompasses capacity building, research, and advocacy in international law and African Union Law to support Africa's sustainable development.

**Xiamen University**: Founded in 1921, Xiamen University is a prestigious institution in China, known for its excellence in education and research. Its School of Law is renowned for its contributions to legal scholarship and its focus on fostering international collaborations.

### Contact Information

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