

# **KILIMANJARO SUMMER ACADEMY ON AFRICAN UNION LAW AND THE PUBLIC LAW OF AFRICA**



**3 - 14 August 2026  
Arusha, Tanzania**

**AFRICAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW  
INSTITUT AFRICAIN DE DROIT INTERNATIONAL**

<https://aiil-iadi.org>

## **The Institute**

The African Institute of International Law is an autonomous Regional International Organization established in January 2012, at the initiative of Judge Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf of the International Court of Justice, “to contribute actively to the promotion and building of the rule of law in Africa” and “to promote study, research and analysis on international legal matters of particular interest and relevance to African countries and to foster the teaching and dissemination of international law in Africa”.

The African Union Assembly underscored “the strategic importance of such an institute dedicated to offering higher learning and research in international law and the law of the African Union needed for the development of Africa” and recognized “the important role that the African Institute of International Law will play in building the capacity of African Faculties of Law and African Lawyers in dealing with various aspects of International and African Union Law” (Assembly/AU/Dec. 405 (XVIII) of January 2012).

Taking note of the establishment of the Institute, the United Nations General Assembly welcomed its creation and regularly encourages the UN Secretariat to cooperate with the Institute through the Codification Division of its Office of Legal Affairs (see e.g., Resolution 67/466 of 21 November 2012, Resolution 74/185 of 27 December 2019, Resolution 77/102 of 7 December 2022, Resolution 78/107 of 7 December 2023, and Resolution 79/120 of 4 December 2024, in which the General Assembly “Once again encourages the Codification Division to cooperate with the

*African Institute of International Law, dedicated to offering higher learning and research in international law needed for the development of Africa, in the implementation of the relevant activities under the Programme of Assistance, including the second International Law Seminar for African Universities, to be held in Ethiopia in 2025 in furtherance of paragraph 20 of its resolution 71/139 of 13 December 2016, subject to any available resources, or through partnerships with United Nations entities, and encourages Member States and interested organizations to make voluntary contributions to the International Law Seminar for African Universities” (para. 22).*

The seat of the Institute is in Arusha, Tanzania. Dubbed the “judicial capital of Africa”, Arusha is also the seat of several regional and international institutions including the East African Community, the East African Court of Justice, the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights, the African Union Advisory Board Against Corruption, and the United Nations Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals. It also hosts other government and non-governmental African and international institutions that apply or subscribe to public international law, African Union law and the public law of Africa on a daily basis.

Since its establishment, the Institute has conducted many significant training and capacity-building activities for experts from African States and beyond on many subjects in the fields of public international law, as well as Africa Union Law, the public law of Africa, and African regional integration law.

## Objectives of the Summer Academy

The objective of this two-week Summer Academy on African Union Law and the Public Law of Africa is to provide the participants with a better knowledge of the history, content and specificities of this normative system. It aims to provide a deeper understanding of the collective practices and attitudes of African States towards international law.

The course will consist of lectures delivered by leading African scholars, judges and practitioners of international law and African Union Law. The lectures will analyse various legal instruments which derive from and aim at developing the principles upheld by the African Union and its predecessor, the Organisation of African Unity. Altogether, the lectures will offer a concise and clear picture of the normative system devised to realize the objectives of these Pan-African organizations, which reflect the innermost aspirations of African peoples.

The Course is also intended to foster a better understanding of the origins, principles and objectives, structure, organs, and scope of operation of the African Union and African Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

In contrast to the OAU Charter, the Constitutive Act of the African Union establishes a new set of principles. Indeed, in addition to the right of intervention of the AU in a member State, without its consent, to prevent war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity, the Constitutive Act contains a number of principles which might be considered ground-breaking in the context of the evolution of "African international law". Thus, it provides for: the right of Member States to request intervention from the Union in order to restore peace and security, the promotion of gender equality, respect for democratic principles, human rights, the rule of law and good governance, respect for the sanctity of human life, condemnation and rejection of impunity and political assassination, acts of terrorism and subversive activities, and enunciates the condemnation and rejection by the AU of unconstitutional changes of government.

## The programme of the 2026 Session of the Summer Academy, includes the following courses

### ***Panafricanism and the Public Law of Africa***

Opening Lecture by **Abdulqawi Ahmed Yusuf, Judge** and former President of the International Court of Justice.

### ***The Law and Institutions of the African Union***

**El-Ghassim Wane**, Senior Research Fellow, African Leadership Centre, King's College London; former AU Commission Chief of Staff and Director of Peace and Security.

### ***Legal Aspects of the Peace and Security Architecture of the African Union***

**Dire Tladi, Judge** at the International Court of Justice, former Member of the International Law Commission.

### ***Legal Implications of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)***

**Melaku Geboye Desta**, Coordinator, Africa Trade Policy Centre, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa; and **Joy Kategekwa**, Director of the Regional Integration Coordination Office at the African Development Bank.

### ***The AfCFTA Protocol on Investments and its Role in the Promotion and Protection of Investments in Africa***

**Walid Ben Hamida**, Professor of Law and Arbitrator, University of Lille, former member of the International Chamber of Commerce Arbitration Court.

### ***The Legal Framework for the Protection of Human and Peoples' Rights***

**Obiora Okafor, Edward B.** Burling Chair in International Law and Institutions at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), former UN Independent Expert on Human Rights and International Solidarity.

### ***The African Legal Instruments on Environment Protection and Climate***

**Hajer Gueldich**, African Union Legal Counsel, Member and former President of the African Union Commission on International Law.

## **Audience**

The Summer Academy on African Union and the Public Law of Africa is aimed at a large audience including students, scholars, private practitioners, government officials, diplomats, policymakers, judges and legislators.

## **Faculty**

The lecturers are prominent African international lawyers, and specialists of African Union Law, the public law of Africa and the law of international organizations and sub-regional African organizations.

## **Certificate of Participation**

Participants who will have regularly attended the Summer Course will receive a Certificate of Attendance at the end of the session.

## **Tuition Fees**

**USD 900** for the two-week Summer Academy (excluding accommodation). Payment must be made upon receipt (by e-mail) of a letter of pre-admission and an invoice payable pursuant to instructions contained in the invoice.

## **Registration**

All applicants are required to register online using the registration form available on the Institute website. Registration will be accepted until **10 July 2026** at 23.59 (Arusha Time, GMT + 3).

**Early-Bird Fees** (before 30 April 2026): **US\$ 800**

**Regular Fees** (from 1 May to 30 June 2026): **US\$ 900**

**Late Fees** (after 10 July 2026): **US\$ 950**

If an organization sends more than one participant, additional participants get a 10% (15% if more than five) discount.

## **Contact**

### **Program Director**

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