



AfCFTA Legal Professionals Workshop

Practical Preparedness for Legal Practitioners

20–25 April 2026 | Arusha, Tanzania

I. General Information

The African Institute of International Law (AIIL) is pleased to announce a six-day intensive workshop entitled “The AfCFTA: Practical Preparedness for Legal Professionals.” The programme is designed to equip legal practitioners, government officials, and trade advisors with the practical knowledge and skills required to navigate, apply, and implement the legal framework of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Date: 20–25 April 2026

Location: Arusha, Tanzania

Format: In-person, interactive sessions

Language: English

II. Objectives of the Workshop

The workshop seeks to:

- Provide a solid understanding of the AfCFTA legal architecture and its interaction with national and regional legal systems;
- Build practical capacity in the application of AfCFTA protocols on trade in goods, trade in services, dispute settlement,

and Phase II areas (investment, intellectual property, and competition);

- Strengthen skills in legal drafting, compliance assessment, and strategic litigation under the AfCFTA;
- Foster a pan-African network of legal professionals committed to advancing continental trade integration.

III. Workshop Structure

The programme is structured around six thematic days:

Day 1 – AfCFTA Architecture and Legal Systems Interface

Day 2 – Protocol on Trade in Goods

Day 3 – Trade in Services and Phase II Protocols

Day 4 – Dispute Settlement and Compliance

Day 5 – Professional Practice and Strategic Application

Day 6 – Capstone Presentations and Closing Session

IV. Target Audience

The workshop is intended for:

- Legal practitioners in private practice and corporate legal departments;
- Judicial officers and

arbitrators involved in trade-related disputes;

- Government officials from ministries responsible for trade, justice, and investment;
- Legal advisors from business associations and chambers of commerce;
- Legal professionals from Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

V. Faculty

The workshop will be delivered by distinguished experts in African trade law, including contributors to the AfCFTA negotiations, experienced practitioners, academics, and dispute settlement specialists. Detailed faculty profiles will be circulated in due course.

VI. Certification

Participants who attend the workshop in full will receive a Certificate of Attendance issued by the African Institute of International Law, recognizing advanced professional training in AfCFTA legal practice.

VII. Funding

Limited funding is available. Governments, institutions, and organizations are encouraged to sponsor participants to ensure broad and meaningful representation. The programme aims to build a critical mass of African legal professionals capable of supporting effective AfCFTA implementation.

VIII. Language of Instruction

All sessions will be conducted in English.

IX. Eligibility

Applications are open to legal professionals from across Africa with a demonstrated interest in AfCFTA-related work. Priority will be given to:

- Legal practitioners
- Judicial officers

- Government officials
- Advisors to business associations
- Legal teams from RECs

X. Application Requirements

Applicants must submit:

1. A curriculum vitae (CV)
2. Copies of relevant academic certificates
3. A personal statement (maximum 500 words)
4. Two letters of reference

XI. Selection Criteria

Selection will be based on:

- Professional qualifications and experience;
- Relevance of the workshop to the applicant's current responsibilities;
- Geographic and gender balance;
- Demonstrated commitment to AfCFTA implementation.

XII. Application Procedure

Complete applications should be submitted by email to:
programs@aiil-adi.org
Cc: gsmathias13@gmail.com

Application Deadline: 28 February 2026

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

XIII. Contact Information

For further information, please contact:

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