

Seventh SOAS Arbitration in Africa Conference co-hosted by  
Casablanca International Mediation and Arbitration Centre, CIMAC,  
23-24 November 2021

Conference Title: Navigating the Interests of Africa States in  
International Arbitration and Mediation

Languages: English and French

23 November 0900-1030: Welcome events

**Day 1 Panels: 23 November 2021**

**Panel 1: 1100-1300**

Economic, Socio-legal and Developmental Interests of African States

This panel will explore the economic, socio-legal and developmental interests of African States to provide an understanding of the needs/goals of African states in their engagement with the international community. The Panel will address questions such as: what are the developmental needs of Africa over the next five to ten years? How can the Africa Continental Free Trade Area Agreement support African states in meeting these developmental needs?

**1300-1430: Lunch**

**Panel 2: 1500-1700**

International Investment Agreements and Development of African States

This panel will discuss how these identified interests are negotiated in international investment agreements (IIAs), concession contracts, regional economic communities in Africa, etc. This Panel will particularly focus on the content of IIAs signed by African states and explore how the content of such IIAs can be fairer and more equitable between its parties and beneficiaries. The Panel may answer questions such as: why do African states need foreign investment? What practical differences do some of these foreign investments make to African states? What differences will the investment protocol of the AfCFTA make to the current investment regime in Africa?

**1900-2100: Conference Dinner**

**Day 2 Panels: 24 November 2021**

**Panel 3: 0930-1130**

African States and International Investment Arbitration

This panel will explore some important decisions of investment arbitration tribunals involving African states and affecting the interests of African states and some important learnings for African states.

**Panel 4: 1135-1300**

African States, Settlement and Mediation of International Disputes

This panel will examine the international investment disputes that African states have settled and the place of mediation in the resolution of international investment disputes and whether such settlements are beneficial to African states.

**1300-1430: Lunch**

**Panel 5: 1500-1700**

**African States and Dispute Avoidance**

This panel will examine how African States can avoid international investment and commercial disputes and proffer practical and workable suggestions for African states to adopt. The panel will also explore measures already adopted by some African states towards dispute avoidance.

1700-1730: Invitation to the 8<sup>th</sup> SOAS Arbitration in Africa conference which will be hosted by colleagues in Accra.

1730-1800: Closing events.

**Registration Fees**

USD100 for young practitioners (that are members of any of the Young Members Arbitration Groups in Africa)

USD200 per attendee

Fees will include all materials, lunch and dinner, tea/coffee/water/biscuits/cakes etc.

**Sponsorship Packages**

Basic/Support: USD2,000 (+ free registration for two attendees)

Bronze: USD5,000 (+ free registration for two attendees and a speaking slot if needed)

Silver: USD7,500 (+ free registration for three attendees and a speaking slot)

Gold: USD10,000 (+ free registration for up to five attendees and a speaking slot)

Organising Committee

03 February 2021