PROGRAMME
OF THE
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

THEME:
ECOWAS INTEGRATION MODEL:
THE LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OF REGIONALISM,
SOVEREIGNTY AND SUPRANATIONALISM

Date: 9th – 12th May, 2022
Venue: Amphitheatre, University of Cabo Verde
Praia, CABO VERDE

Live on Zoom from 9:30 GMT
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His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo
President of the Republic and Commander-In-Chief of the Ghana Armed Forces
Chairman of the Authority of Heads State and Government of ECOWAS
His Excellency José Maria Neves
President
Republic of Cape Verde
Hon. Justice Edward Amoako Asante
President
Community Court of Justice, ECOWAS
Hon. Justice Gberi-bè Ouattara
Vice-President
Community Court of Justice, ECOWAS

Hon. Justice Dupe Atoki
Member
Community Court of Justice, ECOWAS
Hon. Justice Keikura Bangura
Member
Community Court of Justice, ECOWAS

Honorable Justice
Januária Tavares Silva Moreira Costa
Member
Community Court of Justice, ECOWAS
MONDAY 9th MAY, 2022

8:30 am - 9:30 am  Registration of participants.

9:30am – 11:20 am  OPENING CEREMONY

9:30am - 9:35 am  Cultural moment.

9:35am - 9:40 am  Anthems of the Republic of Cabo Verde and ECOWAS.

9:40am – 9:50 am  Welcome address by the President, ECOWAS Court of Justice, Hon. Justice Edward Amoako Asante.

9:50am – 9:55am  Goodwill Message by the Hon. Speaker of ECOWAS Parliament

9:55am – 10:00 am  Goodwill Message by the D. G WAHO

10:00 am – 10:05 am  Goodwill Message by the President of EBID

10:05 am – 10:15 am  Statement by the Hon. Minister of Justice of the Republic of Cabo Verde

10:15 am – 10:25 am  Statement by Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Regional Integration of the Republic of Cabo Verde

10:25 am – 10:35 am  Statement by the President of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Cabo Verde

10:35 am- 11:00 am  Keynote Address by the Guest Speaker, Prof. Solomon Ebobrah

11:00 am – 11:10 am  Statement by H.E, President of the Republic of Cabo Verde

11:10 am – 11:20 am  Group Photograph.

Rapporteurs:  Emiliana MSB Mendes, Nketiah Apraku and Zoumana Camara

11:20 am – 11:45 pm  Tea break.
DAY ONE

Afternoon Session

11:45 am – 3:30 pm

SUB-THEME 1: ECOWAS INTEGRATION MODEL.

Issues for consideration

a. Regionalism – Types of Regional Integration


c. Regional Integration theories and practice - European Integration as a model for Regional Integration.

d. Intergovernmentalism; ECOWAS approach to regional Integration - Merits and challenges of the ECOWAS Integration model.

e. Goals and pillars of ECOWAS Regional Integration objectives – shifting deadlines – ECOWAS Vision 2050


Rapporteurs: Nketiah Apraku, Me Kouassi Fernand and Cassandra O. M. Labor

11:45am – 1:25 pm  Presentations on Sub-Theme One

Presenters:

i. Prof. Muhammed Tawfiq Ladan, Director General Nigerian Institute for Advanced Legal Studies.

ii. Prof. Amos Enabulele, Prof of International Law, University of Benin, Edo State, Nigeria

iii. Mr. John Azuma, Secretary General of ECOWAS Parliament

iv. Mr. Daniel Lago, Director Legal Affairs Department, ECOWAS Commission.

1:25 pm – 2:30 pm: Lunch Break

2:30 pm – 3:30 pm: Discussions

3:30 pm – 3:50 pm: Tea Break
TUESDAY 10th MAY 2022

DAY TWO

MORNING SESSION

8:30 am – 1:15 pm

SUB-THEME 2: REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

Issues for consideration

a. ECOWAS Regional Economic Integration Agenda – The enabling Legal Environment for Economic integration.

b. Preferential Trading Area, Free Trade Area, Customs Union, Common Market, Economic Union, Economic and Monetary Union, and complete Economic Integration – Situating ECOWAS in the regional economic integration metrix.


d. Barriers to regional trade.

e. Merits and costs of regional economic integration.

Moderator: Hon. Justice Benfeito Mosso Ramos, President of the Supreme Court of Cabo Verde

Rapporteurs: Indi Injonalo and Zara Carew

8:30 am – 9:50 am Presentations on Sub-Theme Two.

Presenters:

i. Prof. Solomon Ebobrah, Prof of International Law, Niger Delta University, Bayelsa State, Nigeria

ii. Hon. Justice Ladislau Clemente Fernando Embassa, Justice of the Supreme Court of Guinea Bissau and UEAMOA Court of Justice, Burkina Faso

iii. Dr. Milton Paiva, Lawyer and Administrator, Cabo Verde

iv. Professor Odair Varela, University of Cape Verde (Uni-CV), Academic Director of the Master in African Regional Integration (MIRA) Praia, Cabo Verde.

9:50am – 10:50 am: Discussions

10:50 am – 11:00 am: Tea Break

11:00 am – 1:15pm: Lunch Break
SUB-THEME 3: SOVEREIGNTY AND REGIONALISM

Issues for consideration

CONVINCED that the integration of the Member States into a viable regional Community may demand the partial and gradual pooling of national sovereignties to the Community within the context of a collective political will – 1993 ECOWAS Revised Treaty.

- a. Legal implications of pooling of national sovereignties and the delegation of authority by Member States to ECOWAS – as a supra-national organisation
- c. Conflicts between national norms and community norms – Primacy of Community norms
- d. Community Obligations of Member States to ECOWAS under the Revised Treaty, Conventions, Protocols, Supplementary Acts, Regulations, Directives, or Decisions of ECOWAS.
- e. Failure by a Member State to honour its community obligation to ECOWAS – what options available to the community and the ECOWAS Commission

Moderator: Hon. Justice Gberi-Be Ouattara,
Hon. Vice President of the ECOWAS Court of Justice

Rapporteurs: Me Kouassi Fernand and Duke Ekpenyong

11:00 am – 12:15 pm: Presentations on Sub- Theme Three

Presenters:

i. Prof. (Justice) Alioune Sall Professor of International Law, University of Dakar, Senegal and former Judge of the ECOWAS Court of Justice

ii Prof. Ernest Kofi Abotsi, Dean Faculty of Law, University of Professional Studies, Accra, Ghana

iii Prof Chidi Anselem Odinkalu, Prof of International Human Rights Law and Professor of Practice, Fletcher School, Tuft University, Boston, USA (Remote Presentation)

12:15 pm – 1:15 pm: Discussions

1:15 pm – 2:15 pm: Lunch Break
AFTERNOON SESSION

2:15pm – 4:30 pm

SUB-THEME 4: SUPRANATIONALISM AND REGIONALISM.

Issues for consideration

a. Legal Implications of supranationalism and primacy of Community norms and ECOWAS as a “Super State” or “Supranational Authority” – Myth or fact?

b. ECOWAS – Regional Integration without Supranationalism; Regional Integration without direct applicability of Community Acts in Member States; and Regional Integration without the invocation of community norms before the national courts of Member States – How feasible?

c. Delegation of Authority by Member States to ECOWAS - Legal relationship between Member States and ECOWAS

d. Holding Member States accountable for their Treaty obligations to ECOWAS – the role of Member States and the ECOWAS Commission.

e. European Union: A Model of Supranationalism – Lessons for ECOWAS

Moderator: Hon. Justice Dupe Atoki, Hon. Judge of the ECOWAS Court of Justice

Rapporteurs: Oluwatosin Nguher, Zoumana Camara and Zara Carew

2:15 pm – 3:30 pm Presentations on Sub-Theme Four.

Presenters:

i. Dr. Hernani de Oliveira Soares, President of Cape Verde Bar Association

ii. Dr. Idrissa Sow, Adviser, Supreme Court of Senegal and Commissioner at the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights, Banjul, The Gambia.

iii. Prof. Philip Ebow Bondzi-Simpson, Founding Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Cape Coast, Emeritus Rector, Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration.

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm Discussions

4:30 pm – 4:45 pm Tea Break
WEDNESDAY 11th MAY 2022

DAY THREE
MORNING SESSION

8:30am – 1:20 pm

SUB-THEME 5: REGIONAL COURTS IN REGIONAL INTEGRATION PROCESS.

Issues for consideration

a. Treaty supervision and oversight functions - Role of ECOWAS Court of Justice in the ECOWAS Integration process.

b. Lessons from the role played by the European Court of Justice, in the European integration process and in the development of the European Community Law.

c. Strengthening the relationship between national Courts of Member States and ECOWAS Court of Justice for the attainment of an ECOWAS Community legal order.

d. Harmonization of the legal and judicial systems of Member States and the Enforcement of the Judgements of the ECOWAS Court of Justice by national courts of Member States.

e. Invocation of Community law before national courts and the Preliminary Ruling Procedure – (Referrals, Article 10 (f) of the Protocol on the Court).

Moderator: Barr. Hannibal Uwaifo, President of the African Bar Association

Rapporteurs: Aboubacar Diakite and Yusuf Danmadami

8:30 am – 9:50 am: Presentations on Sub-Theme Five.

Presenters:

i. Mr. Femi Falana, SAN, Human Rights Activists and Senior Advocate of Nigeria

ii. Prof. Oumarou Narey, Professor of International and Constitutional Law, Abdou Moumouni University, Niamey and President of Audit Court, Republic of Niger (Remote Presentation).

iii. Hon. Justice. Diane Hassane, Secretary General, National Council of Human Rights, Republic of Cote d’Ivoire

iv. Hon. Justice (Dr) Richmond Osei- Hwere, Hon. Judge of the High Court of Ghana

9:50 am – 9:55 am: Tea Break

10:00am – 11:00am: Discussions
SUB-THEME 6: REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND REGIONAL PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Issues for consideration.

a. Relationship between Regional Integration and regional protection of human rights.

b. The Unique Features of ECOWAS Human Rights Mechanism.

c. An appraisal of the human rights Jurisprudence of the ECOWAS Court of Justice.

d. Regional Human Rights systems.

e. Challenges in the enforcement of the Judgments of the ECOWAS Court of Justice, and how to strengthen the judgment enforcement Mechanism.

Moderator: Hon. Justice. Keikura Bangura, Honorable Judge of the ECOWAS Court of Justice

Rapporteurs: Cassandra O. M. Labor and Aboubacar Adam

11:00am – 12:20 pm Presentations on Sub-Theme Six.

Presenters:

i. Prof (Justice) F. C. Nwoke, Professor of International Law, University of Jos, Nigeria and former Vice President of the ECOWAS Court of Justice.


iii. Mr. Christopher Nyinevi, PhD. Candidate, Faculty of Law, Monash University, Australia

12:20 pm – 1:20pm Discussions

1:20 pm – 2:20pm Lunch Break
AFTERNOON SESSION

2:20 pm – 5:00 pm

SUB-THEME 7: FREE MOVEMENT OF PERSONS, GOODS AND SERVICES AS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION.

Issues for consideration

a. The ECOWAS Protocol on Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Establishment.

b. Free Movement of persons, goods and services as an important factor for Regional Integration.

c. Challenges militating against Free Movement of Persons, Goods and Services in the Community.

d. Challenges militating against the full enjoyment of Rights of Residence and Establishments by Community Citizens in Member States – Discriminatory national laws and double standards.

e. ECOWAS Common Passport.

Moderator: Hon. Justice Januaria Moreira Tavares Costa, Hon. Judge of the ECOWAS Court of Justice

Rapporteurs: Emiliana M.S. B Mendes, Duke Ekpenyong and Aboubacar Adam

2:20 pm – 4:00 pm Presentations on Sub-Theme Seven.

Presenters:

i. Dr. Tony Elumelu, Ag. Director, Private Sector (P.P.O Free Movement) ECOWAS Commission.

ii. Mr. Ibrahima Kane, Head, African Union Advocacy Programme of the African Regional Office, OSIWA, Senegal (Remote Presentation)

iii. Dr. Emmanuel Brasca Udo Ifeadi, Former Deputy Comptroller General, Nigerian Immigration Service, CEO Conflict Resolution and Migration Awareness Initiative. (PhD in Strategic Studies and PhD in International Relations).

iv. Dr. Paulino Oliveira Do Canto, PhD candidate in Social Sustainability and Development by Universidade Nova de Lisboa and National Coordinator of the Empowerment Project Economic and Political Participation of the Cape Verdean Institute for Gender Equality and Equity (ICIEG) Praia, Cabo Verde.

v. Dr. Yoann Lacerda, University of Cape Verde – Sciences Po Bordeaux (LAM), Graduate Program in Social Sciences (FCSHA), Praia, Cabo Verde.

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm Discussions

5:00 pm – 5:15 pm Tea Break
THURSDAY 12th MAY 2022

DAY FOUR

8:30 am – 1:00 pm  Finalization of Report by Rapporteurs

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm  Lunch Break

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm  Presentation and adoption of Report.

Rapporteur General  Ghislain Agbozo

Assistant Rapporteur General  Oluwatosin Nguher

4:00pm – 4:40 pm  CLOSING CEREMONY

Moderator:  Hon. Justice Edward Amoako Asante, President, ECOWAS Court of Justice.

4:00pm – 4:05pm  Anthems of Republic of Cabo Verde and ECOWAS.

4:05pm – 4:20pm  Reading of the Communique by the Rapporteur General.

4:20pm – 4:30pm  Vote of thanks by Hon. Justice Gberi-Be Ouattara, the Vice President, ECOWAS Court of Justice.

4:30pm – 4:40pm  Closing Statement by the Hon. President of the ECOWAS Court of Justice, Hon. Justice Edward Amoako Asante.

4:40pm – 4:50pm  Closing speech of a high entity of the Republic of Cape Verde

4:50pm – 5:00pm  Tea Break
Mission
To discharge and promote its judicial function of interpreting and applying Community texts as well as to ensure respect of human rights in an efficient, timely and cost effective manner with the support of a well-trained and motivated staff.

Vision
To remain an independent, reliable, efficient and accessible legal and judicial institution of the Community, playing a strategic role in establishing and sustaining an enabling legal environment for the achievement of Community aims and objectives.

Core Values
Independence · Impartiality · Integrity · Accessibility

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