



September 2020

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After the highs of entering our tenth year of operation, a successful High-Level Meeting in March, and commencing the year with continued increase in requests by the end of Q1 (in comparison to Q1 2019), the ALSF was on course to have a record-breaking

year with more requests and approved projects than ever before. However, as the COVID-19 pandemic began to take hold on the continent, drastic and appropriate measures had to be taken to prevent the spread of the disease and ensure the survival and well-being of the continent and its people. Accordingly, the ALSF and its regional member countries (RMCs) have had to make necessary adjustments, including restructuring and prioritisation of projects to optimise their implementation and impact.

In restructuring and prioritising its projects, the ALSF considered the immediate needs of our RMCs, as well as the capacity of the countries to withstand the pandemic. Thus, our COVID-19 response alerts provided guidance on the impact of the pandemic on our key sectors, viz. sovereign debt, extractives and natural resources, infrastructure and PPPs, power, and investment dispute resolution; and offered rapid response services to our RMCs, in particular countries in transition or fragile states.

Given the impact of the pandemic on sovereign debt, we have been actively involved in international initiatives to alleviate the debt burden of our member countries and are supporting various countries with debt management facilities. We also introduced a new initiative, the “debt triage hotline service”, to swiftly provide practical legal assessments and solutions in relation to sovereign debt relief and management.

Meanwhile, our new projects in this period include advisory and capacity building projects that are aimed at sustainable development of our RMCs and enhancing their resilience and socio-economic recovery from the pandemic. For instance, in the Manakara PPP Project, where the ALSF is supporting the Malagasy Government to review the bankability of the Project and advising on potential risk mitigation mechanisms, the rehabilitation of the port will boost transportation and trade in agricultural and mining products and national revenues, as well as support jobs and economic livelihoods. The capacity building webinars co-organised by our ALSF Academy equip African lawyers with the skills required to support RMCs in international commercial transactions. Furthermore, our webinars, including the first in a series of webinars for Lusophone countries, address critical issues in the natural resources, infrastructure, debt, and power sectors.

Over this period also, our new Investment Treaties and Dispute Resolution (ITDR) unit was created to promote fair and balanced commercial transactions between our RMCs and investors, especially as these difficult times have given rise to renegotiations and disputes. The ALSF hosted the launch of the 2020 Arbitration in Africa Survey Report, which we also sponsored, and I delivered a keynote address in the 8th East Africa International Arbitration Conference (EAIAC) in August. These virtual events provided an opportunity to discuss and emphasise the importance of capacity and institutional development to enable our RMCs obtain fair and balanced outcomes in international commercial negotiations and arbitrations.

As we look forward to the last quarter of the year, we are encouraged by the trust reposed in us by our partners and RMCs, as reflected by the high demand for our services, and we are attuned and committed to Africa's needs for recovery from the pandemic.

Stephen KARANGIZI

Director and Chief Executive Officer



Launch of the 2020 Arbitration in Africa Survey Report

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 6th August 2020:

The African Legal Support Facility (ALSF) hosted a Zoom webinar launch of the 2020 Arbitration in Africa Survey Report sponsored by SOAS University of London, Broderick Bozimo and Company, and the ALSF.

The launch event of the 2020 Arbitration in Africa Survey Report was held by a Zoom webinar and attended by many participants, including arbitrators, lawyers, academics, officials of arbitral centres, and students...

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The African Legal Support Facility held his first Lusophone webinar

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 15th July 2020:

The African Legal Support Facility (ALSF) hosted the first of a series of four (4) webinars conducted exclusively in Portuguese. This series will address salient topics pertaining to natural resources, infrastructure, debt, and power from a Lusophone perspective. The initiative is designed to provide a platform for discussion of key issues to the benefit of a Lusophone audience, as well as identifying trends, challenges and opportunities for Lusophone Africa ...

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Echoes from the field

OUR PARTNER'S VOICE

From 26-27 February 2020, the African Legal Support Facility (ALSF or Facility) held a High-Level Forum of ALSF Members in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, for the first time, on the following theme: "ALSF after 10 years: Facilitating Investment and Maximizing Resources for National Development".

During this event, we gave the floor to our partners.



La VOIX DE NOS PARTENAIRES / OUR PARTNER'S VOICE

Annual Report 2019 *Message from the Director*

I am pleased to submit this 2019 Annual Report, which looks back at yet another successful year.

This year was marked by a significant increase in the demand for the Facility's services, expansion of membership, and strong growth in operations.

During 2019, the ALSF approved more than USD 15 million for 52 operations, exceeding the set target for the year by 45 percent. The ALSF also demonstrated high absorption rates, disbursing USD 13.5 million, representing an increase of 12.5 percent compared to 2018 levels.

Improvements in quality at entry and streamlined business processes, including reducing the lag between approval and first disbursement, have been an important

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Lesson from COVID19 crisis - Board Governance

As the COVID19 pandemic begins to wind down globally, there is no doubt that its impact has been widespread and disruptive. The pandemic has negatively impacted livelihoods, supply chains, consumer spending, travel and every other aspect of everyday life. The current crisis differs from past crises such as the 2007-2008 financial crisis due to its global reach. The COVID19 pandemic has been described as "the most severe crisis since the great depression of the 1930s" 'the most severe crisis since world war ...

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Alsf supports malagasy government on the rehabilitation, extension and operation of the Manakara port

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 24 August 2020 - The Republic of Madagascar has undertaken to develop a Public-Private Partnership ("PPP") programme aimed at accelerating the completion of the infrastructure needed for economic development and improving the population's access to public services. As part of its efforts to facilitate capacity building and to support the government in its PPP programme, the African Development Bank (the "AfDB") ...

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COVID-19: Considerations for African Governments

The coronavirus (“COVID-19”) pandemic has accentuated Africa’s energy deficit in an unparalleled manner. With the informal sector and small and medium size enterprises (“SMEs”) making up over 90% of the economy in sub-Saharan Africa¹ the lack of access to power has compounded the effect of national lockdowns on the continent. SMEs have limited capacity for the work from home approach adopted in many countries due to power outages and the cost of data. Where African governments had ...

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UNES TRAINING Article for publication

Nairobi, Kenya, 14th - 29th September 2020:

The African Legal Support Facility (ALSF) in collaboration with the African Natural Resources Centre (ECNR) - AfDB, the University of Nairobi, and Makerere University, are organizing an online training conference on integrating environmental, social and sustainability considerations in natural resource contracts negotiations for East African public and private sector legal experts.

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COVID-19 and International Investment Dispute Resolution: Considerations for African governments

In response to the international public health emergency caused by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, there have been several calls for the support and protection of the most vulnerable countries and their populations. While heads of state and governments from African and G20 countries have expressed the need for debt relief as well as economic and health assistance packages¹ others have called for moratoriums on treaty-based arbitration claims by private entities against ...



COVID-19 - An opportunity to review legal, institutional and regulatory frameworks governing the oil & gas sector: considerations for African governments

Countries around the world are facing a number of challenges as a result of measures taken to curb the spread of the corona virus (“Covid-19”) pandemic. These measures have to a large extent disrupted the markets for a number of commodities. In various countries, even small changes in the price of key commodities could have a detrimental effect on industry profitability and government revenue. The disruption of crude oil markets in particular, has had an adverse impact on the revenue inflow of ...

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Brief observations on the concept of “amodiation” in mining

The doctrine of amodiation presents major concerns for Governments and investors. It is a mechanism frequently used in numerous Civil Law based African countries, most notably in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of Niger, the Central African Republic or the Republic of Guinea.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

October 20th 2020

**Management Board Meeting
Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire**

November 2020

**Management Board Meeting
Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire**

November 10th 2020

**Donors Meeting
Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire**



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