



ALSF INFOS



December 2020

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Edito

« 2020: A challenging but successful year for the ALSF »

2020 has been a challenging year for the entire world, not least Africa. As the previous year saw growth in the

ALSF's membership, increase in requests and projects, launch of our flagship ALSF Academy, strengthening of strategic partnerships, and international recognition for our projects, we naturally expected to capitalise on the successes and were well poised for a momentous year to mark the ALSF's tenth anniversary.

Accordingly, the ALSF planned for its first ever High-Level Meeting (HLM) of the Regional Member Countries (RMCs), several missions to facilitate ongoing projects and initiate new ones, and various knowledge management events to develop the capacity of lawyers across the continent and promote our "cross-cutting issues" - good governance, environmental protection, and gender equality.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic threatened to disrupt our plans as global and national restrictions affected the progress of projects and required alternative ways of working. Our RMCs were confronted with a health crisis, plummeting investments, revenue shortfalls, debt crises, rising poverty, and declining growth; and needed the ALSF's support even more than before.

Our RMCs took bold and commendable measures to limit the spread of the pandemic within their national borders. The ALSF responded in tandem and complemented the efforts of the countries by producing the COVID-19 response alerts across its priority areas (Sovereign Debt, Power, Extractives and Natural Resources, Infrastructure & PPPs, and Investment Dispute Resolution) to enable the countries anticipate and determine adequate response measures to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on transactions within these sectors. The ALSF also made adjustments to ongoing projects, including restructuring and prioritisation to optimise project implementation and impact, and developed innovative and rapid response services to support RMCs, especially transition or fragile states.

Notwithstanding the challenges of the past year, the ALSF chalked up significant accomplishments, including successfully holding its tenth anniversary HLM at which RMCs pledged commitment to the ALSF and strongly recommended the extension of its tenure. The ALSF Governing Council and Management Board also approved the extension of tenure as well as a number of significant requests and projects. By the end of the year, more than 36 projects amounting to about USD 12 million had been approved, matching 2019 levels. The ALSF also launched the African Petroleum Legislation Atlas (APLA) (<https://a-pla.org>) and organised more than 20 webinars with various partners that strengthened knowledge and capacity development of more than 800 lawyers and technical officials in critical issues on debt, power, natural resources, infrastructure & PPPs and investment dispute resolution across the continent. The projects will contribute to sustainable development and building resilience as the continent recovers from the pandemic.

In 2020, one new country (Malawi) ratified the ALSF Treaty. The ALSF continued to pursue and strengthen strategic partnerships to enhance the impact of its projects. Importantly, thanks to our donors, the ALSF will be able to meet the expected surge in requests in 2021 as investment and economic activities pick up in the RMCs.

I am extremely grateful to the ALSF Management Board and Governing Council for their accessibility and constructive guidance, as well as to the ALSF's dynamic and hardworking team for our accomplishments in 2020. I know I can count on your continued support as we look forward to a promising 2021.

On behalf of the ALSF, I wish you a healthy, successful, and happy 2021.

Stephen KARANGIZI
Director and Chief Executive Officer



The impact of African Legal Support Facility in Gambia

"I call them the guardian angels...they guide you, they advise you, they support you..."

Hon. Mambury Njie, Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs, the Gambia; remarks made on the ALSF interventions in the Gambia, at the First High Level Meeting of the ALSF members held on 26 February 2020.

The African Legal Support Facility ("the ALSF") provides legal support to African countries and contributes to building technical and institutional capacity for sovereign commercial transactions and contract negotiation to enable sustainable investments and development. The ALSF's interventions also facilitate dialogue and national consultations ...

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Virtual launch of the African Petroleum Legislation Atlas (APLA) Platform

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, November 26, 2020 - The African Legal Support Facility ("ALSF" or "Facility" and the African Natural Resources Center "ECNR" of the African Development Bank proceeded with the virtual launch of the African Petroleum Legislation Atlas pilot platform via Zoom. The objective of the APLA Project is to support African countries to maximize petroleum resource benefits.

In his introductory remarks, the Director of African Legal Support Facility (the "ALSF" or the "Facility") Mr. Stephen Karangizi expressed his faith that the APLA Platform will have a positive impact on the energy sector in Africa. He also recalled the prerogatives and relevance of the ALSF which comprised legal advisory to ...

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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".

OUR PARTNER'S VOICE





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. The event entailed a presentation of the ...

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The African Legal Support Facility held its second Lusophone webinar

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 21st October 2020 - The African Legal Support Facility (ALSF) hosted the second of a series of four (4) webinars conducted exclusively in Portuguese. This series 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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ALSF ACADEMY

In this newsletter, let us learn more about **oil and gas sector**.

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Charting Africa's Road to Recovery - Infrastructure Sector Upgrades

On Wednesday, 9 December 2020, the African Legal Support Facility (ALSF) held the first in its new series of webinars examining the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and other economic shocks on infrastructure projects in Africa. With over 150 participants registered, the fruitful discussion identified infrastructure gaps exposed by the pandemic and pondered potential solutions whilst suggesting new considerations for African governments. The webinar, hosted by ALSF legal counsel, Primah Atugonza, posed poignant questions for the esteemed panellists of veterans in infrastructure ...

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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. The first webinar focused on the financing of infrastructure in the "new normal".

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ALSF Academy webinars series in partnership with ERSUMA

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, December 8, 2020: The African Legal Support Facility (ALSF) today wrapped up a series of eight webinars organized since July 2020, through the ALSF Academy, in partnership with the High Regional School of Magistracy (ERSUMA).

The webinar of December 8, 2020, titled: "Strategies and techniques for drafting mining and petroleum contracts in the OHADA space" was organized as a panel discussion between various speakers, followed by a Question and Answer session. It focused on the preparation for the negotiation of mining and petroleum...

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Trend toward green energy, decarbonization is an opportunity for African mining

Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 15th December 2020 - Africa's minerals sector should seize the opportunities presented by the global transition towards green energy, experts discussed during a virtual workshop on the future of mining in Africa post-COVID-19.

The webinar, organized by the African Natural Resources Centre (ANRC) and the African Legal Support Facility (ALSF) both entities of the African Development Bank, in partnership with Nordic Africa Institute, was part of a series that is examining the impact of the pandemic on Africa's extractives sector, particularly..

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