



## About CILPA

June 2026

# Outline

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# ABOUT CILPA

- The Center for International Law and Policy in Africa (CILPA), based in Freetown, Sierra Leone, is a non-partisan and not-for-profit pan-African research think tank focusing on issues of international law as well as regional law in Africa, especially African Union law, and their role as vehicles to advance peace, stability, security as well as social and economic development.
- CILPA was registered in Sierra Leone in October 2020; initial seed funding from the Africa Regional Office of the Open Society Foundations.
- **Overarching goal:** CILPA aims to shape discourse and build bridges between research, policy, and practice with a special focus on issues of international criminal law and justice; international human rights law. Additional priority areas: climate justice and international environmental law.
- **Working approach:** 1) independent policy-oriented research; 2) capacity building and training; and 3) strategic litigation (Representing African States in regional and international courts and tribunals including ITLOS and ICJ).
- **Our vision:** to become one of the leading international law think tanks in Africa.

# OUR MISSION



To promote the study of the codification, progressive development and implementation of international and regional law in Africa.



To encourage, through teaching, research and publication, the scientific study of and development and dissemination of international law and policy taking into account the needs and specificities of African peoples and African States.



To serve as a forum for informed discussion and debate of current events and issues in international law and African Union law, in particular, including how best to advance human security, human development and human innovation on the continent and internationally.



To foster, through research and advocacy, a culture of respect for fundamental human rights and freedoms as enshrined in various African and international legal instruments.



To bring international law to African policy makers, and African policy makers to international law through the conduct of studies and development of policy options on timely topics with implications for the African region as a whole.



To highlight and promote African perspectives, contributions and scholarship in international law, policy, and justice, including through the provision of high-quality educational programs, seminars, workshops, training, symposia, publications of academic journals, occasional policy papers, books, and other similar scholarly activities.



To engage in any other lawful purpose that may assist in advancing the above goals.

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# CILPA'S FREETOWN OFFICE LAUNCH

After having operated for the three years, with shared office space, we were proud to officially open our own standalone facilities in Freetown at 1 Abib Drive, SS Camp, Sierra Leone, on 6 March 2024.



# PROJECTS and FUNDING

CILPA has benefited from the generosity of the Open Society Foundations:

Project Name	Type of grant and Purpose	Grant Start and End Date
The Establishment of a Center for International Law and Policy in Africa (CILPA) Project	General support grant to establish CILPA	July 2020-December 2023
The International Criminal Court in Africa Project	Project grant to facilitate academic research and workshops on Bringing the African Perspective to the ICC Review Process.	November 2021-March 2024
International Law, Accountability, and Justice	Project grant to facilitate academic research and workshop on an international law framework for reparations for historic injustices suffered by people of African descent.	October 2023-October 2025



# PROJECTS and FUNDING

Projects	Types of grant and purpose	Grant Start and End Date
Scientific Evidence on Climate change in Africa Clinic	To assist selected African States participating in the ICJ Advisory proceedings with context Specific Scientific Evidence on Climate Change	May 2024 - April 2025
Promise and Limits of Universal Criminal Jurisdiction	To enhance clarity for states, civil society, and other stakeholders on the principle and application of Universal Criminal Jurisdiction and thereby contribute to strengthening the rule of law in international affairs.	August 2024 – July 2026
General Support	Capacity building: continue serving as one of the major driving forces behind Africa’s engagement with international legal order in the future.	January 2026 – December 2027



# PARTNERS

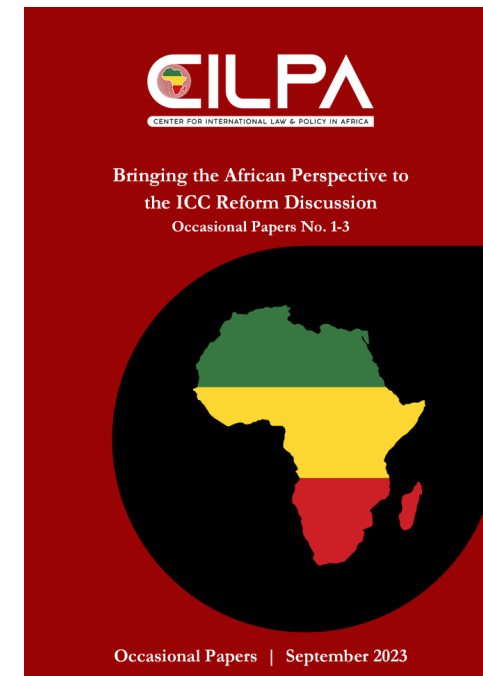


International Bar Association  
the global voice of the legal profession



# International Criminal Court in Africa Project

- The crux of the ICC in Africa grant is Bringing the African Perspective to the ICC Reform Discussion, and entailed a three-pronged approach:
  1. Research Consultancy: 3 independent experts prepared papers.
  2. Workshop in Freetown, Sierra Leone with independent Experts reviewing consultant's papers. African jurists brought to Freetown to engage with the authors.
  3. Publication and Dissemination of papers:
    - Published as occasional papers on CILPA's website and in the AJICJ.
    - Translated into French.
    - Launch events at the Assembly of States Parties in New York and in Freetown, Sierra Leone.



# EVENTS

Since 2020 CILPA has organized several in-person, hybrid and virtual conferences separate from the events linked to the previously mentioned projects.

## Inaugural Event - The Legal Legacy of the Special Court for Sierra Leone

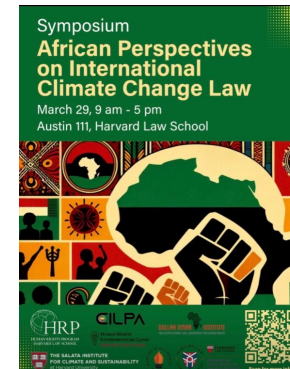
The Legal Legacy of the Special Court for Sierra Leone

Charles C. Jalloh



# EVENTS

- Twentieth Anniversary Commemoration Special Court for Sierra Leone and Formal Opening of the Peace Museum Memorial Garden. Follow-up in March 2024.
- Universal Criminal Jurisdiction: A Key Tool in the Fight Against Impunity for Atrocity Crimes in Ukraine and Beyond?
- Role of Regional and International Codification Bodies in the Development of International Law.
- The Current and Future Work of the International Law Commission.
- Necessary Voices, Missed Opportunities? Strengthening the Engagement of Global South States with the Work of the International Law Commission.
- African Perspectives on International Climate Change Law Symposium



# EVENTS

- Universal Jurisdiction as a tool in accelerating justice. Prague, November 2024.
- Scientific evidence on climate change in Africa workshop. Addis, February 2025
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Symposium on African Perspectives on International Climate Change Law. Cape Town, April 2025
- **The fire side chat. New York, July 2025**
- Workshop for Reparations for historical injustices suffered by Africans and people of African descent. Addis, September 2025
- **The November event. New York, November 2025**
- Workshop for preparation of formal state proposal of amendments to the 2019 ILC draft articles on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Humanity. New York, April 2026.



# EVENT SERIES

## International Criminal Court Colloquium

- The ICC Prosecutor Election Process: A Post-Mortem
- The International Criminal Court Prosecutor: Achievements, Challenges
- The International Criminal Court Colloquium: Is it time to “Reset” the Africa-ICC Relationship?
- Challenges and Opportunities for African State and Civil Society Engagement in the ICC Review Process
- Africa, the Ukraine Crisis, and International Law: Quo Vadis?



# EVENT SERIES

## The International Law Discussion Series

- Sierra Leone's Accession to The New York Convention: Significance, Opportunities, Challenges and the Next Steps
- Sierra Leone and the Human Rights Council: A Review of the UPR Recommendations and National Plans for Future Implementation



# PUBLICATIONS

## CILPA Journals

CILPA publishes two peer-reviewed journals in collaboration with Martinus Nijhoff Brill and Eleven International, two leading legal publishers based in the Netherlands.

## Occasional Papers

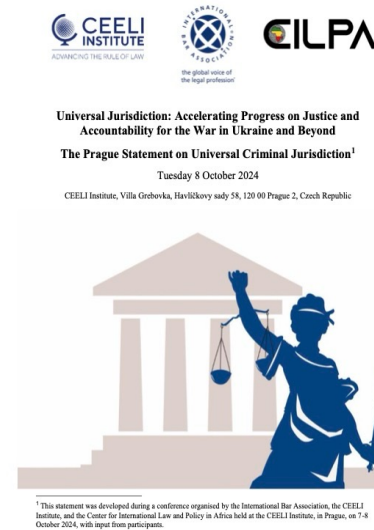
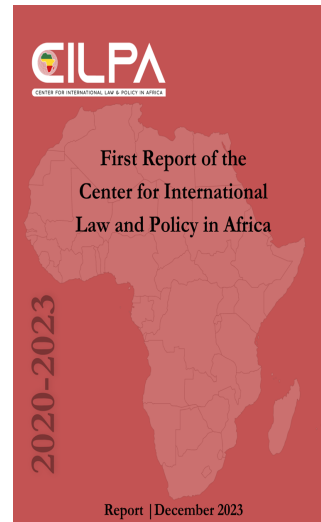
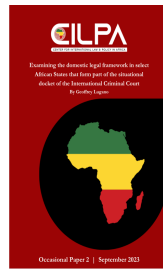
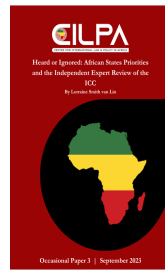
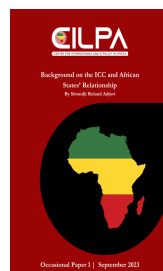
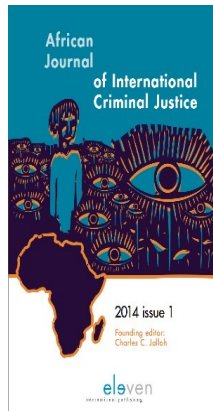
As a component of The International Criminal Court in Africa Project: Ensuring African State Concerns are Not Left Out of the ICC Reform Process Project, supported by Open Society Foundation, CILPA was pleased to publish our first three occasional papers as open-source material.

## CILPA Report

First report on the work of the Center for International Law and Policy in Africa (“CILPA”) for the first three years of its operations.

## Prague Statement on Universal jurisdiction

## CILPA Addis Statement on the Role of Law and Science in Preventing and Combating Climate Change in Africa



CILPA Addis Statement on the Role of Law and Science in Preventing and Combating Climate Change in Africa.

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

11 February 2025.

### SUMMARY

The Center for International Law and Policy in Africa (CILPA) convened a two-day workshop in Addis Ababa, on the margins of the African Union Summit in February 2025, on the role of scientific evidence in preventing and combating climate change. The workshop aimed to draw lessons learned from the experiences of African scientists and lawyers in the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) and International Court of Justice's advisory proceedings on the obligations of States in respect of climate change. In both proceedings, CILPA assisted several participating African States, namely, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia and Sierra Leone with legal and/or scientific evidence to enhance their respective submissions before the ICJ and ITLOS. Both counsels and scientists that contributed to those proceedings as well as legal advisers of African states, and African States' representatives of permanent missions to the African Union in Addis Ababa and New York attended the workshop.

The experts, drawn mostly from the African scientific and legal community, focused on the impacts of climate change in Africa, the role of scientists and lawyers in climate litigation, and the importance of collaboration between these two groups. It was underlined that, for participants on both sides, this was the first time that they had been together in a workshop addressing the issue of climate change despite that they were seeking to tackle essentially the same issue.

The need for greater collaboration across disciplines was emphasized, since most of the speakers highlighted the challenges of generating country or region-specific scientific evidence, particularly in Africa, where technology and data gaps persist and research funding is limited. Participants stressed the need for urgent action on climate change and the importance of breaking disciplinary silos in the climate change conversation. The provision of scientific evidence to climate change proceedings plays a crucial role in demonstrating the links between climate change and environmental damage. It would more likely push policymakers to act if they properly understand the scientific aspects of climate change and the existential threats posed to humanity and all living beings on our planet.

<sup>1</sup> This statement was developed during a conference organized by the International Bar Association, the CEELI Institute, and the Center for International Law and Policy in Africa held at the CEELI Institute, in Prague, on 7-8 October 2024, with input from participants.

# ONGOING PROJECTS

## **Promise and Limits of Universal Criminal Jurisdiction Project**

- This project seeks to enhance clarity for states, civil society, and other stakeholders on the principle and application of Universal Criminal Jurisdiction and thereby contribute to strengthening the rule of law in international affairs.
- The project is implemented in various stages, with different collaborators at each stage, over 2 years, to build a solid foundation for a longer-term project in this area.
- First stage of project has been successfully completed: CILPA, in partnership with the IBA and CEELI Institute, held a conference on Universal jurisdiction on the 7-8 October 2024 in Prague and has published a statement reflecting the proceedings of the event.
- Second stage of the project underway: consultants to be contracted to do independent research.
- This project started August 2024 and will run through July 2026.

## General Support

- This project is implemented in response to the challenges faced by the Global South, especially African states, in their participation or engagement with the international legal order.
- This project aims to enhance capacity of African Legal Advisors, practitioners and emerging scholars.
- the project started in January 2026 and will last till December 2027.

# FORTHCOMING PROJECTS 2026

- International Law Training for the Office of the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, especially for lawyers in the International Division, who serve as legal advisors to, and representative of, the State in national and international courts and tribunals.
- Legal Training, in partnership with the Judicial and Legal Training Institute (JLTI) of the Judiciary of Sierra Leone, for Judges and Legal Practitioners on professional ethics, and on effective case management strategies as a way of accelerating justice.
- International Humanitarian Law Training for the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces, especially for personnel sent on peace keeping missions.
- International Law Training, in partnership with the Foreign Service Academy, for personnel of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Sierra Leone.



- African Perspective on global peace and security.
- Reparations for the disproportionate consequences of Climate Change suffered by the global south, especially African states.

# Memoranda of Understanding (MoU)

## Signed MoUs

Entities with which CILPA has a signed MoU to conduct legal trainings and for other international relations include:

- Sierra Leone Ministry of Defence, and
- The University of Western Cape, South Africa.
- The Foreign Service Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Republic of Sierra Leone.
- The Office of the Attorney General and Minister of Justice of the Republic of Sierra Leone.
- The Centre for of International Law, National University of Singapore.

# Accreditation to offer short courses in international Law

- CILPA has received an accreditation to offer short courses in International Law from the Sierra Leone Tertiary Education Commission.

# CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

- For more information, see [www.cilpa.org](http://www.cilpa.org).
- Thank You!
- Questions?