



ALSF INFOS



July 2022

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Edito

"Looking back at an eventful half-year 2022"

Greetings from the African Legal Support Facility!

The past few months have been anything but quiet for us at the African Legal Support Facility (ALSF or the Facility). Since January this year we have been receiving about 5 requests for assistance per month from our Regional Member Countries (RMCs). This average is the highest since the ALSF was established in 2008.

While this trend is indicative of the serious challenges facing our RMCs – including: the countries' efforts to build back after the COVID-19 pandemic, the foreseeable risk of debt distress, the impacts of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the adverse effects of climate change, and the growing incidence of fragility – they also highlight the increased confidence RMCs have in working with the ALSF to resolve the complex legal issues associated with these difficulties. And as expected, we are taking swift action to thoroughly address every single new request received so far for legal advisory and capacity building in sovereign debt management, energy, natural resources, dispute resolution, and infrastructure PPPs. At this rate, we are on course to meet our annual financial commitments for projects in 2022.

In May 2022, we held our **statutory annual meetings** during the African Development Bank's (AfDB) Annual Meetings in Accra, Ghana. Respectively, the Management Board and the Governing Council adopted and approved the 2021 Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements of the ALSF, noting the good performance of the Facility in 2021. In commending the progress made so far in 2022, the Management Board and the Governing Council urged the ALSF to enhance its contribution to sustainable development, especially by addressing legal challenges arising from climate change issues and by supporting the implementation of ESG standards, promoting gender equality, and fostering good governance. In solidarity with the **theme of the AfDB Annual Meetings**, I also elaborated on the **role of the ALSF in achieving climate resilience and a just energy transition for Africa**, one that reconciles Africa's industrialization needs and environmental sustainability.

Leveraging on the easing of global travel restrictions, the ALSF actively resumed on-the-ground missions, and participated in several important sectoral events, such as the African Mining Indaba and the Africa Energy Forum, and contributed effectively to important global discussions concerning the continent. We also revitalized strategic partnership discussions with key African players in the development arena, and shared ALSF perspectives on various panels on international arbitration and sovereign debt. Thanks to the ALSF staff's continuous commitment and dedication, some of our RMCs recorded **very satisfactory outcomes in long standing international disputes**.

In June 2022, we bid farewell to two outstanding members of the Management Board. **Ms. Eva Jhala** and **Ms. Nimatou Dramane Feliho** successfully completed their three-year tenure on the Management Board on 30 June 2022. As the immediate past Chairperson of the Board, Ms. Jhala consistently encouraged the Facility to do more to have a meaningful impact in our RMCs. Ms. Dramane Feliho provided useful legal and regulatory guidance as well as a regional finance institution perspective to Management throughout her tenure. We join the newly appointed Chairperson of the Board, **Ms. Christine Agimba**, in deeply appreciating their dedication and excellent contribution to the progress of the Facility. We also welcome onto the Board, two new members – **Ms. Manisha Dookhony** and **Ms. Pippa Tubman Armerding** – whose immense and diverse experience will enrich

the work of the Facility in the coming years.

Finally – and saving the best news for last – the Management Board and the Governing Council have endorsed our ambitious new Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) for 2023 -2027. And we will be presenting and sharing exciting details about the new MTS in due course. Meanwhile, we are also pleased to acknowledge the continuing financial support from our partners this year – including contributions received from the African Development Fund, the European Commission, **KfW, the Kingdom of Norway, and The Gambia**. This renewed confidence and unwavering support gives us faith that the mission and mandate of the Facility are not only legitimate but also indispensable. In the weeks and months to come we will strive to achieve more in delivering the legal capacity required by our RMCs to prosper.

Olivier POGNON
Director & CEO

Meet The New Chairperson Of The ALSF Management Board

Ms. Christine Anyango Agimba assumed the role of Chairperson of the Management Board of the ALSF on 23rd May 2022, after she was unanimously nominated and appointed by the Board. Ms. Agimba is currently the Deputy Solicitor General in the State Law Office and Department of Justice of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic of Kenya. She joined the Management Board as a member in October 2020. Earlier, from 2017 to 2019, she served on the ALSF Governing Council representing Kenya and the Eastern Africa constituency. She previously held various positions in Kenya, including as: Project Manager and Legal Sector Specialist at the Ministry of Finance, Principal Legal Officer at the Trade and Development Bank (formerly PTA Bank), and Partner at Hamilton, Harrison, & Mathew Advocates.



Commenting on her appointment, Ms. Agimba stated:

"I am, indeed, very honoured to have been nominated to chair the Management Board of the ALSF over the coming year. The members of the Management Board bring a wealth of experience and diverse skills that are invaluable in supporting the ALSF in achieving its vision and mission. I am particularly delighted to be working with a team of Board members and the ALSF management, who share a commitment to enhancing legal capacity in response to the existing and emerging needs of the regional member countries of the ALSF, and ultimately promoting sustainable development for African countries."

Ms. Christine Agimba
Chairperson of the ALSF Management Board

2022 Annual Meetings Highlights

The African Legal Support Facility held its 38th Management Board and 14th Governing Council meetings on 23 and 26 May 2022 respectively, on the margins of the 2022 African Development Bank Annual Meetings in Accra, Ghana.

Below are the highlights of the event.



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Reflections on the 2022 Annual Meetings by the Director and CEO of the ALSF, Olivier Pognon



A word from the outgoing Chairperson of the ALSF - Ms Eva Jhala



Ms Nimatou D. Feliho reflects on her 3-year mandate as a member of the ALSF Management Board



Au revoir but not goodbye - A farewell message to the outgoing members of the ALSF Management Board by the incoming Chairperson - Ms Christine Agimba

New Members Join The ALSF Board



The African Legal Support Facility Announces Two New Board Members

The African Legal Support Facility (“ALSF” or the “Facility”) is pleased to announce the appointment of two new members, Mrs. Manisha Dookhony and Mrs. Pippa Tubman Armerding, who were appointed to the Management Board on the 23rd May 2022...

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Projects Highlights



Burundi PPP - Training workshops for the Burundian government in the infrastructure sector / PPP

Bujumbura, Burundi, April 11, 2022: From April 11 to 21, 2022, a series of three training workshops on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) was held in Bujumbura for Burundian government officials and representatives...

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