



# ALSF INFOS



December 2021

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## Edito

### Capping an Eventful Year with a Good Performance and Strong Partnerships »

Greetings from Abidjan!

2021 has been a truly eventful year for the ALSF, marked by the appointment of a new Director and CEO after 10 years of [Stephen Karandjet's](#) inspired leadership. This exercise began with promise as our regional member countries looked forward to vaccinating their populations and building back better from the COVID-19 pandemic. The rally of support requests received towards the end of 2020 and the beginning of 2021 showed that African countries were keen to res-ume stalled projects and initiate new ones

(including power and other infrastructure projects), and to ensure sustainable debt management as a way to enhance their resilience against similar global challenges.

Despite the promise of 2021, the woeful vaccination rates and economic difficulties faced by our regional member countries created uncertainties and increased lead times for ongoing and new projects. Challenging travel conditions hampered physical meetings, thereby impacting project monitoring and continuity. Notwithstanding this and capitalizing on our innovative processes and tools, we are on track to meet our 2021 set targets by approving more than 35 projects for a total amount of about USD 8.5 million, comprising advisory services and capacity building in our key sectors of operation.

Among others, our timely and ongoing support to the governments of [Sudan](#) and [Somalia](#) resulted in their achievement of HIPC decision point and cancellation and rescheduling of approximately USD 25 billion debt, altogether. We have continued to provide vital legal and technical advisory, negotiations support, and knowledge transfer for various projects including – for a total of about 280 MW of renewable energy in [Gabon](#), Botswana, Lesotho, and Sierra Leone; for relevant social and economic infrastructure in Togo, Ghana, Somalia, and Rwanda; and for sustainable extractives and natural resources development in [The Gambia](#), CAR, Lesotho, Uganda, and Tanzania. We also advanced knowledge in our key sectors, including facilitating several webinars on topical and relevant issues and expanding our knowledge products – such as the launch at the Africa Energy Forum in November 2021 of the "[Lightbulbs](#)", our power sector dedicated publication.

The extension of the term of the Facility for a further 14 years and the high-level conference we held to commemorate the same were also significant in cementing the relevance of the Facility, highlighting [current and upcoming priorities](#) of our regional member countries, and corraling support for our work. As we conclude our current medium-term strategy (2018-2022) effectively and prepare for our third strategy cycle 2023-27, we are confident that the [strategic and financial partnerships](#) we have concluded so far and continue to pursue will enable us to support economic development of the regional member countries, as well as strengthen governance, environmental and social sustainability, climate resilience, and contribute to sustainable development generally.

We, at the ALSF wish you safe and happy holidays and a peaceful and prosperous year 2022!



## African Legal Support Facility welcomes new Director

Olivier Pognon, from Benin, has this week taken over the leadership of the African Legal Support Facility (ALSF) following the retirement earlier this month of Stephen Karangizi as Director and Chief Executive Officer.

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## Public-Private Partnership Workshop in N'Djamena

The African Legal Support Facility (the “ALSF” or the “Facility”) hosted a series of workshops on the Fundamentals of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in N’Djamena, Tchad. The workshops, facilitated by DS Avocats’ Issakha Ndiaye and David Hountondji, and Chadian firm LexAfric’s Beti Nodjitan. The workshop debuted on Monday, 15 November 2021, with a half-day session for Ministers and High-level government officials, providing them with key information to allow them to make key decisions on PPPs. The Honorable Minister of Commerce and Industry H.E. Mr. Ali Djadda Kampard opened the first-day’s workshop by ...

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## African Legal Support Facility celebrates achievements as it begins new 14-year mandate

African leaders on Wednesday lauded the African Legal Support Facility for helping governments avert billions of dollars in losses from bad business deals, and urged it to extend support to tackling illicit financial flows. At a high-level conference to review the Facility’s achievements over the last decade, speakers, including experts and business leaders, expressed confidence that the African Legal Support Facility was well-placed to advance Africa’s asset recovery and repatriation. In a keynote message, African Development Bank Group President Akinwumi A. Adesina ...

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## ALSF MEMBERSHIP

The African Legal Support Facility (“ALSF” or the “Facility”) is an international organization established to achieve sustainable legal capacity in Africa.

On 22 December 2008, the Agreement (or Treaty) establishing the ALSF entered into force with ten (10) signatories from the Participating States and International organizations and the deposit of seven (7) instruments of ratification, acceptance, or approval.

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On 22 and 23 September 2021, the African Legal Support Facility (ALSF) held a High-Level Event to Commemorate the Extension to the Term of the ALSF under the theme “Smart Legal Capacity for Africa - a New Phase for the ALSF”. Addresses and speeches from distinguished speakers were followed by subject focused roundtables.



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### **ALSF Extractives and Natural Resources Roundtable: “Sustainable resource management for Africa’s development”**

The Extractives and Natural Resources roundtable centred on the theme: “Sustainable Resource Management for Africa’s Development”. The panel comprised: Mr. Stephen Karangizi (at the time the outgoing Director and CEO of the ALSF), Mr. Fred Kabanda (Manager at African Natural Resources Centre, AfDB), Mr. Jerreh Barrow (Commissioner for Petroleum at the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy in The Gambia), Mr. Yves Baratte (Partner at Simmons & Simmons), and Ms. Oghor Okhai-Akhigbe, Senior Legal Counsel at the ALSF.

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