

AU Law Research Network

Sussex Law School, University
of Sussex

[Edition 1, Volume 1]

African Union Law Project

The Emergence of a *sui generis* legal order in Africa

A new legal order is emerging in the African continent which is a subject of a major research project. The African Union Law Research Network funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council was recently launched at the Sussex Law School. The Project brings together

contention that the concept of 'African Union Law' could be a critical tool in the quest for solutions to peculiar problems in the African continent.'

The key areas that will be examined by the initiative include: the unique features

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leading experts in various aspects of AU Law from policy, practice and the academia. Dr Femi Amao, a Senior Lecturer at the Law Department, University of Sussex who spearheads the AU Law Project said that, 'The focus of this project is the

and legitimacy of the concept of AU Law; the influences behind the concept of AU Law; factors necessary to support the emerging AU Law; the scope of African Union Law; and the strategies for propagating AU Law.

Inaugural Workshop



The African Union Law Research Network is hosting its inaugural workshop on the **30th of June 2017** between 12.45pm and 5pm. The workshop is funded by the Arts & Humanities Research Council.

Topic: Exploring the history, scope and creation of African Union Law - including lessons from the EU and the Caribbean

Venue – Conference Centre, University of Sussex (Meeting Room 1& 2).

In the News: Morocco rejoins the African Union

After its 33 years of absence from the AU, Morocco has finally been readmitted to membership in the AU. This a significant development as it underscores the consensus in Africa to ensure the realisation of the objectives of the Union. However, there are questions as to the actual intentions of Morocco in rejoining the AU following its decision to leave the AU in 1984, over its rejection of the recognition of Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) by the AU. According to some analysts, this may be a political move reflecting Morocco's effort to weaken the political influence of

SADR. However, Morocco's King, Mohammed IV allayed these fears in its re-admission speech stating '...we have no intention of causing divisions, as some would like to insinuate.'

Apart from the political implication, Morocco's re-admission into the AU reflects Morocco's efforts over the last few years to become a genuine economic player across Africa. In the last few years Morocco has made huge investments across Africa in financial services, housing projects and fertilizer plants. Since 2000 Morocco has signed over 1,000 co-operation

agreements in Sub-Saharan Africa. In December, 2016, Morocco signed a joint venture agreement with Nigeria to build a pipeline from the Niger Delta to run under the West African Atlantic coast and supply gas to a number of countries in West Africa. It is believed that Morocco's rejoining the AU would smooth its entry into the fast-growing African economies and reduce its reliance on European markets. According to the King of Morocco, 'Africa is indispensable to Morocco and Morocco is indispensable to Africa.'