



**PETER A. ALLARD
SCHOOL OF LAW**

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



Call for Papers
Virtual Conference:

Re-Imagining Agenda 2063 A Socio-Legal Foundation of the Africa We Want

June 21–25, 2021

Co-hosted by the Peter A. Allard School of Law (UBC) and the
Liu Institute Network for Africa

Description

Development has dominated the political-economic agendas of African states, both individually and collectively, since independence swept across the continent over 60 years ago. After the Year of Africa in 1960, however, African states have struggled to promote an independent and domestically sourced vision of development. While dealing with the aftermath of colonialism, African states have had to grapple with new forms of foreign corporate interventions, aid donor demands for structural adjustment and economic reconstruction, and development assistance predicated on non-local theories of development. During this time, African states have also come together to forge continental development programmes under the auspices of the Organization of African Unity and its successor, the African Union, including the 1980 Lagos Plan of Action, the 2001 New Partnership for Africa's Development and the most recent 2013 Agenda 2063. Nevertheless, following more than 60 years of these efforts, several African countries continue to face daunting domestic and regional development challenges.

Today, Africa's legal regimes are at a critical juncture as states seek to respond to mounting development challenges spurred by population growth, China's Belt and Road Initiative, attempts to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, and more. Legal responses have consistently been a focal point for development, and yet they have often not facilitated stable and meaningful transformation in Africa. The development community's emphasis on pure institutional and economic approaches has constrained more nuanced understandings of law's effect on social change in the areas of governance, the economy, health, education, peace and security, and the environment. In particular, a lack of empirical and indigenous foundation for the conceptualization of Africa's development challenges has meant that the use of legal pathways has not been sufficiently interrogated.

Submissions

Using Africa's most recent development formulation—Agenda 2063—as its lens, the conference organizers invite submissions that re-imagine the sociolegal foundation of development in Africa in order to rethink old challenges and find new pathways for transforming the continent. Scholars and practitioners are invited to submit abstracts on the theme of re-imagining Agenda 2063, with a particular focus on critical approaches to the development challenges identified in the plan. The specific goals and priorities included in Agenda 2063 are available at <https://au.int/agenda2063/overview>.

Please send your submissions via email to agenda2063project@allard.ubc.ca by **January 31, 2021**. Submissions should include the title of the paper or project and a 350-word abstract in English. Co-authored papers will also be considered. Submissions should also include a brief biography with the contributor's full name, affiliation, and preferred email address.

Notice of accepted papers will be announced no later than **March 1, 2021**. At that time, participants will be expected to register for the conference to confirm their attendance. Selected applicants will be expected to submit a completed paper (not exceeding 10,000 words, including footnotes) and conference registration by **May 31, 2021**.

Virtual Conference and Publication

Due to the travel and public health uncertainties related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the conference will proceed virtually from **June 21–25, 2021**. To accommodate anticipated participation from around the world, the virtual conference will be organized thematically by different time zones. More information about the 2021 virtual conference will be posted online at <http://blogs.ubc.ca/reimaginingagenda2063/> as it becomes available.

The conference organizers wish to publish selected articles in a peer-reviewed journal special issue or an edited book volume. More information will be provided once it becomes available.

Please submit any inquiries to agenda2063project@allard.ubc.ca.