

The Role of Inhouse Counsel in Guiding Businesses on Incorporating Responsible Business and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Date: 30 September 2021: Time: 11:00 AM – 13:00PM (EAT)

Opening Remarks



Yasmin Batliwala – Advocates for International Development

Yasmin is the CEO of Advocates for International Development (A4ID), which sources lawyers to provide free legal advice and assistance to support organisations working in the international development sector and whose principle aim is the eradication of poverty by focusing on the 2030 Agenda. She has held a number of significant leadership positions over the years within the Public and Third Sectors. Her portfolios have included HIV/Aids, Drug and Alcohol dependency, and Criminal Justice. She has undertaken work for the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime in this regard. Yasmin was a recipient of the City of London Woman of Achievement Awards in respect to her work in the Public Sector.



Bernard Oundo – East Africa Law Society

Bernard Oundo is the President of the East Africa Law Society.

He is a partner at Citadel Advocates (formerly Oundo - Co. Advocates), a Uganda-based legal consulting firm that specializes in public-private partnership (PPP) legal consulting services in project finance. As a project finance specialist, Bernard has advised on notable infrastructure projects such as the North Corridor Standard Spread Railway Line, the Crude Oil Pipeline, Transmission Lines, the Oil Refinery and the Kampala-Jinja Highway. Prior to starting his private legal practice, he had an illustrious 10-year career in the public sector, first as legal counsel to the Privatization Unit of the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (Uganda) and then as a legal expert with the Uganda PPP Unit, a unit of which he pioneered. He has also been a consultant to the World Bank - Infrastructure Division, Public-Private Partnerships and Guarantees. Bernard is a strong advocate of mentoring and developing young talent through specialization and skills-based learning and development. He is also passionate about modernizing the legal profession in Africa in line with global social, economic and political trends.

Panelists



Clare Connellan – White & Case

Clare Connellan is a Partner based in White & Case's London office. Clare leads the firm's Business & Human Rights (B&HR) Interest Group and is consulted in relation to issues such as the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, supply chain risk assessments, due diligence and the Modern Slavery Act, as well as B&HR trainings in a range of different sectors, including technology, mining and financial services. She was recently recognized by Chambers & Partners 2021 as an "Up and Coming" global market leader in the field of Business & Human Rights Law. In her dispute advisory work, she advises companies, state entities, contractors, owners and operators on the resolution of complex disputes and arbitration, with a focus on disputes within the construction and engineering industry. Clare also advises on alternative dispute resolution, including mediation, and is a CEDR-accredited mediator.



Gloria Tengera – Development Bank of Rwanda

Gloria Tengera is the Company Secretary and General Counsel. Before joining BRD, she served as Company Secretary and Head of the Legal Department (AB Bank Rwanda plc) and later as the Head of Risk and Compliance Department in the same Bank (AB Bank). Prior to joining AB Bank, she served as Legal Counsel Rwandair from 2010 to 2013. Gloria is also a certified John Maxwell Coach. She holds a degree in Law from the National University of Rwanda (now University of Rwanda) and a master's degree in Business and Corporate Law from Erasmus University, Rotterdam.



Ivan K. Mugabi – Lyla Latif & Co.

Ivan is currently teaching human rights law at King Ceasor University and is a member of the EALS Business and Human Rights Committee. He is a lawyer and a socio-legal researcher who has published on the varied contexts of human rights with attention to the unique interactions between disability issues and a rights-based approach. In addition to holding a Bachelor of Laws Degree from Uganda Christian University, Ivan holds a Master of Philosophy (M. Phil.) from Cardiff University having undertaken a research thesis on how rights of persons disabilities can be accommodated during and after situations of armed conflict. He also holds a masters (LLM) degree in human rights law from Cardiff University (Wales, UK) and a Masters (LLM) in International Commercial Law from the University of South Wales (Wales, UK). Following his passion to learn from others while also contributing to their knowledge, Ivan has participated in a variety of research conferences locally and internationally. He has been awarded travel research grants from a the Nüsret Arsel Scholarship in conjunction with Koç University to present research in Turkey in 2017 and another with University of Manitoba research travel grant under auspices of the Asper Review in 2016, Canada. Ivan is excited to participate in the inhouse counsel forum where he will make a presentation on the role that in-house counsel can play in encouraging employers to enhance accessibility of the East African labour markets to qualified persons with disability in East Africa.



Jessica Lobo – UN Global Compact UK

Jessica joined the UN Global Compact Network UK in March 2020 and leads a growing team and a programme of activity to engage business, government, and stakeholders across the UK on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As the Global Goals Programme Manager, Jessica focuses on advocating the Goals, cultivating working groups with members of the Network, and hosting forums, webinars, and workshops to enable practical action, share knowledge across sectors, and inspire business ambition to deliver the SDGs.

Jessica is a member of the SDG Network Scotland Steering Group. She previously worked in sustainability roles in the Higher Education sector, leading on engagement and campaigns at The London School of Economics and Political Science and City, University of London. She has a LLM in Environmental Law from Queen Mary University of London and completed her bachelor studies at the University of Southampton and University of Oslo.



Nadiya Aziz – Safaricom PLC

Nadiya is an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya and in-house counsel at Safaricom PLC. Nadiya supports the Enterprise Business Unit and is part of the Sustainability team that is tasked with integration of the Sustainable Development Goals into individual objectives of the staff members at Safaricom. Nadiya holds a Master of Laws in Public International Law and has a passion for human rights and access to justice for all irrespective of race, gender or religion. She has undertaken various courses to further this interest including the course on African Sustainability Leadership organized by University of Cambridge and Strathmore Business School.

Closing Remarks



David Sigano – East Africa Law Society

David is the Acting Chief Executive Officer of the East Africa Law Society (EALS), overseeing the welfare and capacity building of over 20,000 members, while promoting the East African Community's regional integration. David is an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya. He has previously been serving EALS as the Programs Manager. He is an experienced programmes administrator with a Master of Laws degree from Nottingham Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Nairobi.

Moderators



Flaviana Charles – EALS Business and Human Rights Committee

Flaviana is a leading Business and Human Rights Expert in Africa and a part-time lecturer at the Law School of Tanzania. She is the Executive Director at Business and Human Rights Tanzania and the Secretary General of the African Bar Association. She has previously served as the Vice President of the Tanganyika Law Society and as a member of the Steering Committee of the African Coalition for Corporate Accountability. Flaviana has more than 20 years' experience working with leading corporations in Tanzania and consulting on business and human rights for various governmental and international development agencies. She is also an editor for Business and Human Rights Journal published by Cambridge University Press. In addition to consulting on a Human Rights Impact Assessment on the proposed Uganda/Tanzania oil pipeline and associated facilities, Flaviana has also participated in the review of the Informal Economy Support Initiative Tanzania. Flaviana holds a law degree from the University of Dar es Salaam and a Master's in International Law and Human Rights from the University of Coventry in the UK.



Martin Mavunjina - EALS Business and Human Rights Committee

Martin is a Constitutional and Human Rights lawyer working with the Kenya Human Rights Commission as the Program Advisor Transitional Justice. He is a holder of a Bachelor of Laws Degree-Nkumba University, a Post Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice from Kenya School of Law and a Graduate Certificate in Advanced Human Rights Course on Police Oversight and Vulnerable Groups from the University of Pretoria. His areas of expertise at National, Regional and International level are on Transitional justice, Security Sector Reforms and Civic Space. He has engaged with numerous peer review mechanisms like the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights, The Universal Periodic Review, Assembly of State Parties, and the UN Human Rights Mechanisms. Martin has led and contributed to seminal research on transitional justice, civic space, freedom of expression, protest rights and surveillance which has been published locally and globally. He is a member of the Law Society of Kenya, the East African Law Society, the Chartered Institute of Arbitrator, International Commission of Jurists and currently serves as the Chairperson for Democracy without Borders-Kenya Chapter.