

Africa's state-building and development have remained comparatively challenging. Several factors contribute to this situation, particularly in building stable states underpinned by the rule of law, respect for human rights and good governance. Prevalent among these factors identified is the poor provision of social services which affects the realisation of socio-economic rights in most African states. Poor maternal and child mortality, lack of access to basic education, inadequate access to habitable environment, to food and to portable water all culminating in a seriously underdeveloped Continent. The above narratives perhaps influence Africa and Africans migration tales. Scores of lives perish in the Mediterranean, some languish in the scorching sands of the deserts and quite a couple imperiled in asylum seeking in the West. Globalisation, neoliberalism and artificial intelligence embrace seems to ensure the retarded position of African nations in the UN Hierarchy of Human Index (HDI). For instance, "Norway, Switzerland, Australia, Ireland and Germany lead the HDI ranking of 189 countries and territories, while Niger, the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Chad and Burundi have the lowest scores in the HDI's measurement of national achievements". The UNDP focuses to release its 2019 report on inequality by the last quarter of the year. Perhaps one might not need so much speculation to note the dismal state of African states in the report. Consequently, it is the focus of the ICON-S Nigeria to interrogate inequality from a perspective of legal fragilities. Considering the existence of several international institutions with different mandates and focus, the continued call of international solidarity and exchanges, is there a fragility in the law that perhaps contribute to this growing divide? What is the impact of the pace of techdevelopment and use of artificial intelligence and use of big data on Africa? What advantages or otherwise looms for the African nation in the face of the changing realities? Furthermore, it is noted that contemporary theories of economic growth and good governance stresses the critical contribution of human capital development and a multidisciplinary approach towards solving societal challenges. Thus, the quest to resolve these challenges, what roles would law and policies proffer in the face of speculations on the weakness of the law?

Based on the above, ICON-S-NG calls for original contributions from Scholars from Africa on the identified thematic issues under the following specific headings:

- Challenges of Legal Pluralism
- Application of International Law in Domestic Courts
- Judicial activism in an era of fragility of the law
- Socio-Legal approach to solving legal challenges
- Contemporary initiative in a new Legal order
- Artificial Intelligence and the law in Africa
- Embracing the space of Big Data and Data Protection Laws
- Rule of Law
- Human Rights
- Gender and development
- Law and Economic Development
- Sustainable Development Goals and the impact of climate change
- Security and Development
- Legal fragility and Security
- Law, Development and Security
- International migration and intolerance
- Ethics and Law

#### **Entries**

Abstract of not more than 400 words should be sent with clear statement of problems, research questions and clearly methodological approach. Authors should include three key words. Institutional Affiliation and a short bio should be sent in a separate document with the abstract. All submissions should be received not later than **30th November 2019**. Please submit abstracts to **iconsng@gmail.com** 

### **Acceptance**

Abstract would be subjected to blind peer review. Only authors whose abstracts are accepted would be contacted.

# Output

Special issue with a reputable journal and edited volume

# Registration

International: \$100 | National: N20,000.

# **Enquiries**



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