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# African Newsletter

September 2019



# Welcome to the September 2019 edition of the Hogan Lovells Africa Newsletter.

We start by taking a look at M&A activity in South Africa and elsewhere on the continent. After this, the focus moves to Nigeria for the second part of an article that appeared in our last newsletter, looking at regimes for the enforcement of foreign arbitral awards.

Some new developments and topics for discussion are then covered in the three articles which follow. Firstly, we look at AfCFTA and, in the light of the official launch and Nigeria's signing, we discuss what this could mean for the continent. Next, we take a look at how data protection law has been gaining ground in many African countries. And finally we try to answer the question about whether or not African capitalism exists.

It is always a pleasure to feature our friends from relationship firms on the continent, and this edition's View from the Secondee is a conversation with Primah Kyambadde of MMAKS Advocates in Uganda and Nania Owusu-Ankomah from Bentsi-Enchill, Letsa & Ankomah in Ghana, both of whom spent three months with us at the end of 2018.

We round up this edition with a section highlighting some of our recent activities. This starts with an article showcasing recent pro bono work in Africa. We then take a look at our growing Africa practice in Germany, before finally telling you about our recent Africa Forum and GFT Symposium events in London and our Africa LLM Vacation Scheme 2019.

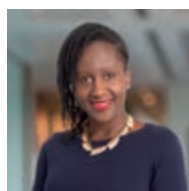
You will also find information about some of our recent work on the continent and details of our upcoming events.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter. As always, please get in touch if you have any questions or comments.

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# Contents

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Mergers and acquisitions in Africa and South Africa	6
Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards in Nigeria	8
The African single market takes a step forward as the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement becomes a reality	12
Overview of data protection laws in Africa	16
Does an African capitalism exist?	18
View from a secondee	20
Spotlight on our Africa pro bono activities	24
Growing our Africa Practice for German outbound work	26
Hogan Lovells Africa Forum - Africa: Making an Impact	29
Africa LLM Vacation Scheme 2019	30
Recent Work	32
Upcoming Events	34

# Mergers and acquisitions in Africa and South Africa

Africa is still the next big market for multinationals, even in the face of global economic uncertainty and political and regulatory issues. Economic growth continues due to the growing investment in private equity and the untapped markets provided by Africa's growing middle class, and Fintech and telecoms are still likely to be growth areas on the continent.

In the South African merger and acquisitions (M&A) space, an increase in share for share transactions is evidence of constraints on growth and a shortage of cash flow. The South African market is still somewhat depressed and current M&A activity is more focussed on internal restructurings, consolidation and business rescue, as it waits for positive investor confidence post elections to translate into real gains. There has also been an increase in Private Equity and Venture Capital transactions rather than traditional M&A in the local market.

Following a decade of economic weakness, there were at least some recent positive signs that the South African economy has begun to regain lost ground and some of the issues that have constrained investment and confidence have begun to lift. The country should, all else being equal, be well poised to see an increase in M&A activity locally due to increased investor optimism. However, a slowdown in international M&A with a resultant slow-down of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into Africa will mitigate these positive trends.

In the medium term, however, it is still likely that the remainder of the continent will provide better opportunities for foreign direct investment than South Africa does.

FDI in 2018 in South Africa were predominantly devoted to mining, petroleum refinery, food processing, information and communications technologies and renewable energy, and the expectations is that this trend will continue.

China will still play a major part in investments in South Africa. Last year, China committed to R193 billion in new investments in the country. One of the biggest Chinese investments in South Africa was the recently-opened \$840 million (R11 billion) BAIC vehicle plant at the Coega harbour.

Ninety-three economic and trade cooperation agreements between South African and Chinese entrepreneurs have been signed at a ceremony in Cape Town this June. According to the department of trade and industry, the deals are worth in excess of R27 billion. Saudi Arabia said it would invest \$10 billion - specifically in the energy sector, including building refineries, petrochemicals and renewable energy. Among the companies that announced they would pump new money into South Africa, was Mercedes Benz, which said it would invest R10 billion.

Major deals in the pipeline that could significantly boost M&A in African deal flows, includes the Kenya NIC- CBA Merger and the South32- South Africa Energy Coal Sale.



Kenya's NIC Bank will merge with the country's biggest privately owned bank, Commercial Bank of Africa ("CBA"), to create the third-biggest bank in the region.

In late 2017, South32 announced its intention to sell off its coal division with the aim of transforming the shareholding of the company in accordance with its commitment to economic transformation. In January, South32 announced that it would be considering bids for South Africa Energy Coal by end of June 2019.

Another deal is UK-based Anglo African Agriculture which has announced plans to acquire the entire issued share capital of a number of companies within Kenyan marine and port logistics firm, Comarco Group after it signed conditional share purchase agreements in June 2019. The consideration will be Ksh 3 billion (US\$ 30 million).

Fintech and telecoms will continue to be a big driver in Africa as digitalisation transforms traditional banks, enables new entrants into the industry, cryptocurrencies disrupt established systems, as well as the development of new financing solutions for small and medium sized enterprises. Digitalisation in the agricultural sectors also provides exciting opportunities as developments in technology give new opportunities to modernise and optimise agriculture.

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# Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards in Nigeria

The New York Convention provides that a signatory country must enforce an arbitration award granted in another signatory state as though it were a court judgment of the first signatory. This regime for mutual enforcement is the most powerful tool for pursuing arbitration in the international space because it avails to the enforcing party the court machinery and compelling power of the state where enforcement is sought, ensuring that the arbitral award is successfully executed in the host jurisdiction.

In a continuation of an article that was published in the March edition of this Africa Newsletter, we examine the enforcement regime under the New York Convention in Nigeria, taking a look at the legislative framework and the procedure for the enforcement of foreign arbitral awards and discussing some of the advantages and/or pitfalls in enforcement peculiar to this jurisdiction.

## Legislative framework

Nigeria is a signatory to the New York Convention, and this has been incorporated into its laws through the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1988 (the “ACA”) which is the primary legislation that governs the enforcement of foreign arbitral awards within the federation. However, a number of States have enacted their own arbitration legislation, such as the Lagos State Arbitration Law 2009 (the “LSAL”) which governs enforcement in Lagos State, unless the parties have agreed to apply a different legislation. (There has been scholarly debate about the constitutionality of the LSAL by practitioners, but this issue has not been properly considered or determined by the Nigerian courts.)

Nigeria made a reservation under Article 1(3) when it ratified the New York Convention, to the effect that enforcement would only be granted on the basis of reciprocity and in respect of disputes arising out of a legal relationship which is contractual. However, it is arguable that this reservation may no longer be significant since section 51 of the ACA empowers the Nigerian courts to enforce a foreign award irrespective of the country in which the award is made. Nigeria has also incorporated the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (“ICSID”) Convention into its local legislation through the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (Enforcement of Awards) Act, 1967.

## Procedure

A foreign award may be enforced in Nigeria under the ACA, under the common law, under the Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgments Ordinance 1922, (Cap. 175) or the Foreign Judgments (Reciprocal Enforcement) Act, (Cap. F35). Under the ACA, a party may apply to the court for leave to enforce an award under section 51(1) of the ACA or under section 54 of the ACA which incorporates the New York Convention into Nigerian law. Under the common law, an award can be enforced by filing an action upon the award, i.e. an application for judgment to be entered on the terms of the award.

An application for leave must be filed at the Federal High Court or at a State’s High Court, because both have jurisdiction. However, the court has held that the appropriate court to hear an enforcement application is the court that would have had jurisdiction to hear the subject matter of the dispute that was resolved in the arbitration proceedings. If the award is an ICSID award, it is only the Supreme Court that has jurisdiction pertaining to enforcement and simply requires the filing of the award at the Supreme Court.

While Article 16(1) of the Federal High Court Rules allows parties to initiate enforcement proceedings *ex parte*, the general approach in practice is to initiate enforcement proceedings by a Motion on Notice or Originating Motion, attaching the original or certified copy of the award and the arbitration agreement, with a certified translation



where applicable. The application must also indicate the name and last place of business of the person against whom enforcement is sought and a statement that the award has not been complied with, or complied with only in part. The party bringing the application must show that the dispute arose within the terms of the submission to arbitration, that the arbitrators were appointed in accordance with the clause which contains the submission, that an award was in fact issued and that the award has not been satisfied by the losing party. Evidence is normally given by affidavit. If the application is successful, the court will grant leave for the award to be registered as a judgment, to be enforced in the same manner as a judgment or order to the same effect.

The court may refuse to enforce an award where:

- i) a party to the arbitration agreement was under some incapacity;
- ii) the arbitration agreement is not valid under the applicable law or the law of the seat of the arbitration;
- iii) the party was not given proper notice of the appointment of an arbitrator or of the arbitral proceedings or was otherwise not able to present his case;
- iv) the award deals with a dispute falling outside or beyond the scope of submission to arbitration;
- v) the composition of the arbitral tribunal or the arbitral procedure was not in accordance with the agreement of the parties, or does not accord with the law of the country where the arbitration took place; and
- vi) the award has been set aside, suspended or not yet become binding on the parties. The court may also refuse enforcement where the subject matter of the arbitration is non-arbitrable under Nigerian law or where recognition and enforcement is against public policy.

The grounds for setting aside an award are set out under section 48 of the ACA and largely reflect the grounds for refusing enforcement. However, there are additional grounds such as: i) where the scope of the award extends beyond the agreement (any portions outside the scope will be set aside and those within the scope will stand); ii) where the composition and procedure of the tribunal do not conform with the agreement; and iii) where there was no agreement between the parties on the composition and procedure or the composition or procedure was contrary to the ACA.

There is a right of appeal from a decision of the High Court to enforce or refuse to enforce an award based on section 241(1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended).



## Advantages

Nigerian legislation provides various avenues for enforcing a foreign arbitral award, which provides different routes to enforcement to the enforcing party. A party can therefore weigh the different avenues where applicable and opt for the route that is most advantageous to it.

## Pitfalls

The limitation period for the enforcement of a foreign arbitral award is regulated by the limitation laws of the various States, for instance, section 7(1)(d) of the Limitation Act operative in the Federal Capital Territory Abuja provides that an action to enforce an award has a six-year limitation period calculated from the date the cause of action accrued. However, Nigeria's approach to calculating the limitation period may be disadvantageous for the enforcement of arbitral awards in that jurisdiction.

While many jurisdictions such as England calculate the limitation period from the date of the breach of the arbitration agreement (failure to honour the resulting award), the Nigerian Supreme Court has held that the limitation period is calculated from the date that the cause of action accrued (date of the event that necessitated the arbitration proceedings). This means that the limitation period runs even during the period of the arbitration proceedings. The effect is that where there are lengthy arbitration proceedings coupled with lengthy periods where the losing party pursues annulment proceedings or seeks to set aside the arbitral award, a successful party may lose its right to enforce the award in Nigeria.

It is worth noting that a new arbitration Act is imminent. The Bill has recently been passed by the Senate and it is expected to come into force in the next few months. This new Act is likely to address some of the perceived weakness of the existing Act, including this limitation point, and introduce some new provisions including an Award Review Tribunal, Emergency Arbitrator and Preliminary Orders provision.

## Conclusion

As Africa continues to develop into a hub for business and investment, it is inevitable that in some transactions disputes will arise. Enforcing foreign arbitral awards in Africa is becoming far easier as more countries on the continent are promulgating new legislation or revising current legislation to be in line with the rest of the world.



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# The African single market takes a step forward as the African Continental Free Trade Area Agreement becomes a reality

## Launch of the operational phase of the largest free trade zone in the world just as Nigeria commits to the project

The official launch of the African Continental Free Trade Area (“AfCFTA”) at the 12th Extraordinary Summit of the African Union on 7 July 2019 signalled the beginning of the treaty’s implementation phase. The AfCFTA agreement was enacted in 2018 and has been signed by 54 of the 55 member states of the African Union to date, with Nigeria and Benin signing it on the day of its official launch (following ratification of the treaty by 22 states, it had officially come into force on 30 May 2019). As the continent’s largest economy with a GDP of US\$405 billion as well as Africa’s most populous country with approximately 200 million people, Nigeria’s participation in the AfCFTA is an important endorsement of the project.

Indeed, Nigeria’s initial hesitance to participate in the AfCFTA was the focus of much discussion. Its recent commitment to the ambitious pan-African project has the potential to unite this group of countries, individuals and economies under a single market, with freedom of movement of goods, services, capital and people.

The treaty’s implementation phase marks a big step towards the dream of economic unity across Africa. However, it is just one part of the process. We look briefly below at the process of trade reforms that has now begun with the Treaty as well as the way forward, with the potentially

thorny issues of competition, intellectual property and in particular the possibility for investors to enforce their rights under the treaty – which alone has already provoked much discussion – still to be negotiated.

## Key changes: the AfCFTA Agreement has begun the creation of the African single continental market

The AfCFTA Agreement consists of four main sets of rules aimed at enabling the creation of a single continental market for Africa:

- An overarching agreement that sets out the AfCFTA’s institutional structure. It provides, inter alia, that the AfCFTA will be administered by four bodies, namely:
  1. the Assembly (which will have the exclusive authority to interpret the AfCFTA Agreement);
  2. the Council of Ministers (which will be responsible for the effective implementation and enforcement of the AfCFTA Agreement);
  3. the Committee of Senior Trade Officials (which will consist of permanent officials responsible for the monitoring of the AfCFTA); and
  4. the Secretariat (whose role and responsibilities remain to be defined by the Council of Ministers).



- A Protocol on Trade in Goods that sets out the party states' general obligations, *inter alia*, with regard to:
  1. the most-favoured nation principle (which prevents parties from discriminating between each other's goods);
  2. the national treatment principle (which prevents parties from discriminating between domestically-produced and imported goods);
  3. the reduction/elimination of import tariffs (which remain to be negotiated);
  4. the elimination of quantitative restrictions (e.g. import prohibitions/restrictions); or
  5. trade remedies (i.e. anti-dumping, countervailing and safeguard measures).
- A Protocol on Trade in Services that sets out the parties' obligations, *inter alia*, with regard to:
  1. mutual recognition of domestic standards/requirements;
  2. the definition of domestic regulations affecting trade in services;
  3. monopolies as exclusive service suppliers; or
  4. specific commitments (which remain to be negotiated).
- A Protocol on the rules and procedures for the settlement of disputes that provides for a dispute settlement mechanism similar to the WTO's dispute settlement body. The dispute settlement mechanism consists of the following:
  1. a dispute settlement body (which will establish the relevant panels and appellate body, adopt panel and appellate body reports and authorise the suspension of concessions and other obligations under the AfCFTA Agreement);
  2. dispute settlement panels (which will be responsible for dealing with disputes in first instance); and
  3. an appellate body (which will be responsible for dealing with appeals against panel decisions).

In this way, the Treaty acts as a basis for the development of free trade across Africa. The authoritative bodies are in place, general principles have been enshrined and there is even the possibility for party states to bring disputes against each other to enforce these rules. However, this is still the beginning, and as well as more detailed, specific rules, the state parties will need to discuss how investors themselves are protected.



## What's next? Specific trade rules and investor protection provisions

As a first step, negotiators still need to agree on three key aspects of the AfCFTA Agreement, namely:

1. the parties' market access offers (i.e., import tariff commitments) which are expected to be finalised by January 2020 (it is worth noting that the parties have already agreed to liberalise 97% of tariff lines accounting for at least 90% of trade within the AfCFTA);
2. applicable rules of origin (setting out the conditions under which goods can benefit from preferential market access under the AfCFTA Agreement); and
3. the parties' specific commitments in trade in services (setting out the services sectors that the parties are willing to liberalise) which are expected to be finalised by January 2020.

As a second step, negotiators will then focus on rules pertaining to intellectual property rights, competition policy and investment, which they aim to finalise by June 2020.

A further area to be dealt with, which has already provoked much discussion, is that of investment protection, including a potential provision for investor-state dispute settlement. This will be addressed in Phase II of negotiations. While the content of the Investment Protocol remains to be determined, African Union ministers have agreed a deadline for completing these negotiations by June 2020.

The investor protection provisions receive particular attention, as the African continent has often been seen as being on the receiving end of adverse investment arbitration decisions, with the benefits to African states or investors more difficult to identify. Linked to this view, recent investment treaties have sometimes sought more of a balance in terms of placing obligations on investors as well as states. Africa has often been seen as leading the way in this respect, with examples seen in certain provisions in African regional treaties, such as the COMESA Treaty covering states in Eastern and Southern Africa, the Pan African Investment Code and also certain recent intra-African bilateral treaties.

The AfCFTA Investment Protocol may continue this balancing trend, as would suggest the fact that figures within the African Union have cited the Pan African Investment Code, which includes such provisions, as a key guiding text. The aim would be to seek a compromise between encouraging investment by creating a stable legal and economic environment while also reflecting Member States' concerns regarding the wide scope of investors and investments that are protected. This could take the form, for example, of substantive obligations on investors or potentially overt recognition of states' rights to regulate in certain defined areas. It is not even certain at this stage whether investors will have access to international arbitration in the traditional sense, and if they do, there could in any case be limitations on the right to start such disputes. Another interesting issue is the extent to which the AfCFTA Investment Protocol may lean towards African dispute resolution institutions (rather than the traditional international fora), as arbitration as a method of dispute resolution continues to grow on the continent. These issues all currently remain the subject of negotiations.

## A step for African economies, a leap for international trade?

The beginning of the implementation phase represents a historic step for African continental integration. Member States of the African Union have a combined population of over 1.2 billion and gross domestic product of more than US\$3.4 trillion – yet intra-African trade accounts for only 15% of the continent's total trade. In comparison, the figure is 67% in Europe, 61% in Asia and 47% in America. The AfCFTA presents African economies with an opportunity to boost the level of regional trade. Although the process of implementation has just begun, a huge amount of work remains, both in terms of building the institutions and processes already set out in the AfCFTA Agreement, and negotiating the further (and potentially controversial) provisions on competition, IP and investment protection. Navigating this difficult road will undoubtedly take significant time, resources and the strong will of member states – but the end goal is a huge leap for intra-African trade which could have a knock on effect globally.



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# Overview of data protection laws in Africa

Data protection law has been gaining ground in Africa over the past 20 years. Today, out of 54 countries, 25 have passed data protection laws, the latest countries being Uganda, Nigeria and Egypt. Other countries have introduced data protection bills which are under discussion or waiting to be on the legislative agenda.

## Regional legislative framework

On a regional level, some measures have been taken to encourage and support the enactment of data protection laws:

- In 2010, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) adopted a Supplementary Act on Personal Data Protection followed, a year later, by a Supplementary Act on Cybercrime. So far, two thirds of the ECOWAS member states have passed data protection laws, except Togo, the Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone and Liberia.
- In 2013, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) published a Model Data Protection Act. Since then, only two countries have enacted data protection laws. Counting the five SADC member states which already had privacy laws in place, seven out of 16 member states have a data protection legal framework today.
- In 2014, the African Union adopted the Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection (the Malabo Convention). It is a comprehensive document covering electronic transactions, privacy and cybersecurity. To date, the Malabo Convention has been signed by 14 states and ratified by five countries out of 55 member states (Western Sahara being part of the African Union).

## Common features in the laws

Despite the regional organisations' efforts, the overall legislative framework is not harmonised. However, some common trends can be found. For example, in most countries, the consent of the data subject is the default condition for data processing and no references are made to the notion of legitimate interest as a legal basis. Another example is that most statutes have provided for the establishment of a data protection authority reporting to the telecommunications or ICT regulator. This is not the case in Nigeria where the ICT regulator is directly in charge of data protection. A final example of similar features is the data controllers' obligation to notify the regulator of any data processing activities and to seek from the regulator an authorisation to transfer personal data to third countries with a two month maximum processing time. Some more recent and GDPR-inspired laws, such as the Benin Digital Code and the Nigerian Data Protection Regulation have opted for a more flexible approach, insisting on internal governance, data mapping, audits or the appointment of a data protection officer and not systematically imposing systematic notifications to the regulator.



## Need for a harmonised legal framework?

Harmonising the data protection statutory and regulatory framework in Africa is still on the agenda of regional organisations and some states. In addition to protecting citizens' privacy, having a harmonised or, at best, a uniform framework is seen as an opportunity to promote the continent's development by allowing free flow of data within Africa, encouraging data transfers from other continents to Africa and thus boosting the use of African-based datacentres, outsourcing services, blockchain technology, e-government and fintech services.

Some African organisations and countries have also expressed their intent to end the situation of 'digital colonisation' which they view as the consequence of having the most politically and strategically sensitive data, such as classified documents, hosted on non-African servers. To tackle this issue, discussions are being held around data localisation on a continental level to reach data sovereignty.

Privacy and data protection is still a hot topic in Africa and another wave of legislation is to be expected in the next two years. However, compliance with the existing laws remains a challenge for small to medium businesses, which are not always aware of their legal obligations or which consider that it would be more costly to abide by the privacy rules than to be sanctioned for breach. Records published by the data protection authorities show that the vast majority of organisations complying with the notification and approval processes with the regulators are multinational businesses headquartered in Europe or America, public services and local giants in banking and telecommunications.



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## Does an African capitalism exist?

In sub-Saharan Africa, manifestations of capitalism can be analysed through a number of different indicators such as land ownership, businesses and credit. But the real question is whether or not Africa is simply content with being the theatre for expansion of dominant international capitalism as we know it, or if the continent needs its own pathway to achieve its unique development objectives.

### Land ownership

One of the first areas of the expansion of capitalism into Africa was the agricultural sector, with a system of land ownership which, through agricultural exports, transformed itself into an agricultural capitalism dominated by private European companies and public or local semi-public sector companies. To achieve this, postcolonial African states had to put into place large property reforms that constituted a major cultural revolution in African traditions, which sacrilegiously land and does not consider it to have commercial value.

### Businesses

This is a term which is understood in conflicting ways, not only in Africa but everywhere in the world. Even in France, the INSEE sometimes uses profit value as the only criteria in counting the number of businesses, which risks comparing the activity of an artisan against that of a multinational. A business is a far more complex organisation, which sits on an equilibrium between those who bring forward capital and those who, through their skillset and authority, develop its potential.

It is also important to mention the “Africapitalism” of Nigerian tycoons which developed either in the banking sector or around large industrial conglomerates, even if it is not really representative of the wider African economy. In fact, the economic make-up of sub-Saharan African countries is largely small-scale activity, generally without either structured organisation or accounts. This is what is commonly known as the informal sector, which represents between 50-90% of African states’ national wealth.

### Credit

Credit is certainly the poor relation of capitalism in sub-Saharan Africa. In the CFA franc zone, for example, banks are subject to regulatory constraints (for instance the ratio for transforming resource deposits into long-term funds or the limited access to foreign exchange to finance imports) which limits their ability to finance the economy, and is one of the main reasons why the ratio of credit to real GDP is abnormally low, especially for a monetary zone which is in full economic development. It is no coincidence that currently almost no major project can be financed without support from a foreign or international financial institution.



## Outlook

Up to now, the majority of postcolonial African states have been content with implementing legislation which facilitates the expansion of western capitalism in Africa, whether that is in terms of property, regulating businesses or the regulation of credit. While capitalism is well established in Africa, we cannot say that an 'African capitalism' exists, in the sense of an organised economic system based on an internal model or set of economic objectives.

In terms of banking, an interesting strategy would be to specialize one part of the banking sector. Across a transition period of ten years, it would focus on financing and supporting actors in the informal sector, with the aim of developing real SMEs for the continent. However, this would require new tools and a new banking model.

Regarding businesses, beyond the debate on the sharing of power between shareholders, workers and public authorities, it is essential to provide them with a greater social role by directing a part of their resources towards an objective other than simply profit maximisation. African businesses need to propose new models of production, consumption and, above all, a different relationship with the environment, as this has huge value in African culture.

On the subject of land tenure, we need to recognize that its so-called 'modernization' has caused more problems than it has resolved. You only need to visit sub-Saharan African courts to see that a large number of disputes amongst different African populations concern property rights; it's a social question that needs to be dealt with seriously. In addition, for a wide array of reasons, land certificates themselves have not kept their central promise of protecting property rights. Likewise, we cannot exactly say that the current system facilitates access to land tenure. As for modernising the functioning of the land registry, some concrete propositions exist to reform it, for example by decentralising its administration to local authorities.

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## View from a secondee

The Hogan Lovells Africa team has a strong network of relationship firms across Africa, and we continually seek to deepen these relationships and to mutually share our knowledge and experience. One of the ways in which we do this is by offering three-month secondments to African lawyers from the firms with which we work most closely with.

Primah Kyambadde from MMAKS Advocates in Uganda and Nania Owusu-Ankomah from Bentsi-Enchill. Letsa & Ankomah in Ghana, both spent three months with us from mid-September to mid-December 2018 and Alison Diarra, our Africa Network Manager, asked them to share their experiences and a few top tips for any future secondees.

### ***AD: Why did you apply for a secondment?***

**PK:** I wanted to work with the lawyers we usually work with on international transactions and plug into the work done by international counsel. My experience had largely been working as local counsel, and I wanted to experience aspects of transactions that local counsel may not be privy to. I also wanted to broaden my professional network and experience the famous city of London.

**NOA:** I applied because I wanted to expand my professional network and also to build on my experience in my area of specialisation. It was an opportunity for me to work side-by-side with international counsel to better appreciate the needs of international clients.

### ***AD: Was the work in London very different?***

**PK:** Yes and no. The work was surprisingly similar, as Uganda is a commonwealth country and many of the legal principles were the same. Having been exposed to review of English law governed documents for compliance with local law, many of the documents were pretty familiar. The difference was mainly in the number and size of the transactions. I was part of the Infrastructure, Energy, Resources and Projects

team and it was not uncommon for every member of the team to be working on a completely different project at any one time.

The professional support received from the PAs, the knowledge management team and the IT team also did go a long way in reducing the turn-around time.

**NOA:** In many ways the work was the same, but the systems were different. I liked the way technology is used to support legal work and also the vast in-house resources available to assist work. The advanced knowledge-management database/system stood out for me, and I was surprised to find that there are actually knowledge-management lawyers who do not do billable work but are solely dedicated to building knowledge to ensure that fee earners are able to produce quality work in a time-efficient manner.

I was particularly impressed with the approach to flexible working arrangements and the way they make it possible for a lawyer to be outside the office but still integrated with the work in the office, which means that you can be productive wherever you are and can also work in a way that best suits you.

***AD: What did you get the most out of in your secondment?***

**PK:** Relationships. Although I was involved in some exciting transactions, the biggest benefit I got out of the secondment was the relationships I made with the people I worked with, as well as other people that I met at different networking events during the three months. It was exciting to finally put faces to names that I had worked with over the years. Having now come back home and right into the thick of things, it has changed the way I work with people that I now know. New relationships have also allowed for new collaborations.

Further, since my secondment was during the time that ILFA secondments take place, I interacted with other lawyers from the whole continent. This has broadened my network all over Africa.

**NOA:** I will definitely say that it's the professional network I was able to build and the soft skills I developed. Three months at a law firm is a very short time but long enough to build relationships that you can leverage on for the rest your career. The people I met on my secondment in diverse ways, enriched me professionally and also opened up opportunities for me. Developing soft skills such as business development was also a core aspect of my secondment and Hogan Lovells gave me the tools and training to develop these essential skills.

***AD: Did you enjoy living in London?***

**PK:** A little bit too much. Since this was my first time in London, I had received all sorts of warnings about the weather, food and other do's and don'ts. My experience was completely lovely though. I started the secondment in September so it wasn't too cold. I kept waiting for it to get as cold as I had anticipated, but I have a feeling that it probably got worse after I left. I had absolutely no issues with the food and I have a new found love for cold sandwiches.

The highlight of my living experience was how easy it was to get around. My commute to work was approximately 25 minutes and my two hour commute to work in Uganda every morning now reminds me how much I miss living in London.

**NOA:** Absolutely. I have lived, worked and had some education in London, but I experienced the city in a very different way during my secondment. On secondment, my London nights were mostly filled with cocktail receptions, dinners, professional networking events, art events and on occasion, West End musicals. During the day, I had regular catch-up lunches and professional development events. These made the city all the more alluring and my secondment experience truly memorable.

***AD: Has the secondment changed the way you work?***

**PK:** Definitely. I am now more aware of what international counsel seeks in a transaction and this has influenced that way that I interact with them. I also worked on a number of bids during my time at Hogan Lovells. This experience allowed me to benchmark against our own pitching process and has since improved the quality of our bids. MMAKS is also in the process of creating and improving systems within the firm, including the process of creating a knowledge management role which was influenced by my experience at Hogan Lovells.

**NOA:** Yes. I am more mindful of what international counsel considers when instructing local counsel on briefs and this has helped in shaping the way I position myself for future instructions. The soft-skills I learned while on secondment have proved to be precisely the 'extra factor' I needed to propel my career to the next-level.

**AD: What advice would you give future secondees?**

**PK:** Make the most of the opportunity. Put your best foot forward. Ask for work! Use every opportunity to make and grow relationships. Hogan Lovells provides a great growth environment and I would encourage all future secondees to exploit all the available resources to make their secondment a worthwhile experience.

**NOA:**

- Build relationships, because it is what you will need the most when you return to your home country.
- Make a list of the things you would like to learn on your secondment and work through that list to make sure that you are actually addressing each item on the list during the secondment. Three months goes by very quickly, and therefore, you have to maximise the opportunity by planning ahead.
- Finally, the secondment is not only an opportunity to learn but also to market yourself and your firm. Make sure you showcase your strengths and your firm's portfolio of work and leverage on your knowledge of the business climate in your jurisdiction.



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## Spotlight on our Africa pro bono activities

Hogan Lovells is committed to making a contribution to the markets in which we and our clients operate, especially in those areas where we can make a real difference. In the Africa Practice we reflect this commitment and are delighted to be involved in pro bono projects offering services to several of our non-profit partners which have limited resources, enabling them to make a positive difference in their communities.

Here we highlight just two of the current projects that we are involved in. We will feature more in a future edition of the newsletter.

### Hogan Lovells is part of the movement to accelerate Disability Innovation for a Fairer World by supporting AT2030 - Assistive Technology for All

In July 2018, Yasmin Waljee, Hogan Lovells' International Pro Bono Director, was delighted to join the global leaders from governments, industry and NGOs on Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, east London, for the Global Disability Summit. Hosted by the UK Government, the event was the first of its type in the world, and focused on the key global development challenges for disability to ensure we 'leave no one behind'. The event was held on site of the 2012 Paralympic Games, now home to University College London (UCL) Stratford Campus and within it, the Global Disability Innovation Hub (GDI Hub) set up by Hogan Lovells to continue the legacy of the Games. At the Summit, the UK Prime Minister launched a brand new £20 million programme called AT2030 to address access to Assistive Technology – like wheelchairs, hearing aids, walking sticks and prosthetics, or even mobile devices – for the 900 million-plus people that need them around the world. The WHO estimates that need for AT will double by 2050 and that the SDGs can't be delivered without immediate action so this is a vital step forward.

As an avid backer of the Paralympic Movement, Hogan Lovells immediately offered support to GDI Hub—the lead organisation of this project – as a board member and with legal support. The AT2030 programme works with

global partners like WHO, UNICEF, Clinton Health Access Initiative, Motivation (wheelchairs), Humanity and Inclusion, as well as local partners like Government of Kenya, University of Nairobi and Amref to drive catalytic change around four main areas: better evidence and data; sparking innovation; country-level implementation and building capacity for change and participation by AT users. AT2030 will reach 9 million people over the coming years and it will test new methodologies and service delivery models, as well as support 80 start-ups with an East African Innovation Hub in Kenya. AT2030 is funded by UK Aid and will be matched in fully by GDI.

Hogan Lovells is enabling all of this work, through its pro and low bono legal support. GDI Hub CEO and AT2030 Programme Director Victoria Austin said “Without Hogan Lovells, we simply would not have been where we are today. Not only did they help us constitute GDI as a Community Interest Company back when we set up in 2016, but through the ongoing advice we have received we have been able to get going really quickly with our support for AT innovators and policymakers. Beyond the legal advice, the partnership Hogan Lovells have offered has really helped us bring this project to life.”

As we look forward to the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, GDI Hub is planning a *Disability Innovation Summit* on the day before the Games start in Tokyo and looks forward to our continued partnership with Hogan Lovells to 2020 and beyond.



## Working with UNCCD to secure the licencing rights for a fundraising music album to support the ambitions of the Great Green Wall.

The Great Green Wall is an African-led movement with an epic ambition to grow an 8,000 km natural wonder of the world across the entire width of Africa. Once complete, it will be the largest living structure on the planet – 3 times the length of the Great Barrier Reef. In reality the Wall is more than a belt of green across the continent. It is a mass social action movement designed to build resilience to drought, enhance food security and create millions of jobs. By 2030, the Wall aims to restore 100 million hectares of currently degraded land, sequester 250 million tonnes of carbon and create 10 million green jobs in rural areas. It contributes to an unprecedented 15 out of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Attention is expected to increase this year with the release of the GGW documentary (with Oscar nominated filmmaker, Fernando Meirelles and Malian singer Inna Modja) and accompanying fund-raising album with major African stars. Hogan Lovells has been working with the UNCCD to secure the licencing rights for this album.



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## Growing our Africa Practice for German outbound work

Germany has enjoyed a fruitful investment history with many of the 54 countries making up the diverse continent that is Africa and continues to strengthen those investment bonds and deepen cooperation – as shown by Angela Merkel’s visit to various West African countries over the last 18 months. In speaking with our German and Central European based clients and contacts about doing business in Africa, we regularly hear about the issues that arise and how there is a need to have comprehensive support when doing business on the continent.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) by German companies investing in Africa between mid-2017 and mid-2019 resulted in a total capital investment of over USD 2.6 billion; 15,948 jobs being created and over 82 FDI projects undertaken, with an average project size of approx. USD 32 million. The top five recipients of FDI in 2018 were Egypt, which saw over USD 6.8 billion; South Africa coming in second with over USD 5.3 billion, followed by Congo, Morocco and Ethiopia with USD 4.3 billion; USD 3.6 billion and USD 3.3 billion respectively. Based on data from 2017, France is the biggest investor in Africa, followed by the Netherlands, U.S., UK and China.

In 2015, executives from leading international car manufacturers came together to form the Association of Automotive Manufacturers (AAAM), which works to promote growth in the automotive industry within Africa. In 2018, we saw reports that one of Germany’s most prolific sectors, automotive, was investing on the continent, with VW announcing that it was setting up manufacturing hubs in key countries, most notably in Kenya after a four-decade break. This is a significant step for the automotive industry in Africa and has been well received on the continent. Other car manufacturers also followed suit such as the state owned Beijing Automotive International Corporation (BAIC) which committed to investing ZAR 11 billion into South Africa by constructing a vehicle plant in Coega near Port Elizabeth (South Africa’s Industrial Development Corporation has a 35% shareholding in the project).

Furthermore, the development of special economic zones (SEZs) could be a factor drawing FDI in the coming years with Kenya, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Egypt and Cameroon boasting the most SEZs in 2019. The three largest economies on the continent (Nigeria, South Africa and Egypt) all have well established SEZ programs.

Recognising how vital it is to a project to have an in-depth knowledge of the local legal, financial and political landscape, our German team works closely with local counsel across Africa in order to build strong relationships and to ensure that they are able to provide their clients with an integrated, diverse team that is capable of delivering comprehensive legal advice and support that is tailored to both the clients’ and project’s unique requirements.

Tobias Faber, a partner in the German Infrastructure, Energy, Resources and Projects team, together with Camilla Fröhlich who is a qualified South African lawyer and admitted to the Frankfurt Bar as a foreign lawyer, work closely in supporting German and Central European clients on their Africa investments and provide legal advice to their clients throughout the lifecycle of their energy and infra projects.

The Frankfurt team recently hosted the inaugural Frankfurt Africa Day in May, a first of its kind for Hogan Lovells in Germany, which was well attended by numerous players in the African market from financial institutions, investors and development funds alike. The purpose was to provide a platform for lively discussions regarding investing and doing business in Africa and to shine a spotlight on the unique hurdles that can arise and how to mitigate exposure to same. A video highlighting Africa Day in Frankfurt, and which showcases Hogan Lovells’ capabilities and introduces our international team, can be found [here](#).

Africa Day in Frankfurt 2020 is scheduled to take place in our brand new Frankfurt office in June next year.



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## Hogan Lovells Africa Forum – Africa: Making an Impact

On 3 July 2019, we hosted our sixth Africa Forum in London with 300 attendees from a range of industry sectors such as FIS, Energy and Infrastructure, Consumer, TMT, and Government. Page Content

The theme for this year's event was *Africa: Making an impact* where we discussed and explored how companies and countries can make an impact in their local communities as well as in a global market place.

The Rt. Hon Lord Keen QC (UK Justice Minister in the House of Lords) provided opening remarks, and Professor Oramah, the President and Chairman of the Africa Export Import Bank gave a key note address. Prof. Oramah then joined our opening panel, chaired by our Regional Managing Partner - UK and Africa, Susan Bright. He was joined on that panel by Papa Nduom, the Chairman of Group Ndoum, and Kuseni Dhlamini, the Chairman of Massmart and Aspen Pharmaceuticals.

The day's other plenary session was chaired by Head of the Africa practice, Andrew Skipper, and featured Paul Arkwright (Senior Diplomat at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office) on a panel with the Ambassador of Angola and the High Commissioners of Ghana and Rwanda. Many other senior business leaders, diplomats, cultural influencers and UK Government officials and dignitaries were also in attendance.

Several breakout sessions took place in between the plenary panel discussions and 'Straight Talks', and covered topics ranging from the changing landscape of lending in Africa with prominent leaders from the finance sector, to a focus on sustainable solutions to fill Africa's infrastructure deficit.

The event received great coverage widely in the market. Our twitter handle @HLAfrica saw 600+ new followers in one day, with our top tweets achieving over 6000 impressions. In addition, prominent media outlets such as African Business (a leading pan-African publication) created live podcasts, and media interviews were arranged with Debtwire, The Banker, and Reuters.

### Go Far Together - London Symposium

The Go Far Together (GFT) Symposium, part of our GFT capacity building program, was held in our London office the day before the Africa Forum and led by Africa Network Manager, Alison Diarra. It saw its greatest number yet with senior representatives from 20 African law firms representing 16 different African countries. By focusing topics around 'the business of law', this event has become increasingly popular and effectively delivers capacity building to senior lawyers in a way that is valuable and appreciated. Whilst the prime objective of our network is to secure quality advice for our global clients, our approach has been recognised as respecting and supporting our partner firms and is now leading to work referrals for our practice groups not only in London but across our offices, and from us to our relationship firms.

The day ended with networking drinks attended by Hogan Lovells lawyers from our Africa practice, and a dinner including colleagues from our London, Paris, Frankfurt and Johannesburg offices.



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## Africa LLM Vacation Scheme 2019

This summer we held our fifth Africa LLM Vacation Scheme at the Hogan Lovells London office. From 5 to 16 August, five African students studying for LLMs or other Masters degrees joined us for two weeks of work experience, training and social events with our Africa practice team. This year's participants came from Angola, Ghana, Nigeria and Uganda.

It was a packed two weeks where the participants not only gained experience in a variety of practice areas, but also insights into working in the City of London, practical workshops in both Corporate and Disputes skills, and other soft skills training. Added into the mix was the opportunity to give a presentation, and to join members of the Africa practice team for networking meals, drinks and some fun social activities.

### Here are some of their comments on this experience:

“My time at Hogan Lovells gave me the opportunity not only to learn and work with an impressive talent pool from different backgrounds and fields of study, but it also provided me with invaluable insight on how a traditional global law firm is adapting and providing solutions to the new realities, opportunities, and unforeseen challenges we currently live through globally, and more specifically in Africa. From navigating complex legal issues related to disruptive technologies such as Blockchain and Cryptocurrencies; to more basic but ever-growing legal concerns related to data privacy and protection, Hogan Lovells has expanded my overview and methodology by adapting their set of generic skills (crafted and based on its excellence and commitment as a global firm) and more importantly, their holistic skills, which are based on its footprint and in-depth experience in understanding, operating, investing, and respecting Africa. These all compose a set of knowledge and experience you would not get from any other global law firm.”

#### **Andre Mendes de Carvalho (Angola)**

“My work in both the Arbitration and Corporate practice groups gave me great insights into how global law firms work, and this was a revelation. Throughout my stay, every lawyer was interested in my goals and was always willing to offer their help. Another important feature of the firm which impacted me was their diversity and inclusion approach. Everyone matters, and all work towards the firm's objectives. The social and

networking events at the Ritz and Swingers were amazing, as were other times spent with some senior associates outside work. Returning home, the culture of inclusion where everyone is given a voice to contribute regardless of their rank is something that will influence my practice going forward. Further, the networking activities meant I am still able to communicate with the lawyers within the firm and beyond. Hogan Lovells has definitely made a lasting impact on my career.”

#### **Naa Amorkor Amarteifio (Ghana)**

“My time on the Africa LLM Vacation Scheme was all that I hoped for and more. Not only did I gain an insight into life at an international law firm while working on captivating matters, but I was also able to interact with lawyers who were willing to share their experience, pass knowledge and foster relationships. As a testament to the collaborative nature of the firm, everyone I met, not just lawyers or members of the Africa practice, was genuinely supportive. The training sessions were also impactful, particularly the workshops on Navigating the Financial Ocean and Presentation Skills. I gained knowledge about the changing needs of clients and how an understanding of the clients business, as well as financial markets, is essential to legal practice. I thoroughly enjoyed participating in the Scheme.”

#### **Temitope Giwa (Nigeria)**

With the unique Africa LLM Vacation Scheme, Hogan Lovells has continued to walk the talk and show demonstrable commitment to capacity building in Africa. The four central pillars of the firm's Africa Practice: Understanding Africa, Operating in Africa, Investing in Africa and

Respecting Africa, particularly resonated with me. In addition to its traditional strengths as a leading global law firm, Hogan Lovells has a very welcoming atmosphere which permeates the entire fabric of the firm. The two-weeks were undoubtedly part of the highlights of my stay in London these past 12-months. The firm graciously organised very helpful trainings and workshops not just on traditional areas of law practice but also on contemporary topics like business development, technology, presentation skills etc. The scheme also afforded us the fantastic opportunity of broadening our social networks. The social events were also memorable, especially the crazy golf, even if I ultimately lost.

**Orji A. Uka (Nigeria)**

“I was attracted to Hogan Lovells because of its involvement in cutting-edge African work. As a participant, I was privileged to work with the Corporate and the Infrastructure, Energy, Resources and Projects teams where I conducted

hands-on legal research on cross-border transactions, under the guidance of great supervisors who encouraged and challenged me to deliver high quality work. The firm also diligently initiated me through a variety of workshops, case studies and trainings on anti-money laundering practices, case management and pro-bono work. The African Practice team was very interested in each trainee, and the partners and associates whom I interacted with exhibited a high degree of humility, attentiveness and support which was beyond my expectation. The experience I garnered will definitely enable me to effectively and efficiently advise on project finance and natural resource management in Uganda. Through this Scheme, Hogan Lovells has given me a real opportunity as an international business law practitioner to gain an overview of various international transactions and to realise my legal practice dreams.”

**Ritah Nakalema (Uganda)**



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## Recent work

- Advising a multi-asset energy and mining company in relation to power supply arrangements in Mozambique.
- Advising SMRT Project and Energy Solutions limited on the development construction and financing of a solar project in Sierra Leone, including the drafting of related documents.
- Advising Frontier Mining (subsidiary of Eurasian Resources Group) on their power supply arrangements in Zambia and the DRC.
- Assisting a public research university to operate online academic programs into East Africa.
- Assisting the Africa Centre, London's international centre for Pan-African culture, with the legal work for the transformation of their Southwark headquarters.
- Advising a speciality chemicals company with export controls and sanctions issues in Sudan.
- Advising a large private university on the structure of its employment relationship with a South African national who will split time between the United States and South Africa to support the university's programs.
- Advising social enterprise Peek Vision on an eye health project in partnership with the government of Botswana.
- Supporting IamtheCode with their legal documentation and helping them set up in South Africa and Kenya.
- Assisting Aumazo, Inc., on a pro bono basis, to expand and register its business in France as an association for fundraising purposes. Aumazo Inc. is a non-profit organisation working to improve the lives of girls and boys in rural communities in Cameroon by providing better boarding school infrastructure as well as a STEM based education.
- Advising a Foundation on the regulatory implications of its Fellowship initiative for recent college graduates in North Africa.



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## Upcoming Events

**Angola Top Table Dinner**  
Tuesday 17 September 2019  
Hogan Lovells, London office  
18:00 – 21:00

We are hosting an exclusive evening with H.E. Rui J Carneiro Manguera, the Ambassador of the Republic of Angola to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

We are thrilled to be hosting H.E. Rui Manguera, who previously served as the Minister of Justice and Human Rights in the Government of Angola.

This will be a small, intimate dinner with His Excellency, government officials and senior business executives that have an interest in Angola or may be looking to explore new opportunities in the Southern African region.

This is an invitation-only event. Please contact [Becki Chaplin](#) and [Susanne Lea](#), if you are available and would like to attend.

**Developing, Financing and Investing in Projects in Africa market update and issues**  
Wednesday 18 September 2019:  
Hogan Lovells, Washington Office  
16:30 – 18:00

Join Hogan Lovells Africa Practice for an afternoon to discuss development and financing issues impacting the continent. Several of our senior colleagues from our global network will be present to address topics including:

- Development and financing of projects in the SADC (South African Development Community) region.
- Experience with risk allocation in Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Mali and Egypt.
- Francophone African civil law project structure specifics and Tunisia solar IPPs.
- Power trading throughout Africa.
- Latest competition law developments across Africa, including recently introduced legislation in South Africa, Nigeria and Angola.
- Local ownership requirements in African countries including the Black Economic Empowerment equity ownership in South Africa.

Cocktails and networking will follow the seminar. For more information on this event, please contact [Thomas Hechl](#) or [LaNitra S. Webb](#).

**INSEAD Club Afrique event**  
**Thursday 19 September 2019**  
**Hogan Lovells, Paris office**  
**18:30**

We are organising a “Club Afrique” event, with Charles Kié, CEO, New African Capital Partners (previously CEO and Managing Director of Ecobank Nigeria), and Raphaël Bernardelli, Managing Director - ALSTOM North & Central Africa. They will talk about their experiences and visions, and will analyse the current business environment of the continent. This event is co-organised with the INSEAD Alumni Association. Our series of “Club Afrique” events is usually well-attended by high-level executives who have business interests in Africa.

If you would like to attend this event, please contact [Constance Segalen](#).

**FMCG opportunities session**  
**Thursday 26 September 2019**  
**Hogan Lovells, London office**  
**12:30 – 14:30**

Africa boasts one of the fastest growing consumer markets in the world. Consumer expenditure reached \$1.4 trillion in 2015, and this figure is set to hit \$2.1 trillion by 2025 and \$2.5 trillion by 2030. To further compound these compelling numbers, if AfCFTA is successfully implemented, there will be a potential market in Africa of 1.7 billion people. Taken with the rapid urbanisation and expansion of the middle class, FMCG in Africa clearly has huge potential.

Many challenges remain, with logistical and political barriers continuing to temper the growth of FMCG in across the continent. Though, the potential of Africa’s consumer market is clear, significant progress still needs to be made in both the public and private sectors. Investment in infrastructure, implementation of AfCFTA and the development of African retail companies points to development in the right direction. Join Hogan Lovells and Invest Africa for a discussion on facing the challenges and market openings within the FMCG sector in Africa.

For more information, please click here to see <https://investafrica.com/event/accessing-africas-fmkg-opportunities-2/>

If you would like to attend, please contact [Susanne Lea](#) or [Becki Chaplin](#).



### Exhibition preview: 'No Room for Fear'

Tuesday 1 October 2019

Hogan Lovells, London office

18:00 – 21:00

We are delighted to be collaborating with the Smithsonian's National Museum of African Art, SMO Contemporary Art and the BBFA to launch a ground-breaking exhibition titled 'No Room for Fear'.

This exhibition draws inspiration from a quotation by the late Nobel Laureate Toni Morrison, who made an indelible mark on our global consciousness regarding race, identity, inclusion and the true value of equitable community. 'No Room for Fear' will speak to the heart of the nation, as 13 outstanding artists present works which reflect current gaps and inequities, while presenting their aspirations for an inclusive 'Good Society'.

Co-curated by Enam Gbewonyo, Founder of the London-based Black British Female Artists Collective (BBFA) and Sandra Mbanefo Obiago, Founder & Artistic Director of Lagos-based SMO Contemporary Art; this exhibition presents a diverse group of artists whose work is a thought provoking, honest and powerful representation of what it means to be a black contemporary artist with African roots.

We are pleased to welcome back Gus Casely-Hayford, Director of the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, who will give a short presentation.

This is an invitation-only event. For further details, please contact [Su Davis](#).

### Arbitration events in Nigeria

Tuesday 5 and Wednesday 6 November 2019

Lagos, Nigeria

All day

We will be leading a training session at an event jointly organised by the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (Nigeria) – Young Members Group, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (Kenya) – Young Members Group, and International Chamber of Commerce – Young Arbitrators Forum (Africa) on Tuesday 5 November 2019.

We will also be speaking at the CIARB YMG (Nigeria) annual conference on Wednesday 6 November 2019.

Both events bring together dispute resolution practitioners below the age of 40, and students interested in building their careers in this fast-growing and dynamic field.

This is an invitation-only event. If you would like to attend, please contact [Ademola Bamgbose](#).

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### Invest Africa Connect at Africa Investment Forum

Wednesday 13 November 2019

Hogan Lovells, Johannesburg office

12:30 – 14:30

We are delighted to be hosting in collaboration with Invest Africa, a panel discussion on trade and investment flows from/to Africa and the rest of the world. Trade and investment flows between Africa and the rest of the world has been on the rise, and with the implementation of the AfCFTA, Africa is set to become an ever more attractive market to investors.

A panel of expert guest's speakers will explore whether or not the AfCFTA is likely to increase trade between the rest of the world and the continent? If so, what sectors are likely to be invested in and what plans are there to improve capacity development in growth sectors?

This is an open event, if you would like to attend, please contact [Sima Labane](#).

**Hogan Lovells Johannesburg  
Launch Reception**  
**Thursday 14 November 2019**  
**Hogan Lovells, Johannesburg office**  
**18:00 – 21:00**

We will be hosting a private reception to launch our new Johannesburg office and introduce the team. This will be an evening to network and exchange with likeminded business leaders from South Africa, the sub-region and international investors. Bringing together our global network of corporates, financial institutions and business influencers, this will be a relaxed evening to meet new contacts and explore commercial opportunities.

This is an invitation-only event. If you would like to attend, please contact [Sima Labane](#).

**Rwanda Top Table Dinner**  
**Tuesday 3 December 2019:**  
**Hogan Lovells, London office**  
**18:00 – 21:00**

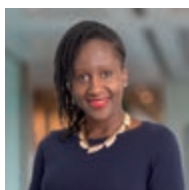
Join us as we host the High Commissioner of Rwanda, H.E Yamina Karitanyi, for a Top Table Dinner to hear first-hand about the priority areas and various government initiatives in the pipeline.

This is a small, intimate dinner which has been designed to facilitate an open and frank discussion about the experience and concerns of investors. This is also the forum to hear first-hand from Her Excellency about the opportunities and support available when doing business in Rwanda.

This is an invitation-only event. For further details or to register your interest in attending this event, please contact [Susanne Lea](#) or [Becki Chaplin](#).



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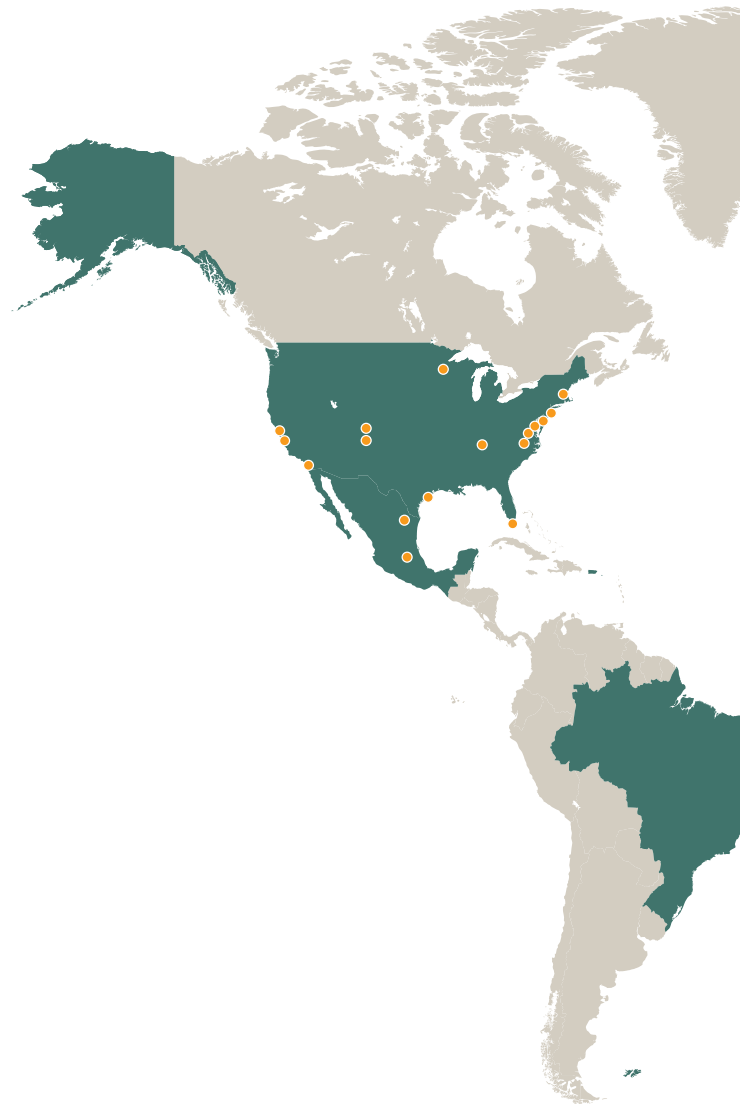


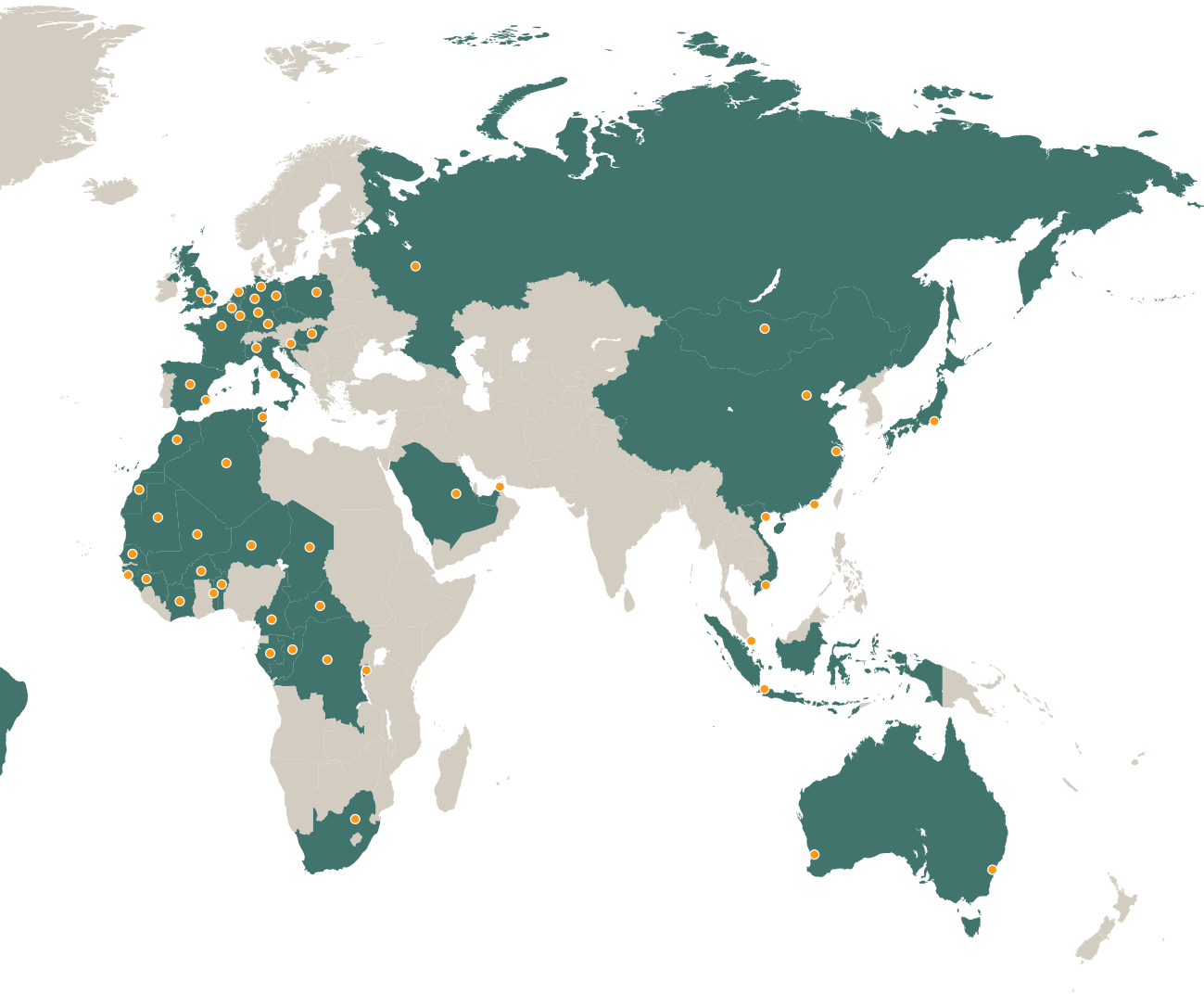
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