

Africa Construction Law Conference

2025

5TH EDITION

The future *of* Construction in Africa

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

08:30 - 09:00 • Registration and Welcome Coffee**10:00 - 10:30** • Welcome Address**Ngo-Martins Okonmah**

Partner, Aluko & Oyeboode/ACL Founder and Chair

10:30 - 12:00 • **Session 1:** Addressing the prompt payment crisis in the African construction industry.**SUMMARY:**

Examining solutions to systemic late payment, including project bank accounts, payment security instruments, legislative reform. Current data shows average payment delays of 180+ days destroying contractor capacity across the continent. The panel discussion would include a data presentation on payment crisis, solutions framework and expert discussion, case studies, and Q&A.

**Abdul Jinadu**

Barrister, Keating Chambers, London

CHAIR**Omonigho Oyoma Brown**

Head of Contract Management, Julius Berger Nigeria Plc

PANELIST**Nathan Searle**

Partner, Hogan Lovells, UK

PANELIST**Kiara Binta Nkuranga**

President, Uganda National Association of Builders, Suppliers and Engineering Contractors – UNABSEC

PANELIST**Sen. Dr. Arch. Sylvia Mueni Kasanga h.c.**

Managing Director, Sycum Solutions Co Ltd, Kenya

PANELIST**Shiv Arora**

CEO, Superior Homes (Kenya) Plc.

PANELIST

12:00 – 12:15

Coffee break

12:15 – 13:30

Session 2: Improving project bankability: the 90% challenge

SUMMARY:

Analysing why 90% of African infrastructure projects fail at the feasibility stage and providing practical tools to structure bankable projects with a focus on preparation, risk allocation, and financial structuring requirements. The panel discussion would include bankability data and challenges analysis, structuring solution and tools, success stories, and Q&A.



Joana Brandão

Partner, PLMJ, Lisbon, Portugal

CHAIR



Paula Ochango

Legal Counsel, Mota Engil, Kenya

PANELIST



Paweł Piotrowski

Partner, K & L Gates, Qatar

PANELIST



Rajat Singla

Associate Partner, MASIN, UAE

PANELIST



Ayodele Adeyemi-Faboya

Partner, Banwo & Ighodalo, Nigeria

PANELIST



Harriet Aalyiana Mdala

Partner, May and Company, Zambia

PANELIST

13:30 – 15:00

Lunch break

15:00 – 16:30

Session 3: Managing capital mobility and currency risk in African construction projects.

SUMMARY:

Exploring mechanisms to protect projects from currency volatility, including hedging instruments, local currency financing and contractual protections. Issues relating to capital mobility in the construction industry and case studies from recent currency crises in Nigeria, Ghana, and Ethiopia will be analyzed. The panel discussion would include a currency impact analysis, protection strategies, and Q&A.



Nicholas Cane

Senior Managing Director, The Vertex Companies LLC, UK

CHAIR



Sean Hugo

Senior Managing Director,
CBBG Group, a Vertex Company, EMEA

PANELIST



Patrick Jonhera

Partner, AB & David, Zimbabwe

PANELIST



David Kaggwa, FCI Arb, FICCP

Senior Partner, Kaggwa & Kaggwa Advocates, Uganda

PANELIST



Elizabeth Ashun

Partner, Bentsi-Enchill, Letsa & Ankomah, Ghana

PANELIST



Dr. Kenneth Wyne Mutuma

Chartered Arbitrator, C.Arb, FCI Arb.
(Partner, Wyne and Associates), Kenya

PANELIST

16:30 – 18:00

Oxford-style debate: 'This house believes that dispute boards represent unnecessary costs and should be abolished.'

SUMMARY:

The debate would feature opening statements, a moderated debate, audience participation, and a vote.



George Vlavianos
Partner, DLA Piper, Qatar
CHAIR



Thierry Linares
Senior Managing Director, FTI Consulting, France
PANELIST



Dr. Nagla Nassar
Partner, NassarLaw, Egypt
PANELIST



George Melo
Director, Socotec Advisory, United Kingdom
PANELIST



Kevin McIver
Director, JS Held LLC, United Kingdom
PANELIST



Paul Karekezi
Executive Chairman, Gibb Africa Ltd, Kenya
PANELIST



Sharon Mwakugu
CEO, Infraconnect 15 Ltd & Infraconnect 18 Ltd, Kenya
PANELIST

18:00 – 18:20

Networking

09:00 - 10:30 • Session 4: Strengthening arbitral independence in African construction.**SUMMARY:**

Addressing judicial intervention in arbitration processes and examining solutions to preserve arbitral independence while respecting legitimate court oversight. Analysis of recent problematic cases and successful reforms. The panel discussion would include a state of arbitration review, reform strategies, case analysis, and Q&A.

**John M. Ohaga**

Senior Partner, TripleOKLaw LLP, Kenya

CHAIR**Thomas King**

Partner Pinsent Masons, South Africa

PANELIST**Aisha Abdallah**

Partner, ALN Kenya | Anjarwalla & Khanna, Kenya

PANELIST**Terry Brown**

Managing Director, Jackson Rowe, United Kingdom

PANELIST**Jacqueline Waihenya**

Chair Chartered Institute of Arbitrator, Kenya

PANELIST**Mark Mordi** SAN, FCIArb

Partner, Aluko & Oyebode | ALN Nigeria

PANELIST

10:30 - 11:00

Coffee break

11:00 - 12:30

Session 5: Addressing corruption risk in project delivery.

SUMMARY:

Practical strategies to combat the 25% 'corruption premium' in African construction, including collective action initiatives, technology solutions, and procurement reform. The panel discussion would include a corruption impact data analysis, anti-corruption strategies, successful anti-corruption programs, and Q&A.



Noella C. Lubano

Partner, Oraro & Company Advocates, Kenya

CHAIR



Andrew Woodward

Regional Director, Quantum Global Solutions, Qatar

PANELIST



Sean Gibbs

CEO Hanscomb Intercontinental Ltd, United Kingdom

PANELIST



Eng. Bwalya Lumbwe

Chartered Arbitrator, FIDIC Certified Adjudicator and Trainer, Chartered Construction Manager, Zambia

PANELIST



Bernd EHLE

Partner LALIVE, Switzerland

PANELIST



Freyda Owino

Senior Consultant Africa, Control Risks, Kenya

PANELIST

12:30 – 14:00

Lunch break

14:00 – 15:30

Session 6: Enforcement of arbitral awards against African sovereigns: a regional perspective.

SUMMARY:

Examining why states resist arbitration award enforcement. The panel discussion would include an analysis of sovereign enforcement trends, improvement strategies, jurisdiction review and Q&A.



Lucas De Ferrari

Partner, White & Case, Paris, France

CHAIR



Professor Githu Muigai

Senior Partner, Mohammed Muigai LLP, Kenya

PANELIST



Michelle Porter-Wright

Partner, Baker McKenzie, South Africa

PANELIST



Olasupo Shasore, SAN

Partner, ALP NG & Co, Nigeria

PANELIST



Adeola Agunbiade-Adeyemi

Senior Associate Banwo & Ighodalo, Nigeria

PANELIST



Ibrahim Shetata

Partner, Shetata & Partners, Cairo, Egypt

PANELIST

15:30 – 17:00

Session 7: Risk allocation in African construction; Breaking the impasse

SUMMARY:

Examining how inappropriate risk allocation destroys project outcomes. The panel session would focus on developing balanced risk allocation frameworks that reflect market capacity, including analysis of insurance markets, guarantees, and innovative risk sharing structures.



Timothy Harwin
Partner, HKA, South Africa
CHAIR



John Woolley
Partner, Pinsent Masons, UK
PANELIST



Diogo Duarte de Campos
Partner, PLMJ, Lisbon, Portugal
PANELIST



Stefan Brill
Partner, HKA, South Africa/Spain
PANELIST



Oghogho Makinde
Partner, Aluko & Oyeboide I ALN Nigeria
PANELIST

17:00 – 17:30

Closing session & action points: concrete commitments and industry action plan to implement conference solutions.

19:00 – 22:00

Award Ceremony & Gala Dinner