

# Africa Construction Law Conference

# 2025

5TH EDITION

# The future *of* Construction in Africa

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

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

Partner, Aluko &amp; Oyeboode/ACL Founder and Chair

**09:30 - 10:30** • Keynote Address: The future of African Construction**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****Omonigbo 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 &amp; 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 &amp; 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 and developing strategies to improve compliance. 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 & Oyebode 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