Call for Candidates for the Legal Research Team (LRT)

1. Description of the AMLA Project

The African Mining Legislation Atlas (AMLA) is a legislation gathering, organization, dissemination, capacity building and capacity utilisation Project with three main activities: (i) collect, process and transform all of Africa’s mining laws and regulations into an online database with interactive features to provide comparative data; (ii) build capacity through training (on-ground and remotely) of African legal professionals, including advanced law students, a) in the use of the online platform and b) on overall issues in mining law; and (iii) produce the guiding template, an annotated document that outlines a menu of legislative solutions to assist countries in the preparation or revision of their mining laws.

The objective of the Project is to support African countries in maximizing mineral resource benefits through (i) promoting transparency, accessibility and comparison of Africa’s mining laws; (ii) facilitating the preparation, revision and implementation of mining laws; (iii) providing a living database that will catalyze research and policy debates on legal and regulatory issues; and (iv) promote the development of local legal expertise on African mining laws.

The AMLA Project was initiated by the World Bank Group (WBG) in 2013 and has been implemented in collaboration with the ALSF and the African Union Commission (AUC) and in coordination with African law faculties from across the continent. As of January 2017, the ALSF has started to assume the Project implementation leadership, through the AMLA Secretariat (a dedicated unit of the ALSF), in collaboration with the World Bank counterpart. By June 2017, the Secretariat shall fully assume this function with the support of the Facilitation Committee (FC) and Project Implementation Consortium (PIC).

2. Description of the ALSF

The African Legal Support Facility (“ALSF" or the “Facility”) is an international organization established by treaty on December 15, 2008. The Facility is housed at the African Development Bank (“AfDB”) headquarters in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire. Its membership is open to (a) all AfDB member states; (b) other states; (c) AfDB; (d) other international organizations or institutions.
The establishment of the ALSF was endorsed by the Board of Directors of the African development Bank (AfDB) on April 30, 2008 (ref. ADB/BD/WP/2008/47/Rev.2, dated June 19, 2008), in response to a growing concern from the African Ministers of Finance to: (i) assist AfDB’s regional member countries to address judicial claims brought against them by vulture funds (and other such entities) which create obstacles to obtain full range of debt relief available; and (ii) create an avenue for regional members of the AfDB to access technical advice when negotiating complex commercial transactions, in particular in respect to natural resource, extractive industry sector, PPP and infrastructure arrangements; and (iii) to build legal capacity of and promote knowledge transfer to African member countries in the above areas.

3. Purpose of the Call for Candidates

The AMLA Secretariat hosted by the African Legal Support Facility (ALSF) is preparing for this year’s edition of our on ground ten (10) days training on African mining legislation to enhance the capacity of African legal professionals in the use of the African Mining Legislation Atlas platform www.a-mla.org and overall issues in mining law.

The AMLA platform (available at www.a-mla.org) is a free one-stop resource for African mining legislation that currently provides the public with all 53 existing mining codes of the continent in an easily readable, searchable and downloadable format. Furthermore, an upgrade of this platform is underway featuring: (i) amendments to the mining codes, mining regulations and related legislation, and (ii) a country to country specific provision comparison tool. The ongoing task of populating the platform with content is undertaken by the Legal Research Team (LRT) under the advice and supervision of a quality control body.

The purpose of this call for candidates is to initiate the competitive selection process whereby a new cohort of African law students will join the LRT. Students shortlisted by their own African law schools or faculties as a result of this call for candidates will undergo through two additional selection steps (see paragraph 6 below). Those who will succeed will be offered the possibility of joining the LRT upon confirmation of support from their respective law school or faculty. The AMLA Secretariat is committed to provide an equal opportunity to all qualified candidate regardless of their gender, race, and regional affiliation.

4. Prospective Duties and Responsibilities

In order to identify the best candidates who will compete for joining the LRT, those responsible for the first students’ shortlisting occurring at law school or faculty level should keep in mind prospective LRT’s duties and responsibilities, which are as follows:
• Conduct research to compile, consolidate and organize platform relevant information, which includes (i) mining sector contextual information and (ii) mining laws, mining regulations and related legislative and regulatory documents of different African countries;
• Categorize located legislation and analyze the provisions of the mining laws and regulations against the common taxonomy used by the platform to populate the country to country comparison feature of the legislation database;
• Deliver assignments as described above (or any other as directed) in due time over a period of at least one year, preferably two; Each LRT is to provide a minimum of 6 working hours/week per assignment, which is compensated on a performance basis as opposed to an hourly basis.
• Attend at least once a 10 day training workshop at a specified location in Africa, usually held during the month of December;

The other elements that should guide the shortlisting process at law school or faculty level are described in paragraph 4 and 5 below.

5. **Qualifications of Successful Candidate**

Furthermore, eligible candidates for LRT membership must satisfy the following qualifications:

• Enrolled in good standing in a law degree (BA, Masters or PhD) with an African University until December 2018 or longer;
• Possess commendable research skills;
• Ability to travel for a one week training course; and
• Fluency in English AND French or Portuguese or Arabic.

Familiarity with/interest in extractives law is highly desirable, but not required.

6. **Competencies of Successful Candidate**

Finally, candidates with highest chance of advancing in the competitive selection process are those who:

• Work effectively and efficiently without much oversight;
• Set high standards for quality of work and consistently achieve set goals;
• Are able to work effectively in a multi-cultural environment; and
• Analyze and integrate potentially conflicting data from a number of sources.
7. Selection Steps

Each law school or faculty should present its list of shortlisted candidates with their resumes or curriculum vitae. Additional recommendations and notes on the resumes or curriculum vitae can be attached to the list of shortlisted candidates. The project will then conduct a second assessment of the candidates’ eligibility and invite, upon confirmation from the relevant law school or faculty, the selected candidates to participate in the upcoming 2017 AMLA workshop which will be held hosted at an African University School of Law, in December 2017. Only the top performers attending the workshop will be offered to become part of the LRT upon confirmation of support from their law school or faculty.

8. How to apply

This is an opportunity to foster our collaboration in training the future generation of African experts in mining law. The AMLA Secretariat would like to invite you to run the first screening of the potential candidates that will be invited to attend our 2017 AMLA workshop to be held in December. Once identified, please send us the names and CVs of four (4) of your best students that would be considered for the forthcoming Workshop. The Secretariat will run the second and last screening out the pool of candidates that you would select. The information about the location of the Workshop will be disclosed at the later stage. The detailed instructions regarding the eligibility and selection criteria are attached.

The AMLA Secretariat is committed to providing equal opportunity to all qualified candidates regardless of their gender, race, language and country of origin.

Please submit your EOI to feedback@a-mla.org and copy alsf@afdb.org, a.k.k.camara@afdb.org, and f.lukanda@afdb.org. The deadline for submissions is June 09, 2017, at 6:00 PM Abidjan (Côte d’Ivoire) time.

Please feel free to contact the AMLA Secretariat at feedback@a-mla.org should you have any questions.