ALSF ASSISTING GUINEA IN MODERNIZING ITS MINING SECTOR

Shortly after the election of President Alpha Condé in 2010, the State of Guinea embarked on a broad effort to modernize its mining sector and review existing mining conventions to ensure transparency and good governance in the negotiation and implementation of mining agreements.

To ensure an effective review of its regulations and mining conventions, the Guinean government requested specific legal assistance from the African Legal Support Facility (ALSF) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) in reviewing several mining agreements and developing a consistent framework for future contracts.

The ALSF jointly with the AfDB adopted an innovative approach by establishing a consortium of 4 high level law firms to directly work with the Guinean Government. The experts are at the disposal of the Government to launch the mining conventions and titles review process all in line with the new mining code and the country’s priorities.

The involvement of the ALSF lent much needed credibility to Guinea’s efforts to modernize its mining sector and ensure the transparency of the entire process. As a result, the modernization program is expected to raise the credibility of the mining concessions awarded to the mining companies and increase investment in the sector.

Moreover, to enhance efficiency of the process, the ALSF and the AfDB along with the Guinean Government are establishing a professional services fund, the first of its kind in Africa, to finance legal professionals and experts engaged in the modernization of the mining sector in an African country.