

BIO FOR STEPHEN KARANGIZI (2019)

Mr Stephen Karangizi has been the Director and CEO of the African Legal Support Facility (ALSF) since October 2011. The African Legal Support Facility, hosted by the African Development Bank, was established to address the asymmetric negotiating capacity of African governments when dealing with deep-pocketed international investors. The ALSF has already provided legal advice and technical assistance to over 45 African countries in the areas of natural resource contracts, infrastructure and PPPs. He has over 36 years of experience as a lawyer in International Commercial and Trade Law.

The ALSF provides advisory support to African States in transactional, corporate and regulatory matters related to energy, oil and gas, mining and infrastructure projects. In addition ALSF also provides advisory services to African States on sovereign debt issues.

Before joining the ALSF, he was Deputy Secretary General (Programmes) of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) from 2008 to 2011. He was also the Legal Advisor for COMESA from 1997 to 2008. He has also as served as a Legal Advisor for the Governments of Antigua and Barbuda (West Indies), Uganda and Zimbabwe after starting off in private legal practice. Mr. Karangizi was also Chairman of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) in 2004 - 2008 at a time of the review of the UNCITRAL Model Laws on Arbitration and Public Procurement.

Some of his achievements included establishment of several intergovernmental organizations such as the first political risk insurance institution the African Trade Insurance Agency, the COMESA Court of Justice and the COMESA Competition Commission. He also led the legal team for African regional groups in multilateral negotiations of the Economic Partnership Agreement with the EU and other multilateral arrangements.

He holds Bachelor of Law Degree with Honors (LL.B Hons) (Makerere University (Uganda)), a Masters in Laws (LL.M) Degree (University of Zimbabwe). He is enrolled as a Legal Practitioner of the High Court of Zimbabwe and as an Advocate of the High Court of Uganda.