

## **BIO FOR**

### **STEPHEN KARANGIZI**

Mr. Stephen Karangizi is a Ugandan National and immediate past Director and CEO of the African Legal Support Facility (ALSF) which he served for the statutory two terms, from October 2011 to October 2021. As CEO, he was also an ex-officio member of the Board. The ALSF is an international legal entity established by Treaty (Agreement) hosted by the African Development Bank. He has been practicing as a lawyer for close to forty years.

The ALSF ([www.alsf.int](http://www.alsf.int)) was established to address the asymmetric negotiating capacity of African governments when dealing with international investors. The ALSF has provided legal advice and technical assistance to at least 50 African countries in the areas of debt management, natural resources, infrastructure, and PPPs and major International Arbitration litigation.

Prior to joining the ALSF, Stephen was Deputy Secretary General (Projects and Programmes) of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) from 2008 to 2011. He was also the Legal Advisor (General Counsel) for COMESA from 1996 to 2008. I provided advice on all aspects of regional integration. He also served as a Legal Counsel of COMESA from 1993 to 1996.

As Legal Advisor (Director for Legal and Institutional Matters), of COMESA, Stephen was responsible for oversight of all legal matters including provision of legal advice, drafting of treaties and agreements, as well as advising all COMESA organs and institutions including the Council of Ministers and the Assembly of Heads of State and Government.

As Deputy (Assistant) Secretary General for Projects and Programmes at COMESA from 2008 to 2011, he was responsible for coordinating all COMESA Projects and Programmes which included Trade and Customs, Monetary Affairs, Infrastructure, ICT, Agriculture, and Industry.

He successfully chaired the highly technical United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) from 2004 to 2008 at a time of the review of the UNCITRAL Model Laws on Arbitration and Public Procurement. Previously he was a Legal Advisor for the Governments of Antigua and Barbuda (West Indies) (1990 – 1993), Uganda (1988 to 1990) and Zimbabwe (1983 to 1988) providing legislative drafting services as well as general legal advisory services.

Since ending his tenure as the CEO of ALSF, he has been asked by multiple international institutions, to assist them with short term advisory services. These have included working on an Afreximbank Project assessing the impact of the AfCFTA on the Franchising industry in Africa, advising SADC in the setting up an Agricultural Development Fund, advising the EAC in assessing the investment regimes with the view of their harmonization and advising the AU High Level Panel on combating illicit financial flows.

He holds a Masters in Law (LLM) degree from the University of Zimbabwe (specializing in legislative drafting and international economic law) and a Bachelor of Law (LLB Honours) from Makerere University amongst other qualifications. He is an Advocate of the High Court of Uganda and a Legal Practitioner of the High Court of Zimbabwe.