



Organisation pour l'Harmonisation en Afrique du Droit des Affaires
Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa
Organización para la Armonización en África del Derecho de los Negocios
Organização para a Harmonização em África do Direito dos Negócios

PERMANENT SECRETARIAT

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE SPO2025-1

OHADA Celebrates the International Women's Rights Day

In-person and by videoconference, 18 March 2025, 9:30 am, local time

THEME:

"The Role of Women in the Implementation of Business Law "

CONCEPT NOTE

Business law is a key factor in economic development. It has a significant impact on both local and foreign investment, as it guides, regulates, preserves and enhances them. It plays a strategic role in guaranteeing the legal and judicial security of investments, promoting economic emergence and mainstreaming of new forms of entrepreneurship.

As an effective lever for the structuring, transformation, growth and sovereignty of African economies, providing, on a regular basis, African countries with legal solutions to their economic difficulties, the Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa (OHADA) undeniably contributes to the development and consolidation of an harmonized business law which is conducive to economic activity. As a proponent of economic sovereignty and an inclusive economy in African countries, OHADA recognises all the stakeholders in business life (economic players, legal and accounting professionals, consumers, public and private institutions supporting, regulating and supervising economic activities), and gives each of them the importance and attention they deserve. Against this backdrop and relying primarily on the principles of generality and impersonality of the law it produces, OHADA promotes equality between men and women, and grants women an important role in the implementation of business law.

The choice of OHADA is not accidental. Women play a fundamental role in Africa's economic and social development. They contribute significantly to the African economy, whether in business, on farms, as entrepreneurs or employees, or through their expert

professional advice. Their remarkable involvement also helps to anchor the social and solidarity economy, as well as community development in local areas.

The ever-increasing role of women in business life confirms the relevance and nobility of multi-faceted actions aimed at women's economic empowerment. Recognition of women as economic players in their own right remains a major challenge, and States, International Organisations, Non-Governmental Organisations and other players are all working in perfect harmony to make women's economic empowerment a reality.

The African Union's Agenda 2063 includes "full equality between men and women in all spheres of life" as, particularly in the two priority areas of empowering women and girls and eliminating gender-based violence and discrimination. Aspiration 6 of this Agenda calls for "an Africa whose development is based on the potential of the African people, in particular women and young people, and which takes care of children". For the AU, this means placing women and girls at the heart of Africa's development agenda.

OHADA, through ERSUMA, its framework for the integrated development of African human capital, is undeniably consolidating its place in the system of regular capacity-building for women legal professionals, figures experts and economic players. Following the example of certain OHADA member States, some African countries are considering an innovative legal framework to expand and pool training, support and financing opportunities for women's activities.

Within this framework, the African Women Leaders Network (AWLN), launched in 2017 with the support of the AU Commission and the UN, through the Office of the AU Special Envoy on Women, Peace, Security and UN Women, is gradually being rolled out in African countries and seeks to strengthen women's leadership in Africa's transformation, with a particular focus on peace, security, governance and sustainable development. All these actions deserve to be known, evaluated and, if necessary, reviewed to reinforce the system's performance and preserve its achievements.

This is the purpose of the International Women's Rights Day, celebrated every year on March 8. Recognized by the United Nations in 1977, this day is an excellent opportunity to reflect on women's achievements, and also to take stock of the challenges still to be faced to improve women's rights, as their participation in economic life is a global social issue that requires the mobilisation and contribution of everyone.

This year, 2025, marks 30 years since the Declaration of the Beijing Platform for Action, a plan which aims to achieve equality for all women and girls worldwide. The general theme for this year, as defined by the United Nations, is as follows: **"For ALL women and girls: Rights, Equality, Empowerment."** This theme "calls for action to promote equal rights, power and opportunities for all, and a future in which no one is left behind. "

As part of the celebration of this International Women's Rights Day, OHADA is organizing, at its headquarters in Yaoundé and by videoconference, on ***Tuesday March 18, 2025, from 09:00 to 13:00 (GMT)***, an international conference on the following theme: ***"The Role of Women in the Implementation of Business Law"*** The aim of this conference is to present and analyse the role of women in the implementation of OHADA law and other branches of business law. It will be an opportunity to focus on the reforms driven by OHADA to promote an inclusive economy and the economic empowerment of women, with particular emphasis on female entrepreneurship, governance, business financing,

sustainability, the preservation of social peace and the practice of the legal and figures professions.

Panelists will focus their attention on the following key areas:

- Women's entrepreneurship in the OHADA region;
- Supporting women in implementing cooperative law;
- Women and alternative disputes resolution;
- Enforcement: the assets of the female bailiff.

1- Target audience

The conference is open to the general public.

The event is expected to be well attended by women entrepreneurs, legal professionals, accountants and figures experts, managers and agents of banks and financial institutions, members of chambers of commerce and industry and management structures of one-stop business formalities, executives of ministries promoting small and medium-sized enterprises and microfinance, managers and executives of public enterprises, representatives of technical and financial partners, teachers, researchers and students.

2- Date and venue

The conference will take place on Tuesday, March 18, 2025 from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm (Yaoundé time), in-person in the meeting room of the OHADA Permanent Secretariat (Yaoundé/Cameroon) and by videoconference.

3- Conditions for participation

Participation is free, both in-person and by videoconference.

Registration is compulsory, and can be done through the following the link: <https://sigweb.ersuma.org/formation/SPO2025-CONF1>

Those wishing to attend in person are requested, after registering on the platform, to confirm their participation in person, no later than **Monday, 17 March 2025**, by sending an email to the following address: liassidji.sp@ohada.org

4- Programme (in local Yaoundé time)

9:00 - 09:30: [Welcome and installation of participants](#);

9:30 am - 9:40 am: [Welcome address](#) by **Prof Mayatta Ndiaye MBAYE**, Permanent Secretary of OHADA;

9: 40: [Opening of the conference](#) moderated by **Mrs Esther NGO MOUTNGUI épouse ETOUE**, CCJA President;

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- 9:45 - 10:05 : *Women's entrepreneurship in the OHADA region:*
By **Dr Rachel-Claire OKANI**, Lecturer, University of Yaoundé II;
- 10:05 am - 10:25 am: *Supporting women in implementing cooperative law:*
By **Ms Adeline EKOTO, épouse EBALE**, Agro-economics Engineer and holder of a DSS in cooperative economics;
- 10:25 - 10:40: *Enforcement: the Assets of the Female Bailiff :*
By **Alice DATSING TOFACK**, Bailiff in Dschang ;
- 11: 00 - 11:15: *Women and Alternative Disputes Resolution:*
By **Dr Bintou BOLI DJIBO**, Professional Mediator, Trainer at ERSUMA, President of Consensualis Multi-Doors Firm;
- 11:15 - 11:45: Discussions with participants;
- 11:45 - 12:00: *Concluding remarks*
By **Dr Alexis NDZUENKEU**, Judicial and Legal Officer, OHADA's Director of Legal Affairs, Documentation and Communication.