

Foreword

This volume of the African Law Study Library presents the works and results of the 5th regional conference, which took place in Dakar, Senegal in March 2017 and was organized by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation under the Rule of Law Program for Sub-Saharan Africa.

The conference about “Requirements for an independent and effective judiciary in Benin, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo – current problems” gathered highly qualified and experienced lawyers from six different West African countries.

The participants were French-Speakers or English-Speakers but had the chance to exchange their experiences and views without language barriers as the conference took place in both languages.

The concept of the regional conference was based on previous regional conferences assembling post graduated lawyers. The 4th regional conference took place in East Africa and was focused on aspects of civil and criminal proceeding matters, e.g. the appointment of judges, procedural challenges in enforcing civil judgements and the collaboration of investigative authorities. The results are published in volume 3/2016 KAS African Law Study Library (<https://www.nomos-elibrary.de/zeitschrift/2363-6262/3>).

The 5th conference aimed to create a network of judges, lawyers and prosecutors to facilitate a regional exchange and transfer of knowledge and experiences. Transparency and independency are both elementary criteria to guarantee the Rule of Law. A functioning judicial system requires independent judges and clearly defined, transparent and effective judicial proceedings. The presented lectures concerned civil, criminal, commercial and arbitral matters.

Each participant was free in choosing and proposing aspects focused on his specific national judicial systems, which he or she found important to discuss. The following discussions contributed to a comparative approach and realized the conference’s aim. This volume presents the lectures in written form either as articles or as reports.

The lawyers worked in international teams and developed proposals on how to improve concrete judicial issues. The results of the workshop groups are attached as an annex. The content of the papers does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the respective reporter.

Opinions expressed in the articles published in this volume are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily represent our opinion or those of Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

Karima Ameziane

Hartmut Hamann

Arne Wulff