

FOREWORD

This volume contains the second part of articles which reflect the results of the “Leaders for Justice Workshop” which took place in Dakar, Senegal, from the 31st July to 03rd August 2025.

The workshop, which was organised by the Rule of Law Program for Sub-Saharan Africa of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, brought together lawyers from Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote D’Ivoire, DR Congo, Mali, Niger, Senegal, Togo, to discuss current legal issues of in Africa.

The workshop focused on the ““Legal framework for youth participation in politics and the economy in French-speaking Sub-Saharan Africa”.

Dr. Sakinatou Bello, Benin, presented on “Young people's access to electoral mandates in French-speaking Africa: analysis of the case of Benin” – Young people are regarded as the vanguard of the nation, its most reliable guarantee for the future. While they constitute approximately 60 % of the population, they are systematically marginalized in positions of power. This article highlights the paradox between the demographic majority of young people and their underrepresentation in decision-making bodies.

Sandrine Estelle Adon, Ivory Coast, analyses “Entrepreneurship, legal framework for youth participation in economic life in Côte d'Ivoire.” – Her paper examines entrepreneurship as a legal and economic model for enhancing the participation of young people in Côte d'Ivoire's economic life. Faced with a rapidly growing youth population and limited absorption capacity in both the public and private sectors, entrepreneurship emerges as an essential alternative for professional integration.

Fatou Bintou Faye, Senegal, shared insights in “Improving the regulatory framework for access to and creation of employment to optimize youth participation in the economy: the case of Senegal.” – Despite a relatively rich national and international legal framework, access to employment and the creation of economic opportunities for young people remain insufficient in Senegal. This author shines a light on the regulatory framework for access to and the creation of employment to optimize youth participation.

Penda Dieng, Senegal, presented on “Geopolitics: the strategic stakes of the rivalry between major powers in West Africa” – In this analysis of Africa the author focuses on Africa's crucial role in global geopolitics, where trade routes, military interests, and regional influences intersect. They show how rivalries translate into competition for control of natural resources and the conquest of new markets in the face of concerns about the continent's sovereignty.

Egla Fauistine Kasongo Mwana, DR Congo, writes on “The political stakes of Congolese youth engagement in good governance and social accountability” – This article examines the role of young people in promoting good governance and social accountability in Francophone Africa. It explores how youth engagement can effectively contribute to

public affairs management and under what conditions it can serve as a driver of social transformation.

Mohamed Berthe, Mali, examines “The effectiveness of young people's political rights in the Malian context” – This paper researches the legal effectiveness of young people’s political rights in the Malian context and addresses the constraints which don’t allow the young population to fully exercise their rights.

Ibrahima Mbodj, Senegal, wrote an article titled “The necessity of including young people in the political life of Senegal” – Throughout its rich political and democratic history, Senegal has stood out for its resilience in the face of adversity. His article offers an in-depth analysis of the role that young people could play in the renewal of Senegalese political life in its broadest sense.

Also all articles published in this second volume covering the workshop in Dakar demonstrate the willingness of a young generation of African lawyers to share their thoughts and to engage in the future of their continent. Participants of the workshop in Dakar expressed the will to build a network of lawyers dedicated to the Rule of Law. They intend to broaden their cooperation and to meet again in future workshops which will examine other subjects important for the young generation on the African continent.

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