

2026
jAW
JOHANNESBURG
ARBITRATION WEEK



**JOHANNESBURG
ARBITRATION WEEK**
Showcasing Arbitration in Africa

Tuesday 5 May 2026 - Thursday 7 May 2026

Presented by



JAW PROGRAMME

THEME : ARBITRATION IN A FRAGMENTED GLOBAL ORDER: THE FUTURE OF TRADE, INVESTMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Monday 4 May 2026

AFSA	AFSA Seminar		09H00 – 13H00
	Arbitration in Practice: Bridging Domestic and International Standards in Southern Africa		
			17H00
	VIP reception at AFSA (by invitation only)		

DAY 1: Tuesday 5 May 2026

REGISTRATION	PLENARY Venue A		08H00 – 08H30
	Registration and refreshments		
OPENING	PLENARY Venue A		08H30 – 08H55
	Choir		
WELCOME	PLENARY Venue A		08H55 – 09H00
SESSION 1	PLENARY Venue A		09H00 – 09H15
	AFSA Opening		
	PLENARY Venue A		09H15 – 09H45
	Keynote speech		
SESSION 2	PLENARY Venue A		09H45 – 10H30
	Statesmen in Dialogue: Leadership and Dispute Resolution in Africa		
	PLENARY Venue A		10H30 – 11H00
	Arbitration Through the Eyes of the Bench: Practice Pitfalls and Perspectives		
TEA BREAK			11H00 – 11H20
SESSION 3	PLENARY Venue A	AFSA	11H30 – 12H30
	AFSA@30: Founding, Growth, and the Future of Arbitration in Africa		
LUNCH			12H30 – 13H20
SESSION 4	PLENARY Venue A	CDH	13H30 – 14H30
	BRICS, AfCFTA & the Fading Rules-Based Order: What This Means for Arbitration		
TEA BREAK			14H30 – 14H50
SESSION 5	PLENARY Venue A	Webber Wentzel	15H00 – 16H00
	Beyond Expropriation: Performance Obligations, Resource Nationalism and Mining Arbitration in Africa		
SESSION 6	PLENARY Venue A	JSA/AFT	16H00 – 17H00
	Reseating Africa: Structural Reform, Judicial Confidence and the Rise of African Arbitral Hubs		
COCKTAIL PARTY			17H00 for 17H30

THEME : ARBITRATION IN A FRAGMENTED GLOBAL ORDER: THE FUTURE OF TRADE, INVESTMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

DAY 2: Wednesday 6 May 2026

SESSION 1	PLENARY Venue A	Bowmans	09H00 – 10H00
	Leveraging Opportunities in Times of Uncertainty: Africa's Legislative Modernisation, BITs and Increased Judicial Support for Enforcement		
SESSION 2	PLENARY Venue A	AFSA	10H00 – 11H00
	AFSA in the World		
TEA BREAK			11H00 – 11H20
SESSION 3	PLENARY Venue A	Baker McKenzie	11H30 – 12H30
	The Future of Arbitration Advocacy: AI Assisted Evidence, Virtual Hearings and the Ethics of Tech Augmented Counsel		
LUNCH			12H30 – 13H30
SESSION 4	BREAKAWAY 1 Venue B	Webber Wentzel	13H30 – 14H30
	The Impact of Sanctions on International Arbitration and Enforcement		
	BREAKAWAY 2 Venue B	JSA/AFT	13H30 – 14H30
	Energy, Infrastructure and Transition Risk: Arbitration at the centre of Africa's Commercial Transformation		
TEA BREAK			14H30 – 14H50
SESSION 5	BREAKAWAY 1 Venue B	CDH	15H00 – 16H00
	Critical Minerals, Energy Security & Strategic Supply Chains: Disputes in the New Geopolitical Battleground		
	BREAKAWAY 3 Venue C	Baker McKenzie	15H00 – 16H00
	Patterns in Arbitral Procedure and Decision Making in Sub Saharan Africa: Institutional Practice, Process Design and Outcomes.		
	BREAKAWAY 3 Venue C	Jus Mundi	15H00 – 16H00
	The Use of AI in Arbitration Proceedings		
GALA DINNER	BALLROOM		18H30 for 19H00

THEME : ARBITRATION IN A FRAGMENTED GLOBAL ORDER: THE FUTURE OF TRADE, INVESTMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

DAY 3: Thursday 7 May 2026

SESSION 1	PLENARY Venue A KALAGADI MOOT		09H00 – 11H00
TEA BREAK			11H00 – 11H20
SESSION 2	BREAKAWAY 1 PLENARY Collaborating for Credibility: Institutional Cooperation and the Future of Arbitration in Africa	AFSA	11H30 – 12H30
SESSION 3	PLENARY Venue A Sanctions, trade wars, and geopolitical rivalry make mediation (not arbitration) the only realistic mechanism for resolving cross-border commercial disputes involving African parties caught between competing global blocs.	Young AFSA	12H30 – 13H30
SESSION 4	PLENARY Venue A CONFERENCE REVIEW		13H30 – 14H15
CLOSING	PLENARY Venue A		14H15 – 14H30
LUNCH			14H30 – 15H30

JAW 2026 Speakers

	HE Joaquim Alberto Chissano, Former President Of The Republic Of Mozambique HE Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, Former President Of The Republic Of Nigeria HE Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta, Former President Of The Republic Of Kenya HE Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Former President Of The Republic Of Liberia			
	Judge Sandile Ngcobo CJ (RET) Judge Sutherland DJP (RET) Judge Norman Davis ADJP Judge David Unterhalter			
	James Banda	Jonathan Barnes	Prof Lise Bosman	Vivien Chaplin
	Jackwell Feris	Sir Clive Freedman	Prof Michael Katz	John Kawana
	Dr Aleksei Korachkin	Adv Michael Kuper SC	Adv Henk Louw	Brian Mambosho
	Burton Meyer	Clement Mkiva	Akshav Mossuddee	Victor Mugabe
	Susan Mutangadura	Dr John Nyanje	Andile Nikani	Gerhard Rudolph
	Clive Rumsey	Adv Svetlana Vasileva	Des Williams	

THEME : ARBITRATION IN A FRAGMENTED GLOBAL ORDER: THE FUTURE OF TRADE, INVESTMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

JAW 2026 Co-hosts and Partners



JAW 2026 Sponsors



JAW 2026 Supporting Organisations

