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Job Posting Title

Senior Legal Officer (Inter African and Treaty Matters)

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Job Title

Senior Legal Officer (Inter African and Treaty Matters)

Organization

The African Union, established as a unique Pan African continental body, is charged with spearheading Africa's rapid integration and sustainable development by promoting unity, solidarity, cohesion and cooperation among the peoples of Africa and African States, as well as developing a new partnership worldwide. Its Headquarters is located in Addis Ababa, capital city of Ethiopia.

In seeking to achieve these objectives, the African Union intends to strengthen its capacity to deliver by, among others, the implementation of new organization structure and the filling of all vacant posts.

The Commission of the African Union invites applicants who are citizens of Member States of the African Union to apply for the position of Senior Legal Officer (Inter African and Treaty Matters).

To achieve this objective, the African Union intends to strengthen its capacity to fulfill its mission by, among others, the implementation of its organizational structure and the filling of all vacant posts by nationals of Member States.

Candidates from the following least represented countries at the African Union Commission are encouraged to apply: Angola, Eritrea, Central African Republic, Cape Verde, Comoros, Congo (DRC), Equatorial Guinea, Guinea (Rep), Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Madagascar, Namibia, Sahrawi Arab Republic, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles , Somalia and South Sudan.

Department

Job title: Senior Legal Officer (Inter African and Treaty Matters)
Grade: P3
Department: Office of the Legal Counsel, African Union Commission

Supervisor: Deputy Legal Counsel
Duty Station: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Project

- Providing legal advice to all organs created by the Constitutive Act of the African Union and the AEC Treaty;
- Dealing with other issues arising out of the implementation of the Constitutive Act, the Abuja Treaty and other AU Treaties, Conventions and Protocols;
- Providing legal advice to all Departments, Directorates and Units of the African Union Commission in order to ensure compliance with the Constitutive Act of the African Union, the AEC Treaty and other legal texts and instruments of the AU;
- Following up on the implementation of all the Treaties and Conventions adopted by the AU;
- Ensuring that all decisions and actions undertaken by the AU Policy Organs are in conformity with the provisions of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, the AEC Treaty and other legal texts and instruments.

Tasks

Assist the Legal Counsel to:

- a. Draft legal texts, in particular, treaties, conventions, protocols, cooperation agreements and such other legal instruments;
- b. Oversee the depository functions of the Office of the Legal Counsel such as such as updating the AU treaties database, conducting treaty signing and receipt of instruments of ratification or accession, development of promotional activities to encourage signature, ratification/accession and implementation, among others;
- c. Assist in other tasks aimed at ensuring the smooth and quick implementation of the AEC Treaty and other AU treaties and conventions;
- d. Ensure effective cooperation with the Regional Mechanisms, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) as well as Partners.
- e. Advise all the policy organs of the AU in the exercise of their law making functions in order to ensure legality and harmonization with existing texts;
- f. Provide necessary administrative, legal and logistic support to the meetings of the Legal Advisers of the AU and RECs;
- g. Provide legal services to the other organs of the Union such as the Pan-African Parliament, the Court of Justice and so on;
- h. Follow-up on the work of the various Regional Mechanisms and Regional Economic Communities with a view to harmonizing their treaties and protocols with the relevant legal instruments of the Union and also deal with issues of non-compliance with the provisions of the Constitutive Act of the African Union and the AEC Treaty;
- i. Provide legal advice to the other Policy Organs of the AU, such as the Assembly, the Executive Council and the Central Organ/ Peace and Security Council to ensure that appropriate decisions are taken and implemented
- j. Prepare reports for submission to the Executive Council and the Assembly of the Union;

- k. Represent the Commission in meetings of a legal nature;
- l. Advise on the harmonization and coordination of legal strategies and policies of all Member States within the framework of the Union;
- m. Follow-up on the legal aspects of activities of the regional representations, specialized offices and agencies; and
- n. Perform any other work as may be assigned by supervisors.

Requirements

1. Educational Qualifications and Professional experience required:

- Must have a University Master's Degree in Law from a recognized University and a Seven (7) years' experience in a similar role that requires provision of legal advisory services in an organization dealing with multilateral issues, Departments of Justice/International Affairs or Cooperation of Member States, or such other relevant organizations and institutions.
- Must have a University Bachelor Degree in Law from a recognized University and a Ten (10) years' experience in a similar role that requires provision of legal advisory services in an organization dealing with multilateral issues, Departments of Justice/International Affairs or Cooperation of Member States, or such other relevant organizations and institutions of which 5 years of experience at a supervisor level.

2. Other relevant skills:

- Excellent and demonstrated research skills
- Leadership abilities and management experience
- Computer literacy;
- Analytical skills;
- Excellent drafting and reporting skills;
- Good communication and negotiating skills;
- Good planning and organizational skills.

3. Language requirement:

Proficiency in one of the African Union working languages (Arabic, English, French and Portuguese) is a must. Knowledge of other working languages would be an added advantage.

4. Tenure of appointment:

The appointment will be made on fixed term contract for a period of three (3) years, of which the first twelve months are considered probationary period. Thereafter, the contract will be for a period of two years renewable, subject to satisfactory performance and deliverables.

5. Equal opportunity:

The AU Commission is an equal opportunity employer and qualified women are strongly encouraged to apply.

6. Remuneration:

Indicative basic salary US\$ 35,300.00 per annum (P3 Step 1) plus other related entitlements e.g. post adjustment (46% of basic salary), housing allowance (US\$ 14,414.40 per annum), education allowance (75% of

tuition and other related expenses for every eligible dependent up to a maximum of US\$7,800.00 per child per annum), etc. for internationally recruited staff of the Commission.

7. Application procedure:

The applications must be made through the AUC E-recruitment Website <http://www.aucareers.org>, not later than 25th February 2017.

Applications are pre-screened by the system according to the published requirements of the job opening on the basis of the information provided in the application. In relation to the requirements of the job opening, applicants must provide complete and accurate information pertaining to their qualifications, including their education, work experience, and language skills. Each applicant must bear in mind that submission of incomplete or inaccurate applications may render that applicant ineligible for consideration for the job opening. Initial screening and evaluation of applications will be conducted on the basis of the information submitted. Applications cannot be amended following submission. Candidates under serious consideration for selection will be subject to a reference-checking process to verify the information provided in the application.

Directorate of Administration and Human Resource Management
African Union Commission
P.O. Box 3243, Addis Ababa (Ethiopia)
Fax: 00251-11-5525840/5510430
E-mail: au-recruits@africa-union.org

Contract Type

Regular (Long Duration)

Employment Fraction

Full-time

Branch

Headquarters