NEW YEAR’S MESSAGE

Dear Learned Colleagues,

The Pan-African Lawyers’ Union passionately pursued its activities throughout the year with your help and participation. Our annual conference, held in Livingstone, Zambia, early July 2023, on the role of the legal profession in managing the sovereign debt crisis in African countries, was a resounding success, in terms of both participation, scientific exchanges and recommendations.

During the conference, we also launched the THULANI MASEKO Prize, which will be awarded each year for commitment to human rights, and signed a MoU with the National Bar Association, one of the oldest organizations of lawyers in the United States of America, under which we shall hold programs that are of mutual interest to our members.

PALU has continued to carry the voice of the continent’s legal profession here and beyond at all the meeting of its sister’s organizations.

I would like to thank the Council, Executive Committee members, Secretariat, stakeholders and our dearest members for all their efforts and sacrifices in 2023.

I believe that the time has come to work more closely with our collective and individual members to make the Pan-African Lawyers’ Union a grassroots association, as suggested by its Constitution.

Increased awareness among the various National Bars and Law Societies with a view to attracting as many members as possible and encouraging their effective involvement in the activities of the continental organization seems to be the direction to take over the next few years.

The involvement of all will make it possible to give as many lawyers as possible the chance to seize the opportunities that arise and will give us the means to meet the challenges that lie ahead.

There are many opportunities, given the enlargement of the BRICS to include some African countries as from January 2024 and the ongoing implementation of the continental free trade area.

There are also still many challenges in terms of the rule of law, restriction of civic space and governance issues on our continent.

3, Jandu Road, Corridor Area, P.O. Box 6065 Arusha, TANZANIA, www.lawyersofafrica.org
We must seek to make the most of the partnerships we form in order to give ourselves the means to offer our members the continuing education they need and to equip them to seize the new professional opportunities that arise.

The next annual conference in Morocco will also be an opportunity to reunite and to exchange ideas in the pursuit of these noble ideals. At the suggestion of the Moroccan Lawyers' Club, the Marrakech Bar Association has offered to host us next May 2024 in the imperial city, and we are already looking forward to a high-quality event and a memorable conference.

While looking forward to seeing you there, I wish you all the best of health, prosperity and longevity from PALU in 2024.

Happy 2024 New Year to the African legal profession and its members.

The President
Kari ABDOUL BAGUI