Rounding the Cape – Storms or Good Hope for the Law at Sea?

28 – 30 April 2025 - Cape Town, South Africa

NRF National Research Foundation

SOAS University of London

University of Basel

Maritime Law Association of South Africa

University of Cape Town · iYunivesithi yaseKapa · Universiteit van Kaapstad

ILA Australia International Law Association

South Africa International Law Association

University of KwaZulu-Natal™ · Inyuvesi YakwaZulu-Natali

Nelson Mandela University

CMR Coastal & Marine Research

Norton Rose Fulbright

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Cape Town, South Africa 28 – 30 April 2025

Day 1: Monday 28 April 2025 (OR Tambo Room, Kramer Law Building, UCT Middle Campus)

16:00-18:00 Registration

18:00-20:00 Welcome cocktail sponsored by Norton Rose Fulbright South Africa and keynote address: Andrew Robinson (Norton Rose Fulbright South Africa)

Day 2: Tuesday 29 April 2025 (OR Tambo Room, Kramer Law Building, UCT Middle Campus)

08:30-09:30 Arrival and registration

Session 1: Resource-related challenges

Chair: Denning Metuge (University of Cape Town, South Africa)

09:30-10:00 Zia Madani "Striking a balance between scientific (un)certainty with precautionary approach and due diligence obligations: Lessons from the recent ITLOS Advisory Opinion on Climate Change and International Law" (University of Tsukuba, Japan)

10:00-10:30 Andrea Longo "Fishing for rights! The rule of reference and the protection of people on-board fishing vessels" (University of Basel, Switzerland)

10:30-11:00 Robert Steenkamp "Marine geoengineering and the African Union: unifying and strengthening the position of the African Union in multilateral international fora" (International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and University of Hamburg, Germany)

11:00-11:30 Group photo and coffee/tea

11:30-12:00 NJ Ayuk TBC (Executive Chairman of African Energy Chamber, South Africa)

12:00-12:15 Discussant: Eduardo Cavalcanti De Mello Filho (Centre for International Law, National University of Singapore)

12:15-12:30 Q&A

12:30-13:30 Lunch

Session 2: Safety, security and AI-related challenges

Chair: Kamal-Deen Ali (CEO Ghana Maritime Authority)

13:30-14:00 Thobisa Simelane "Exploring the regulatory sandbox approach in the context of new technologies in maritime navigation: Focus on the maritime security aspects of using micro contraptions in international marine scientific research" (Nelson Mandela University, South Africa)

14:00-14:30 Francois Vreÿ "Latest safety and security-related developments in the African maritime domain" (University of Stellenbosch, South Africa)

14:30-15:00 Maria-Louiza Deftou "Human rights violations emanating from the use of remote sensing in the Mediterranean: a jurisdictional approach" (AthensPIL, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece)

15:00-15:30 Coffee/tea

15:30-16:00 Vishal Surbun "Recent legal developments relating to piracy in Africa's maritime domain" (University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa)
16:00-16:15 Discussant: Kristina Siig (University of Southern Denmark, Denmark)
16:15-16:30 Q&A

Day 3: Wednesday 30 April 2025 (OR Tambo Room, Kramer Law Building, UCT Middle Campus)

Session 3: Human rights-related jurisdictional challenges

Chair: Irini Papanicolopulu (SOAS University of London, United Kingdom)

09:00-09:30 Pieter Van Welzen "'Piercing the flag State veil': Beneficial owners of fishing vessels and their responsibility for labour abuses" (CMS South Africa)
09:30-10:00 Arron Honniball "Looking beyond the usual suspects: Twenty years of detention review panel proceedings and their contributions to protecting persons at sea" (Max Planck Foundation for International Peace and the Rule of Law, Germany)
10:00-10:30 Liu Siyu "The functional realisation of marine environmental public interest litigation to protect human rights" (Wuhan University, China)
10:30-11:00 Natalie Klein "International law duties of non-State actors to protect people at sea" (UNSW, Australia)

11:00-11:30 Coffee/tea

11:30-12:00 Dariusz Bugajski "Detention of a person at sea under Polish law and in light of international law" (Polish Naval Academy, Poland)
12:00-12:10 Anna Petrig (University of Basel, Switzerland) "Presentation of COST Action BlueRights"
12:10-12:25 Discussant: Reece Lewis (Cardiff University, United Kingdom)
12:25-12:40 Q&A

12:40-13:30 Lunch

Session 4: The future of the law of the sea and maritime law in Africa

Chair: Dusty-Lee Donnelly (University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa)

13:30-14:05 Vonintsoa Rafaly "Africa, climate change and the ocean: seeking justice at the time of global challenges" (University of Copenhagen, Denmark)
14:05-14:40 Adrian Bellengere "The proposed establishment of an African Antarctic Regional Interest Group" (University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa)
14:40-15:15 Paul Wambua "The future trends in the law of the sea and maritime law in Africa" (University of Nairobi, Kenya)

15:15-15:45 Coffee/tea

15:45-16:15 Discussant: Ifesinachi Okafor-Yarwood (University of St Andrews, Scotland)

16:15-16:30 Q&A

Closing contribution

17:00-17:45 Keynote address: Judge Thembile Joyini (ITLOS)

17:45-18:00 Vote of thanks

Conference link and QR code for online participation: https://bit.ly/Rounding_the_Cape