

**Academic Colloquium on Law and Noncommunicable Diseases in Africa.
Promoting healthy diets and physical activity through the law**

Call for Abstracts

I. Introduction

A. Background and Context

The African Colloquium on Law and Noncommunicable Diseases ('the Colloquium') aims to convene academics from Africa from different disciplines to discuss the role of the law in addressing Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs) in the continent.

The Colloquium is grounded upon the Global RECAP Programme¹, which seeks to enhance the national regulatory and fiscal capacity for addressing NCD risk factors, especially through the promotion of healthy diets and physical activity. Global RECAP promotes a threefold approach combining capacity building, social mobilization, and research to support countries to strengthen regulatory and fiscal evidence-based and cost-effective measures at national level to prevent NCDs. Acknowledging that the lack of collaboration between the legal and public health scholarship is one of the obstacles in creating a common understanding and awareness about the importance of legal and regulatory approaches to prevent NCDs, the programme has created opportunities for multidisciplinary collaboration among local academic institutions in the area of Law and NCDs. During the first phase of the programme (2019-2022), the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) supported the establishment of an academic working group in East Africa aimed at promoting participation of and collaboration among legal and public health academics and researchers to support regulatory and fiscal environments that promote healthy diets and physical activity. This collaboration has enhanced the capacity of public health and legal academia not only to explore, but also to integrate the role of law, including human rights law, as part of the response to the challenge of NCDs in East Africa. In 2022, the AWG supported the publication of a [Toolkit on regulatory approaches to NCDs](#) to promote the integration of legal approaches for NCD prevention in relevant courses and curricula in the region. Building on and expanding that collaboration, this Colloquium is one of the joint initiatives that will be undertaken within the auspices of this collaboration.

B. Colloquium Overview

Despite the existence of a well-defined global policy framework on NCDs, many countries have not fully implemented actions recommended to address the main NCD risk factors, in particular, unhealthy diets and physical inactivity. This academic colloquium offers an opportunity to discuss multidisciplinary approaches to use the global, regional, and domestic regulatory frameworks to address the prevalence of unhealthy diets and physical inactivity in Africa. Evidence has shown that linkages between public health and law have not been significantly integrated in teaching and researching within academic institutions. This Colloquium provides an opportunity for creating synergies that demonstrate innovative interdisciplinary approaches to apply legal principles to

¹ The Global Regulatory and Fiscal Capacity Building Programme (Global RECAP, 2019-2025) is a collaborative project between the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the OPEC Fund for International Development (2019-2022), in coordination with the International Development Research Centre. Global RECAP aims to strengthen national regulatory and fiscal environments for evidence-informed, coherent and equitable public policies and government interventions to promote healthier diets and physical activity in five countries in East Africa and South Asia.

prevent and control NCDs. Eventually, the colloquium will enhance capacities of legal and public health academics to devise solutions that incorporate law and rights.

C. Theme and Focus

The Colloquium focuses on the role of the law and legal frameworks in preventing NCDs within the context of two of the main NCD risk factors, namely unhealthy diets and physical inactivity. In particular, the Colloquium seeks to promote locally-relevant research on opportunities, challenges and key lessons from using policy, regulatory and fiscal measures to promote healthy diets and physical activity in African countries to prevent NCDs.

II. Colloquium Objectives

- A. To explore the role of law in addressing NCDs in Africa with particular reference to unhealthy diets and physical inactivity.
- B. To facilitate interdisciplinary discussion and collaboration among legal and public health academics within the context of unhealthy diets and physical inactivity for NCD prevention.
- C. To showcase innovative approaches, research findings, and best practices in the use of the law to prevent and control NCDs associated with unhealthy diets and physical inactivity.
- D. To foster networking and knowledge exchange among legal and public health academics and researchers.
- E. To set the ground for a multidisciplinary academic publication on Law and NCDs

III. Themes

Interested academics are invited to submit abstracts on Law and NCDs, with a main focus on healthy diets and physical activity promotion. Submissions may tackle any of the following themes, although the list is not exhaustive.

- A. Opportunities and challenges within existing legal and regulatory regional and national frameworks to promote healthy diets and physical activity .
- B. How human rights frameworks can be used to prevent NCDs with particular reference to those related to the promotion of healthy diets and physical activity.
- C. Using the law to address socio-economic inequalities that exacerbate NCDs.
- D. Regulation of marketing of food and non-alcoholic beverages to children and nutrition labelling systems.
- E. Litigation and NCDs: cases and outcomes focusing on unhealthy diets and physical inactivity
- F. Role of the law in promoting physical activity within urban settings.
- G. Building public health interventions within the law to promote healthy diets and physical activity.
- H. The law, NCD risk factors and vulnerable populations.
- I. The role of academia in advancing legal approaches for NCD prevention through multidisciplinary research and teaching. Experience from regional and national universities.
- J. International and comparative perspectives relevant to Africa for promoting healthy diets and physical activity.

Proposed research should be relevant for Africa. While the geographic focus of the analysis for this Colloquium is the Africa region, comparative studies that compare experience from other regions to gather good practices and/or lessons are also welcome.

IV. Expected outcomes

Upon submission, selected authors will be invited to present and discuss their research during the multidisciplinary Colloquium (see further details below). Top-quality abstracts will be selected to be developed into fully-fledged papers for a potential academic publication on NCDs, public health, and the law. It is the intention of the organisers that such publication will contribute to further promote collaborative research and publication on law, public health and NCDs in the region and beyond by creating a ready source for research on NCDs and the law in Africa.

V. Submission Guidelines

A. Format

Authors should submit a max 400-word abstract, including the objective of the study, main argument and methodology should be submitted, together with a short resume via email to: healthlaw@idlo.int

B. Eligibility Criteria

Academics in the area of law, health law, public health, nutrition, food, economics, and related areas from universities in Africa. Abstracts addressing any of the foregoing themes will be considered. Multi-author and multidisciplinary collaboration/approach are highly encouraged.

C. Submission deadline

Abstracts should be submitted by: 22nd October 2023

D. Review and Selection Process

The Colloquium organising committee shall screen all submitted abstracts and inform the authors of acceptance on or before 29th October 2023.

VI. Tentative timeline

- Abstract submission deadline: 22nd October 2023
- Notification of acceptance: 29th October 2023
- Colloquium dates: 4th December 2023
- Submission of the full paper: March 2024

VII. Registration and Conference Details

A. Colloquium venue and logistics

The Conference shall be held in Kenya on 4th December 2023. Logistical information shall be supplied by the Committee to selected authors upon selection.

B. Registration fees and deadlines

No fee shall be charged for registration. The organization will bear the costs of participation and travel for authors of the abstracts accepted for presentation during the conference.

VIII. Colloquium Organizing Committee

This shall be made up of representatives of IDLO, Moi University School of Law, the University Of Nairobi School Of Law, and the O'Neill Institute for Global and National Health Law, Georgetown University.

IX. Contact Information

- A. Colloquium Secretariat shall be at Moi University School of Law: moduor2001@yahoo.com
- B. Inquiries can be channelled through email to: healthlaw@idlo.int

X. Disclaimer and Copyright Notice

It is assumed that any abstract submitted is intended to be considered for presentation in the colloquium and that the author retains the intellectual property.