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**KENYA MODEL UNITED NATIONS
INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE**

23rd Session

4th Edition International Law Essay Competition Concept Note

**Theme: The Contribution of International Financial Institutions to Sustainable
Economic Growth and Development in African Countries**

1. Introduction

Kenya Model United Nations is a non-profit, student-run society affiliated to the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) at the United Nations Office in Nairobi. Our conference prides itself in being more than an average Model UN competition. For two decades, KenyaMUN has served as an annual forum for over 2500 college-level delegates from across the East Africa region to discuss the world's most pressing issues and devise solutions to difficult challenges in international affairs. KenyaMUN remains the oldest, largest, and most prestigious collegiate conference of its kind, and our team is excited to continue our legacy of excellence in the 24th Session.

We have a vast outreach to young, smart, and energetic university students who are drivers of change with a mindset of structured development and superior human-centered solution making. We are a community of over 700 youth leaders primarily in universities and institutions of higher learning across the country seeking to drive positive change in our nation and the world through deliberative and value-based Diplomacy.

Vision: To be the premier platform for youth leadership and societal transformation in Africa



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Mission: To embrace the spirit of the United Nations by inspiring a culture of virtuous leadership among the youth through creating a platform for intellectual debate and a network for proactive solution development to local and global issues

Theme: Trailblazing Action for Today and Tomorrow

2. Background of the Competition

This being the Fourth Edition of this Competition, the inception of ILEC during the KMUN, 21st Session, was based on the need to expand and diversify the exposure that the ICJ Agents (and other members of the Society) had to research and write. This was geared towards enabling the members to appreciate the place of research and writing in an area dominated by the Court's Mooting experience.

From an initial submission of **9 papers** in the **first edition**, the **third edition** boasted over **100 entries** and at least **50 paper** submissions. In furtherance of the vision of the competition, the target this year is to attract at least **200 entries** and at least **100 paper** submissions.

3. Names of persons responsible

As the Society is based on the United Nations Model, it consists of various organs with the International Court of Justice (ICJ) among them. Based on this model, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Law Commission (ILC), within the Society, undertake this endeavor.

The International Court of Justice is represented by Mr. Milgo Rotich, President of the Court, Mr. Teddy Kiania, Deputy President of the Court and Ms. Bernice Wangeci who is the Lead on this Programme.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE &
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The International Law Commission is represented by Mr. Kesier John the Chair of the International Law Commission and Mr. Russel Crowe who are working alongside the ICJ in this programme.

The two organs then compose a Student Review Board comprising 7 members from their Bureaus.

4. Target Audience

This competition is all inclusive and targets all university students across all Kenya Model United Nations Chapters, simulating in all the Kenya Model United Nations organs. These include; The General Assembly, the International Law Commission and the International Court of Justice. The competition is also not limited to students pursuing an LLB Degree.

5. Objectives

This competition seeks to achieve the following;

- To provide a perpetual platform for discussing contemporary and emerging International Law issues to the wider student population in Kenya;
- To encourage a continuing constructive engagement between the participants on contemporary topics in International Law through submission of papers, networking, exchange of ideas, and inter-varsity debates;
- To create a continuing engagement between the participants and accomplished International Law experts through mentorship, internships and training programs.
- Given the existing international realities, scholarly research and debates surrounding emerging and contemporary issues in International Law, the International Law Essay Competition aims to provide a much-needed, unique platform that would engage students in these discussions.



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Consequently, by advocating for a continued scholarly engagement post the essay competition, we would create a culture that furthers and promotes the discussions and offers solutions among the students in Kenya.

6. Significance of the Competition

The fourth edition of the International Law Essay Competition will mark four years since its inception. The competition has steadily grown from one which only attracted students of law to one which attracts students in other fields such as STEM, arts and social sciences.

This event will bolster the interest in International Law that has been exhibited by our members. It will also afford our members exposure to contemporary matters in international law as well as increasing their opportunities within these fields.

7. Timelines

The timelines for the Competition shall be as follows;

Release of the ILEC Question	21st October 2024
Registration of prospective participants	21st October – 4th November 2024
ILEC Student Review Board's Training	18th November 2024
Participants' Training	22nd November 2024
Submission of essays	6th December – 21st December 2024
Final Submission Date for essays	21st December 2024



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Marking of essays by the ILEC Student Review Board	6th January – 17th January 2025
Marking of essays by the Expert Review Board	20th January – 31st January 2025
Presentation of Winning Essays to a Panel and Awarding Ceremony	8th February 2025

8. Criteria

The Question will be released on 21st October after which students shall write essays on the thematic area and question shared. The essays shall be submitted to the Student Review Board on 21st December. The criteria for marking shall be as follows;

- The Student Review Board, composed of 7 students, shall mark all essays submitted and shortlist the best essays, for the first two weeks of January after which, they shall be forwarded to the Expert Review Board,
- The Expert Review Board shall then review the essays for 2 weeks and shortlist essays which shall present their papers to a Panel during the ILEC awarding ceremony in February) .

Judges shall be guided by the following while scoring the essays:

- (a) Novelty and originality of the issue(s);
- (b) Original and thought-provoking discussion of the topic;
- (c) Legal and or Policy analysis and reasoning;
- (d) Concision, clarity, and precision of the idea(s) put forward;
- (e) Consideration of legal and policy implications, and proposed solutions (if any);
- (f) Organization of the idea(s) and presentation;



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- (g) Writing quality (grammar, syntax, and form);
- (h) Quality and use of research (including correct citations); and,
- (i) Compliance with the Rules

9. Expected Outcomes

- (a) To invoke the interest of at least 200 members to participate in the competition.
- (b) To improve the research and writing skills of our members
- (c) To create awareness on the emerging issues in international law.
- (d) To avail professional opportunities to those who exhibit deep interest and understanding of International Law
- (e) To create a community of International Law Scholars

10. Awards

Awards shall be done in the following order;

- (a) **Winner of the 4th Edition ILEC Competition**
- (b) **First Runners Up of the 4th Edition ILEC Competition**
- (c) **Second of the 4th Edition ILEC Competition**

11. Support Required

As we celebrate our fourth birthday, we endeavor to provide an experience like no other this time..

We shall therefore require the following support from our partners and stakeholders:

- (a) **Internship and Job Shadowing Opportunities** - Given the back breaking work that goes into writing a research paper, it is important to provide incentives to the participants; many of them participating for the first time. These opportunities will also build their research



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and writing skills as well as providing value to the respective organizations from their expertise.

- (b) **Book Donations** - In order to bolster the research and writing skills of our participants, books in soft or hard copy on contemporary international law will go a long way in cultivating these skills.
- (c) **Publishing of the best Papers:** in order to improve the exposure and access to opportunities by our participants, we would require that the best Papers be published to achieve this end.

12. Monitoring and Evaluation

The success of the competition shall be assessed on the following metrics:

- (a) Amount of interest in the competition exhibited.
- (b) Number of submissions received.
- (c) Quality of submissions received.
- (d) Number of stakeholders and partners onboarded.
- (e) Receipt of positive feedback from the participants and stakeholders.

13. Conclusion

The International Law Essay Competition has continued to prove itself as an effective avenue of arousing interest and bolstering knowledge and expertise in contemporary matters of international law. From its inception, it has steadily grown, attracting interest from far and wide. Participants have continued to offer positive feedback on the impact of the competition on their research and writing skills; more so those in the legal profession.

The Steering Committee therefore looks forward to having a bigger and better competition this session. This cannot be achieved by the steering committee alone but by the concerted efforts of



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our participants, partners and stakeholders. We therefore appeal to all who are concerned to join hands in the achievement of this milestone.

