

**NIALS Journal**  
**of**  
**Law and Development**  
**Vol. No. 1 2011**

**ISSN:**



*Published by*  
*Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies*

**NIALS JOURNAL OF LAW AND DEVELOPMENT**

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## **Editorial Note**

Development and underdevelopment have remained twin concepts of great antiquity as far as the history of human existence in general, and the struggle for progress in particular is concerned. The interface between law and development is an inevitable phenomenon given the reality of their mutual interdependence. Till today, issues of development have remained in the front burner plaguing our societies. It is thus important to ask, how does the law affect development and how does development affect the law? This remains a central question and indeed, the informing consciousness behind the conceptualization of this Journal.

The *NIALS Journal of Law and Development* is coming out as the very first edition to be produced by the Institute. The Journal is conceptualized to assemble and publish topical issues in development, as well as comparative study of the treatment of development issues in other jurisdictions.

A total of nine articles are published in this edition. Very interesting and topical areas are treated, ranging from constitutional law, administrative law to international humanitarian law. These include: Law and Development in Africa: Towards a New Approach which espouses the theme that law can certainly play both instrumental and responsive roles for the realization of sustainable socio-economic development in Africa. This is followed by other topics such as The Application of Customary International Law in Nigerian Courts, The Implication of the Jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court for African States etc.

Consistent with our vision statement to be the “primary source of information, training and advice at the highest levels of policy formulation on legal matters...” the articles in this edition make very interesting reading as they add different perspective to the question of law and development. The Journal is conceived to be biannual and promises to be very informative and illuminating.

**Professor Epiphany Azinge, SAN**

*Director-General*

2011