

# **TACIP CONFERENCE 20-21 AUGUST 2025**

**Intellectual Property and  
Technical Cooperation in Africa:  
Law, Policy and Path**



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Faculty of Law

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## 20–21 AUGUST 2025

### Programme

**Day 1 – Wednesday, August 20, 2025**

**Venue: Calonia 1, Faculty of Law, University of Turku ([Map](#))**

- 8:30 am – 9:00 am Coffee and Registration
- 9:00 am – 9:30 am Welcome and housekeeping  
Ama Opoku Acquah (Project Researcher, TACIP)  
Daniel Acquah (Project PI, TACIP)  
Janne Salminen, Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Turku
- 9:30 am – 10:30 am **Keynote: From Minimalist to Maximalist (and Back): The Subversive Pathways of Technical Assistance in Intellectual Property Law-Making**  
**Ruth L. Okediji**, Jeremiah Smith, Jr. Professor of Law, Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society, Harvard Law School
- 10:30 am – 10:45 am Coffee break
- 10:45 am – 12:00 pm **Panel 1: Rethinking Sovereignty in Continental Intellectual Property Integration**

Chair: **Dr. P. Sean Morris**

Panelist

**Isaac Kundakogo Kunko**, PhD candidate at the Faculty of Law, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich; **Michelle Okyere**, Postgraduate Researcher at Nottingham Trent University; **Kow Abekah-Wonkyi**, PhD student at the University of Ottawa. *Technical Assistance and the Development of IP Dispute Resolution Systems in the AfCFTA Context*

**Phillip Johnson**, Professor of Law, King's College London. *Tired Thinking? The Approach to Exhaustion of Intellectual Property Rights under the African Continental Free Trade Agreement*

**Janewa Osei-Tutu**, Professor of Law, University of Miami School of Law. *Centering Human Rights in IP Norms Setting in Africa*



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**Lydia Lundstedt**, Associate Professor of Law, Stockholm University. *Cross-border Enforcement of Intellectual Property (IP) Rights in Africa: Can Technical Cooperation Facilitate Private Law Solutions?*

12:00 pm – 12:15 pm    Group photos

12:15 pm – 1:35 pm    Lunch (Grädda)

1:35 pm – 2:35 pm    **Panel 2: Foundations and Historical Trajectories of Intellectual Property in Africa**

Chair: **Dr. Susan Isiko Štrba**

Panelist

**Lokesh Vyas**, PhD Candidate at Sciences Po, Paris. *Language and Power in International IP Law: A Reading from the Global South*

**Juliet Ogbodo**, Doctoral Candidate at the School of Law, University of Eastern Finland. *What Legal Transplants Teach Us About IP-Related Technical Assistance in Africa*

**Véronique Pouillard**, Professor of International History, University of Oslo. *Intellectual Property and Legal Regimes in Congo: A Historical Study of the Transitions to the Colonial and Early Decolonization Periods*

2:35 pm – 3:55 pm    **Panel 3: Rethinking Intellectual Property Technical Assistance**

Chair: **Prof. Katja Weckstrom**

Panelist

**Gururaj Devarhubli**, Assistant Professor of Law, Institute of Law, Nirma University, Ahmedabad, Gujarat (INDIA); **Taruna Jakhar**, Assistant Professor of Law, Institute of Law, Nirma University, Ahmedabad, Gujarat (INDIA). *Creating a Room for Gendered AI-Chatbots in Africa: Analyzing the Intellectual Property Issues, Challenges, and Opportunities (Online)*

**Nkem Itanyi**, Lecturer in Intellectual Property Law, University of East Anglia. *The Role of Intellectual Property Technical Assistance: Addressing Africa's Unique Developmental Needs*

**Isaac Rutenberg**, Associate Professor of ICT Policy and Innovation at Strathmore University, Nairobi. *Technical Assistance Models - Direct Assistance or Assisting Local Experts?*

**Peter K. Yu**, University Distinguished Professor and Director, Center for Law and Intellectual Property, Texas A&M University. *The Promise and Peril of Technical Assistance*



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3:55 pm – 4:10 pm	Coffee break
4:10 pm – 5:10 pm	<b>Keynote: The Global Challenges and Partnerships Sector of the World Intellectual Property Organization: A Look at IP and Technical Cooperation in Africa</b> <b>Dr. Edward Kwakwa</b> , Assistant Director General, Global Challenges and Partnerships Sector, WIPO
5:30 pm	Bus departure
7:00 pm	<b>Conference Dinner</b> Suomalainen Pohja Restaurant (Aurakatu 24 A, 20100 Turku)



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Day 2 – Thursday, August 21, 2025

Venue: Calonia 1, Faculty of Law, University of Turku ([Map](#))

8:30 am – 9:00 am      Coffee

9:00 am – 10:20 am      **Panel 4: Expertise, Technocracy, and African IP Futures**

Chair: Prof. Ulla-Maija Mylly

Panelist

**Victoria C. Onyeagbako**, Hershel Smith Doctoral Researcher at Queen Mary University of London. *IP Technical Assistance in Africa: The Paradox of Needs and Capabilities*

**Isaac Kundakogo Kunko**, PhD Candidate at the Faculty of Law, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich. *Intellectual Property and Corporate Insolvency in Africa: Bridging Legal Gaps Through Model Provisions and Technical Assistance*

**Olufunmilayo B. Arewa**, Professor, George Mason University School of Law. *Conceptualizing expertise: Technocracy, Local Knowledge, and African Development*

**Chidi Oguamanam**, Professor, Research Chair in Sustainable Bio-Innovation, Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Global Knowledge Governance, Faculty of Law, University of Ottawa. *The Place of Indigenous Knowledge in IP Technical Cooperation*



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10:20 am—11:40 am

### Panel 5: The Digital Dilemma: AI, Copyright and Cultural Continuity

Chair: **Prof. Mika Viljanen**

Panelist

**Sofia Jernorth**, Doctoral Researcher, Department of Archaeology, Conservation and History, University of Oslo. *Sub-Saharan Africa's Struggle for Traditional Knowledge Amid Regime Shifting*

**Rasoul Rahmani**, Doctoral Researcher, Faculty of Law, University of Turku. *TRIPS Flexibilities and Technical Assistance: Rethinking WIPO's Role in Strengthening Compulsory Licensing for Economic Development in Africa*

**Susan Isiko Štrba**, Co-Founder and President, Senior Research and Policy Advisor at the International Lawyers and Economists for Development. *Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Copyright in Africa: the Potential Role of Technical Cooperation*

**Tshireletso Modikwa**, Creative and Cultural Development Manager, National Arts Council, Botswana. *Traditional Knowledge and Traditional Cultural Expression in the Era of Digital Technology (Online)*

11:40 am – 1:00 pm

Lunch (Grädda)

1:00 pm – 2:20 pm

### Panel 6: Institutions and Innovation: Bridging the Implementation Gap

Chair: **Prof. Olufunmilayo B. Arewa**

Panelist

**Felipe de Andrade**, PhD Candidate in Law at the University of Antwerp and KU Leuven. *The Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries: the Promise and Pitfalls of a New Institutional Actor in the International Governance of Science, Technology and Innovation*

**Anna Marie Skråmestø Nesheim**, Marie Skłodowska Postdoctoral Researcher, Uppsala University. *Monetizing African Culture, 1850s–1960s (Online)*

**Emmanuel Kolawole Oke**, Senior Lecturer in International Intellectual Property Law, Edinburgh Law School, University of Edinburgh. *An Evaluation of the Technical Cooperation Activities of the United Kingdom under Article 67 of the TRIPS Agreement*

**Carlos Correa**, Executive Director of the South Centre. *The Role of Patent Offices as Custodians of the Public Interest*



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2:25 pm—3:25 pm	<b>Keynote: Artisans, entrepreneurs, and adaptive intellectual property for different African stakeholders</b> <b>Justin Hughes</b> , Hon. William Matthew Byrne, Jr. Distinguished Professor of Law, Loyola Law School
3:25 pm – 3:40 pm	Coffee break
3:40 pm – 4:50 pm	<b>Panel 7: Charting a Just IP Future (Roundtable)</b>  <u>Chair:</u> <b>Prof. Carlos Correa</b> , Executive Director of the South Centre <u>Panelist</u> Prof. Ruth Okediji Prof. Justin Hughes Dr Edward Kwakwa Prof. Peter Yu
4:50 pm – 5:00 pm	<b>Closing Remarks:</b> <b>Tuomas Mylly</b> , Professor of Commercial Law, University of Turku
5:00 pm – 6:30 pm	<b>Conference Get-together (Light Dinner, Calonia Lobby)</b>
6:30 pm	Bus departure

### Day 3 – Friday, August 22, 2025

10:00 am	City tour of Turku. Courtesy of the city of Turku (Bus leaves from the front of Sokos Hotel Wiklund).
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