



AFRICAN UNION LEGAL COUNSEL DELIVERS A DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR LECTURE AT IMLI

The IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) is proud to record that Her Excellency Ambassador Dr. Namira Negm (Legal Counsel, the African Union), delivered a Distinguished Scholar Lecture entitled “*African Union Ocean Governance and Capacity Building*” on 7 May 2021. She was introduced to the participants by Professor David Attard (Director, IMLI) who expressed his pleasure at her acceptance of the Institute’s invitation. Professor Attard informed the participants that Ambassador Negm has a thorough understanding of international law, having occupied several distinguished positions in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry.



Dr. Namira Negm (Legal Counsel, the African Union)

Ambassador Negm thanked Professor Attard for his invitation and warm welcome. She commenced her lecture by stating that her start point will be the United Nations Convention for the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which provides for the universal rule in ocean governance. She noted that due to this, all African Union (AU) instruments attempt to incorporate the principles of UNCLOS into a regional concept. Ambassador Negm proceeded to highlight the AU instruments governing maritime matters including the 2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime (AIM) Strategy, the African Charter on Maritime Security, Safety and Development in Africa, also known as the Lomé Charter, and the African Maritime Transport Charter. Having regard to the continent's vast coastline with surrounding islands and the unequal capacity of its States to guard against maritime time threats such as piracy, drug trafficking, smuggling of good and persons at sea among others, she noted that cooperation is imperative. Based on this premise, Ambassador Negm went to discuss in detail the importance of AU legal frameworks to the continent.

Ambassador Negm is the first woman to assume the responsibility of the Office of the Legal Counsel of the African Union. Her accomplishment was a new landmark achievement not just for her birth country Egypt but also for women globally, especially Africa. She has a Ph.D. in International Law from the University of London.

Before her appointment, Ambassador Negm was former Ambassador of Egypt to Rwanda and Legal Advisor and Counter Terrorism Expert of the Egyptian Mission to the UN in New York. She also worked as a negotiator for the UN and several other international organizations for legal instruments, including in the area of law of the sea, family law, human rights, counter-terrorism and sanctions. Ambassador Negm's publications include a book on "Transfer of Nuclear Technology under International Law", a case study of Iraq, titled "Iran and Israel" and "the Role of Egypt in the negotiations of the Crime of Aggression."

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