Preliminary Conference Program: Cross-border Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights in Africa

When: Monday, 8 June 2026, 12 pm – Wednesday,10 June 2026, 2 pm

Where: Aula Magna (Room Polstjärnan), Stockholm University, Universitetsvägen 10, Stockholm, Sweden

Metro: Universitetet (Red Line)

Day 1: Foundations and Regional Frameworks

12:00 pm	Welcome lunch and networking (at venue)
1:00 pm	Opening remarks and conference objectives - Lydia Lundstedt, Stockholm University
1:15 pm	Keynote address: Cross-border Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights in Africa - Institutional Foundations and Private International Law's Role - Richard Frimpong Oppong, Osgoode Hall Law School
2 pm	Intellectual Property as a Driver of African Economic Development - Jimcall Pfumorodze, University of Botswana
2:20 pm	Voices from the Ground: the IP Challenges of Local Creators, Artists, and SMEs - Moses Nkomo, University of Zimbabwe
2:40 pm	Global IP Enforcement Policies: Best Practices - Christina Wainikka, Policy Expert for Intellectual Property, Confederation of Swedish Enterprises (*Svenskt näringsliv*), Docent Stockholm University
3:00 pm	Coffee break (*fika*) at venue
3:30 pm	WIPO Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge; resisting neo-colonialism, Frantzeska Papadopoulou, Stockholm University
3:50 pm	Reframing Regional IP Governance: The AfCFTA Intellectual Property Protocol as Lex Specialis? - Daniel Opoku Acquah, University of Turku
4:10 pm	Harnessing African IP Resources: Traditional Knowledge and Cultural Heritage Protection - Marisella Ouma, Kenya Intellectual Property Expert
4:30 pm	Round Table Discussion: Regional Integration, IP Harmonization and African Priorities
6:00 pm	End of Day 1
6:15	Dinner at Stora skuggans värdshus

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Day 2: Enforcement Mechanisms and Legal Frameworks

9:00 am	IP Enforcement in Practice - Visit to the Patent and Market Court of Appeal
12:00 pm	Lunch at venue
1:00 pm	Africa and International Cooperation: The Hague Conference on Private International Law and Intellectual Property - Michael Hellner, Stockholm University
1:20 pm	Private International Law in Anglophone Africa: Current State and Future Challenges - Abubakri Yekini, University of Manchester
1:40 pm	Private International Law in Africa – Comparative Perspectives on Roman-Dutch, Common and Civil Law Systems - B Mmipi, University of Botswana
2:00 pm	African Private International Law Principles for Intellectual Property - Paul Torremans, University of Nottingham
2:20 pm	Commercial Disputes under the AfCFTA Area: The Case for Regional African Arbitral Centres, Emilia Onyema, Director, SOAS Arbitration and Dispute Resolution Centre
2:40 pm	IP Enforcement in the Digital Age: AI, Online Piracy, and Cross-border Challenges, Tana Pistorius, University of Auckland (previously University of South Africa)
3:00 pm	Coffee break (*fika*) at venue
3:30 pm	Exclusive Jurisdiction over IP Rights: Precedents and Emerging Trends - Ulf Maunsbach, Lund University
3:50 pm	Round table discussion: Strengthening African Cross-border IP Enforcement Mechanisms
5:00	End of Day 2
6:30 pm	Dinner at the Faculty Club (*Fakultetsklubben*)

Day 3: Future Directions and Practical Solutions

8:30	Coffee break (*fika*)
9:00 am	A Common African IP court: Lessons from the Unified Patent Court - Stefan Johansson, Presiding Judge of the Nordic-Baltic Regional Division of the UPC
9:20 am	A Specialized Court for Intellectual Property - Marianne Levin, Stockholm University
9:40 am	A Common African IP court: Lessons from the OHADA's Common Court of Justice and Arbitration (CCJA – Justin Monsenepwo, Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg (JMU)
10:00	Localising International Justice: African Perspectives on a Common Intellectual Property Court - Gosego Rockfall Lekgowe, University of Botswana
10:20 am	Coffee break (fika) at venue
11:00 am	Discussion in working groups: • Group A + B: A common IP court for Africa • Group C + D: African private international law principles for IP • Group E: Alternative Dispute Resolution
11:45	Presentations and synthesis: Working group reports
12:30	Action plan development: Next Steps
12:50	Closing remarks
1:00	Farewell lunch
2:00	Conference concludes

The Bank of Sweden Tercentenary Foundation (*Stiftelsen Riksbankens Jubileumsfond*) has generously funded for the conference.

The Institute for Intellectual Property Law has generously provided funding for the dinner at Stora Skuggans värdshus