



PROFESSOR DIRE TLADI
SOUTH AFRICA'S CANDIDATE FOR ELECTION TO
THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

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Message from the Minister



The South African Government, together with its member on the Permanent Court

of Arbitration, is proud to nominate, as a candidate for election to the International Court of Justice, Professor Dire Tladi.

The International Court of Justice is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations and only the most highly qualified international lawyers should be elected to that august body.

As can be seen from his curriculum vitae, Professor Tladi is a leading international law scholar whose accomplishments span different areas of the field, including academic, government service, diplomatic and practice.

As an academic, Professor Tladi has published over 100 publications and was recently presented with the University of Pretoria's Exceptional Academic





Achiever Award for 2022. His work within the International Law Commission, including as Special Rapporteur and as Chair of the Commission, is well-known. In addition, Professor Tladi has appeared in various capacities before international tribunals.

He has advised governments and international organisations on various issues of international law, including boundary disputes and disputes over shared resources. As a diplomat,

Professor Tladi was instrumental in several important endeavours. Professor Tladi's election to bodies such as the International Law Commission and the *Institut de Droit International* is further testament to his recognition as one of the leading international lawyers of his generation.

We are confident that if elected, Professor Tladi will make a sterling contribution to the Court and its jurisprudence and we will be grateful to receive your support.

Dr GNM Pandor
Minister of International Relations
and Cooperation



Curriculum Vitae

Dire Tladi is a Professor of International Law at the University of Pretoria, where he holds the National Research Foundation South African Research Chairs Initiative of International Constitutional Law and the Future Africa Chair in Global Equity for Africa. He has published well over 100 academic publications (articles, books and chapters in books). He holds a BLC LLB (cum laude) from the University of Pretoria, LLM from the University of Connecticut and a PhD from Erasmus University Rotterdam. He was member of the United Nations (UN) International Law Commission from 2012 to 2022. As a member of the International Law Commission, he held the following positions:

- Chair (2022)
- First Vice Chair (2021)
- General Rapporteur (2014)
- Chair of the Drafting Committee (2013)
- Special Rapporteur on Peremptory Norms of General International Law (2015 – 2022).

Professor Tladi is also member of the *Institut de Droit International* where he serves as a member of the Programme Committee. He was previously a member of the Commission on Epidemics and International Law and he currently serves on the following commissions:

- The Place of Social Justice in International Law
- Harm Prevention Rules Applicable to the Global Commons
- Distributive Justice and Sustainable Development.

Professor Tladi is a member of the International Law Association and a member of the Executive Council of the Association. He is currently the President of the South African Branch of the International Law Association.

He was recently invited to deliver a lecture at the prestigious Hague Academy of International Law. He has presented lectures at many UN regional courses on International Law, including for Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Asia (he has attended 16 regional courses since 2013). He has also been invited to present lectures at the University of Singapore's Centre for International Law e-Academy every year since its inception.

Professor Tladi was lead counsel for South Africa before the International Criminal Court (ICC) Pre-Trial Chamber and counsel for the African Union (AU) before the ICC Appeals Chamber in the case concerning the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Professor Tladi is also co-counsel for the governments of Sierra Leone and Mozambique in the pending International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea advisory opinion proceedings on the climate change-related obligations under the Law of the Sea Convention.

He has also appeared as a legal expert on behalf of the Government of Lesotho in an International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes arbitration in *Van Zyl v Lesotho*. Other involvement in the peaceful settlement of disputes include:

- Professor Tladi was also an AU legal expert appointed to assist in the dispute between Ethiopia, Sudan and



Egypt concerning the Grand Ethiopia Renaissance Dam

- Serving on the Southern African Development Community legal team to assist three former heads of state (Mbeki, Chissano and Mogae) in the dispute between Tanzania and Malawi.

Professor Tladi also had a distinguished career as a member of South Africa's Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) between 2006 and 2014. In that time, he served as Principal State Law Adviser (2006 to 2009 and 2013 to 2014) and as Legal Adviser to the South African Permanent Mission. After leaving DIRCO, Professor Tladi continued to assist government as adviser to the former Minister of International Relations and Cooperation. Professor Tladi's contribution to international law through his diplomatic service includes the following highlights:

- being instrumental in the process that led to the adoption of the new treaty on biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction, first as a delegate, then as an adviser to African states and other organisations and finally as a facilitator of various informal meetings among governments
- being instrumental in the decision of

the Seabed Authority to request an advisory opinion from the Seabed Disputes Chamber of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea on the responsibilities of sponsoring states playing a leading role in the decision by the UN Security Council to adopt Resolution 1989, bringing sanctions listing and delisting procedures more in line with human rights standards.

Professor Tladi has given far too many speeches and presentations to list, but here are a few highlights covering only the last five years:

- African Society of International Law Annual Conference, September 2021, keynote titled: *International Law and Solidarity for African Prosperity*
- Asser Institute Conference on *Imagining Solidarity in International and Regional Law*, 18-19 October 2021, keynote titled: *Solidarity in Public International Law*
- American Branch of the International Law Association, Annual General Meeting, 19 October 2021, President's Opening Roundtable Discussion
- European Society of International Law, Annual Meeting, 12 September 2021, Closing Plenary Panel.

J U S T I C E



PROF. DIRE TADI







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If there is a leitmotif that runs through my work as an international lawyer, it is the sense that international law must engender a sense of togetherness, a sense of solidarity. That international law must strive for the protection of the weakest and most vulnerable amongst us. This, after all, is the only way that we can truly speak of an international community.”

Dire Tladi, 2023

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The question, though, is whether this international community exists. Can we say that the international law of today creates conditions of belonging, of caring for one another regardless of where we may be, what we may look like, what we may believe in? Put differently, does international law, as a rule, contribute to the establishment of an international community and thus a sense of solidarity”

Dire Tladi “In Search of Solidarity in International Law” in Eva Kassoti and Narin Idriz (eds) *The Principle of Solidarity in International and European Law* (Springer, 2023)

