

LAW AND POVERTY V

ABUJA, NIGERIA, NOVEMBER 2003

CALL FOR PAPERS

CROP continues its project on *Law and Poverty* with a fifth workshop in Africa.

Sub-Saharan Africa continues to be at the bottom of the poverty-ladder on virtually all the applicable indices for deep and rising poverty in the midst of plenty. The apparent ineffectiveness of the shifting approaches to attacking poverty in the past craves for a more holistic approach that combines the economic with the political and the social. It entails the instrumentality of law, examination of pertinent existing legislation and fashioning of new legislation in line with new strategies for poverty reduction. The role of law including (international) human rights law, is the crux of the proposed workshop.

We invite paper proposals that focus on the following subjects. Comparative approaches involving one or more country studies will be favoured:

- Role of law in adjusting/restructuring unequal economic, political and social systems: A historical perspective.
- African country experiences in the use of law for poverty reduction: Patterns, problems and prospects.
- Forms of poverty and susceptibility to intervention by the law.
- Strategizing with law to create, promote and enhance economic opportunities for poor people in Africa.
- Employing law to facilitate political empowerment for the poor in Africa.
- Using law to enhance the provision of effective social security and safety nets for poor people in Africa.
- Strategies for mobilizing African populations in favour of poverty-reduction legislations.
- Examination of terms and obligations contained in relevant international and regional agreements, conventions and protocols in relation to desirable anti-poverty legislation in Africa.
- The role of the UN human rights machinery (High Commissioner, Covenants, Rapporteurs, Special Programmes) as to poverty reduction in Africa
- The role of the African human rights machinery (Commission, Court, Special Programmes) as to poverty reduction in Africa
- The role of multinational enterprises as 'perpetrators' of human rights related poverty reduction rules in Africa.

The workshop will be limited to 30 participants. Preference will be given to scholars from Sub-Saharan Africa, but scholars from other areas are also invited. All participants will be expected to take part in the proceedings (in English), either presenting or discussing papers. Participants bear the responsibility for their own funding. However, a limited number of travel grants are available. The grants will be awarded according to geography (researchers from Sub-Saharan Africa will be prioritized), and the relevance, quality and originality of the abstract/paper. Details on how to apply for travel grants will be forwarded to those authors whose abstract is accepted for the workshop. As a rule, accommodation will be covered for all participants during the workshop.

THE DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACTS IS 30th APRIL 2003

The abstract should include: the title of the proposed paper and a summary of the main theme or argument. The summary should indicate theory, methods and findings of your proposed paper, and should not exceed ONE PAGE (A4). IMPORTANT: A brief CV along with a list of your most recent publications should accompany the abstract. Please state clearly your name, title, nationality, full postal and e-mail address, telephone and fax numbers. The abstract and CV should be sent (preferably by E-mail) to the address below.

Abstract-givers will be notified by June 1st, 2003 whether their proposed paper have been accepted or not, and will then be given details of the format in which the papers should be prepared (the deadline for submission of the paper will be September 1st, 2003).

A background paper and more detailed information about the workshop is available by contacting:

CROP Executive Officer (Mr.) Inge Erling Tesdal, **CROP Secretariat, Fosswinkelsgate 7, N- 5007 Bergen, Norway, Tel: +47 55 58 97 44, Fax: +47 55 58 97 45, E-mail: crop@uib.no**