

# The Road to Reconciliation?

Optimizing the Legitimacy and Efficacy of The International Criminal Court within The African Union and Africa

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to subsequently explore and reduce this legitimacy crisis under common identified legitimacy-deficient fault lines. As such, this research aims to address identified rifts, propose solutions and enhance the legitimacy and efficacy of the ICC and its Prosecutor within the African Union, and most importantly, within Africa. The end goal of this thesis is thus to facilitate what might be considered a type of political reconciliation between both institutions, a rebuilding of the fractured relationship that now supposedly exists between the ICC and AU. The latter goal of reconciliation is considered crucial, not only for the development and protection of human rights in Africa, particularly in terms of combatting impunity, but also for an in-depth understanding of human rights and its trajectory on the African continent, which necessitates a deeper acknowledgement by the ICC and affiliated proponents on the dynamics that shape the African response to pivotal ICC criticisms.

The main aim of this thesis is to determine whether the ICC

is indeed suffering from such a legitimacy crisis, particularly

within the African Union, and then by extension in Africa, and

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# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Acknowledgements

List of Acronyms

Chapter 1: Introduction

#### PART I. INSTITUTIONAL LEGITIMACY

Chapter 2: Determinants of Institutional Legitimacy at the ICC

Chapter 3: AU Perspectives and Determinants of Legitimacy

#### PART II. JURISDICTIONAL LEGITIMACY

Chapter 4: Jurisdictional Legitimacy through Complementarity

Chapter 5: The Meaning of Justice and its Impact on Article 53 of the Rome Statute

Chapter 6: The Interaction of Alternative Justice Mechanisms with the Principle of Complementarity

## PART III. CULTURAL LEGITIMACY

Chapter 7: The Quest for Cultural Legitimacy under International Human Rights and Criminal Law

Chapter 8: Cultural Paradigms Facing the International Criminal Court

## PART IV. FINAL CONCLUSIONS AND THOUGHTS

Chapter 9: Conclusion

Bibliography

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