Arusha
City Reports on International Law

Author: Dr. Eric Yankson

Institutional Affiliation: Department of Archiecture and Spatial Planning, Namibia University of Science and Technology

Author's E-mail: eyankson@nust.na

Abstract

Arusha has an enviable reputation in the promotion of international law in Africa. However, given the strong presence of the national government in Tanzania's urban governance, much of the city's pedigree in international law is evident in terms of the spatial context, rather than its role as an actor. To begin with, the historical and diplomatic pedigree of Arusha accord it a special place on the continent. The city played host to the agreement in 1961 which granted independence to today's United Republic of Tanzania. Moreover, the Arusha declaration of 1967 was instrumental in the birthing of African socialism and the entrenchment of political centralisation in Tanzania. Arusha is also the host city for the East African Community which promotes political and economic integration among six countries (Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and South Sudan).

Besides the historical and diplomatic context, Arusha has a reputation for peace building and good governance in tandem with the Urban Authority Act of 1982 (later amended in 1992). The Arusha Accords of 1993 aimed to promote peace between the then transitional government in Rwanda and the rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front. Similarly, the 2000 Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi sought to find a peaceful solution to the country's protracted conflict. In 2015, a peace agreement was signed in Arusha to end political and ethnic factionalism within the ruling Sudan People's Liberation Movement in South Sudan. The city's reputation of good governance its evinced by its political inclusiveness. Additionally, the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption is based in this city.

Also, Arusha has been instrumental in hosting several international courts and legal establishments. Between 1994 and 2015, it served as the venue for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda meant to try persons involved in serious human rights abuses in the Rwandan genocide of 1994. Upon conclusion of the court's work, its successor (the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals) established a branch in Arusha. The African Court on Human and People's Rights, an institution created by the African Union to promote human rights protection across the continent, is also based in Arusha. Moreover, the city is the venue for the African Institute of International Law, an independent research and educational centre supported by both the African Union and United Nations.

Arusha also prioritises refugee matters, in consonance with the Tanzania Country Refugee Response Plan. The city has played host over the years to various international conferences and platforms dealing with the refugee population on the African continent. The Pan-African Conference on the Situation of Refugees in Africa was held in Arusha in May 1979. This conference emphasised the rights of refugees

to be protected from torture and stressed the importance of international conventions to their welfare. A 1990 refugee conference in Arusha underscored the salience of *integration*, *voluntary repatriation* and *resettlement* of refugees. In 2011, a conference in Arusha organised under the aegis of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees examined relationships among *international refugee law*, *international criminal law* and *international human rights law*.

In the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, Arusha has played a pivotal role. This has been informed by the Urban Authority Act of 1982 (later amended in 1992), as well as the Arusha strategic plan for the 2011/12 to 2014/15. The strategies adopted seek to enhance the quality of water supply and sanitation services. In terms of the spatial context, the Arusha Declaration of November 2018 was in solidarity with the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists. This was in tandem with goal 16 which focuses on *peace, justice and strong institutions*. The city has hosted other conferences on the Sustainable Development Goals. A major example is the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in September 2012.

Introduction

Arusha is a thriving metropolis in the north eastern part of Tanzania in East Africa. The city is one of the seven districts in Arusha Region and also its capital. Moreover, it is a regional and continental administrative hub. It was upgraded to a city status in 2010, resulting in an expansion in its territorial boundaries from 93km^2 to 208km^2 (Wenban-Smith, 2015; Overseas Development Institute, n.d.). In 2012, the population of the city of Arusha was 416,442 (The United Republic of Tanzania: National Bureau of Statistics and Office of Chief Government Statistician, 2013). The estimated population in 2019 was 483,000 (Population Stat, 2017-2020).

The name Arusha is commonly associated with international law in sub-Saharan Africa. Towards understanding the nature of this role however, one must take cognisance of the local government system in Tanzania. This system is highly centralised and thus vests much power in the hands of the national government, as opposed to local authorities. As a result of Tanzania's centralised government system, Arusha mostly serves as a space, rather than an actor in the promotion of international law. Moreover, the Urban Authority Act of 1982/1992 stipulates that the promotion of social and economic development by the Arusha City Council shall be in tandem with overarching national development plans or strategies. Thus, in instances where Arusha is actor, much of this initiative is either at the behest of or in conjunction with the national government.

This report observes that the role of Arusha in international law may be explained by five main factors. These include its historical and regional diplomatic pedigree, promotion of peace building and good governance, salience as a hub of international courts and legal establishments, focus on refugees and reputation in terms of the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The factors are expounded in the remainder of the report.

Historical and Regional Diplomatic Purview

As already noted, the national context appears to largely explain the Tanzanian government's initiatives to promote Arusha as a diplomatic and legal hub in sub-Saharan Africa. This centralised political system may be traced to the end of the First World War when the then territory of Tanganyika was transferred from Germany to Britain under the mandate of the League of Nations. The arrangement occurred in the absence of direct local representation (Kessy and McCourt, 2010, p. 691). After independence, political centralisation was entrenched as district councils were mostly brought under the control of the then ruling Tanganyika Africa National Union (TANU). Moreover, the introduction of local government reforms in the mid-1990s were piecemeal in nature as local authorities still rely on the largesse of the central government and lack real power to make autonomous decisions (Kessy and McCourt, 2010, pp. 689-693).

Historically, the legal documents which granted independence to Tanganyika (which later merged with Zanzibar to form today's United Republic of Tanzania) were signed in Arusha. This occurred in the year 1961 (Spear, 2000[2006]; Pallotti, 2009). The choice of Arusha may have been due to its historical role as a regional centre of administration and commerce following the German surrender of the city to Britain in the First World War. This preeminent role was fuelled by factors such as the relocation of the regional civilian administrative functions from New Moshi to Arusha, as well as the extension of a railway line to the town (Spear, 2000[2006]; Pallotti, 2009).

In 1967, the Arusha Declaration led to the birthing of African socialism premised on brotherhood, equality and respect for individual rights. This declaration was spearheaded by then ruling TANU party which later merged with Zanzibar's ruling Afro-Shirazi Party (ASP) to form today's ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi or CCM (Nyerere, 1967). The Arusha declaration cemented the role of the city as a symbol of national and pan African political identity. Given that this declaration was made at a time when many African countries had either recently gained independence or were still struggling for self-determination, it became a reference point for the future of statecraft in many African countries. The Arusha declaration of 1967 also perturbed the power of local authorities as it cemented the control of the state through greater centralisation. Moreover, it resulted in the nationalisation of industries and business establishments as a way of increasing the dominance of the national government even in the economic sphere (Kessy and McCourt, 2010, p. 691).

Besides the Arusha declaration, the city currently hosts the headquarters of the East African Community (EAC), a regional bloc comprising six countries in East Africa. These include Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda and South Sudan. The treaty establishing the East African Community was signed in November 1999 and ratified in July 2000 by the three founding members: Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. Rwanda and Burundi acceded the treaty in June 2007 and assumed full membership in July of the same year. Moreover, South Sudan assented the treaty in April 2016 and became a full member in August 2016 (EAC, 1999-2020).

The choice of Arusha as the headquarters of the EAC may be explained by its historical pedigree as an idyllic location for diplomatic activity in Africa. Given the fact that the regional body was conceived of as a mechanism for fast-tracking political economic integration in East Africa, there was the need for a reputable venue and Arusha easily fit that description. Moreover, given the city's prior role as a venue for regional peace negotiations (in Rwanda and Burundi for instance), it was an obvious choice.

Peace Building and Good Governance

The Urban Authority Act of 1982 (later revised in 1992) empowers the Arusha City Council to pursue initiatives for the promotion of *peace, order and good governance* within its jurisdiction. This provision may largely explain the proclivity of the city to team up with the national government when it comes to various initiatives to project the reputation of the metropolitan area in terms of international law.

Arusha has historically served as a venue of choice for the negotiation and signing of various peace agreements. In August 1993 for instance, the Arusha Accords were finalised by warring factions in Rwanda's civil war under the auspices of the government of Tanzania. This accord was signed between the transitional government in Rwanda and the rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF). The initial goal was to form a more broad-based transitional government comprised of the RPF, as well as other parties which were already in the extant transitional arrangement (The National Security Archive, 2014; Jones, 1999[2016]; Lindsay, 2004). These included the former ruling National Republican Movement for Democracy and Development (MRND) and the main opposition Republican Democratic Movement (MDR). In furtherance of the peace agreement, there was also supposed to be a greater integration of the existing national army and forces of the RPF as part of a *demobilisation*, *disarmament* and *reintegration* (DDR) programme. Moreover, the RPF was to be incorporated into the National Assembly, with a defined number of seat allocations to them (The National Security Archive, 2014; Jones, 1999[2016]; Lindsay, 2004).

Notwithstanding the well-intentioned nature of the Arusha Accords, the agreements failed resulting in the Rwandan genocide of 1994. A number of factors account for this. First, the unwillingness of powerful actors such as the United States and European Union to commit funding towards the implementation of the accords meant that they were abortive from the word go. Moreover, intransigent positions adopted by the various warring factions implied that the DDR programme was a huge failure (The National Security Archive, 2014; Jones, 1999[2016]; Lindsay, 2004).

Similar to the accords for Rwanda, the signing in August 2000 of the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi was meant to usher in a political arrangement to end the country's civil war. Specifically, there were four main elements ensconced in the final agreement reached. One was the birthing of a power-sharing paradigm which allotted quotas to the various ethnic groupings in the country (Nantulya, 2015; Kiiza, 2016; Boshoff, Vrey and Rautenberg, 2019; Chrétien, 2000). Another element was ensuring the representation of all political parties in the arrangement. Moreover, there was a provision to prevent the eventual dominance by a single party in the nation's body politic. The agreement also sought to integrate former rebel groups into the national army with the goal of ensuring a balance of power. These provisions subsequently became enshrined in Burundi's constitution (Nantulya, 2015; Kiiza, 2016; Boshoff, Vrey and Rautenberg, 2019; Chrétien, 2000).

While the Arusha agreement of 2000 was instrumental in the eventual return of peace to Burundi, its results overall may be described as mixed. For instance, the agreement was responsible in part for the moderate position taken by the National Council for the Defence of Democracy-Forces for the Defence of Democracy (CNDD-FDD). Thus, upon assuming power following the elections of 2005, the party sought to create a more ethnically and politically inclusive system of government. The strides made were however short-lived as certain factions within the CNDD-FDD began to perceive the Arusha accords as an obstacle to the party's consolidation of power. Thus, there were attempts to remove certain opposition elements from the government. These were however greeted askance on the grounds that they were at variance with the tenets of the Arusha accords.

Beside the Arusha accords for Rwanda and Burundi, the Arusha Agreement for South Sudan, signed in January 2015, helped to unify the ruling Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) with the goal of ending political and ethnic factionalism. Specifically, the talks brought together three factions of the party (Aleu, 2015). One of these was the mainstream faction led by President Sava Kiir. The second was that led by then former vice president, Riek Machar whose fallout with President Kiir in 2013 over allegations of an attempted coup plot led to South Sudan's major conflict after independence. The third faction comprised political prisoners or persons detained in wake of the alleged failed coup plot of 2013 (Aleu, 2015).

The Arusha accord helped to resolve factionalism in the SPLM by enjoining all the factions to eschew ethno-centric and militaristic tendencies at the root of the conflict. Moreover, it laid the foundation for the attainment of a substantive peace agreement for the whole of South Sudan as per the aegis of the Inter-Governmental Authority of Development (IGAD). These achievements notwithstanding, the Arusha agreement appears to have had limited success as factionalism continues to bedevil the SPLM.

Besides peace building, Arusha's pedigree in good governance is evinced by its strong culture of political inclusiveness. In 2016 for instance, the majority of city councillors were from the opposition Party for Democracy and Progress (popularly referred to as Chadema). Moreover, urban governance in the metropolis comprises diverse interest groups such as political representatives, local

communities, the business sector and environmental organisations. Also, budget planning is an inclusive process which starts at the neighbourhood and ward levels, before consolidation for discussion at the city council (Overseas Development Institute, n. d.).

Arusha is also the host city for the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption (AUABC). The Board was created in 2009 based on Article 22 of the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combatting Corruption. This convention was birthed at a conference in Mozambique in 2003 and implemented in 2006 following ratification by at least fifteen member states (AUABC, n. d.). Specifically, the AUABC is tasked with the mandate of initiating and implementing measures to combat corruption on the continent. Moreover, it has responsibility for conducting research on the matter and advising governments across the continent regarding how to effectively deal with the canker. It also develops codes which guide the conduct of public officers across the continent (AUABC, n. d.).

In carrying out its mandate, the AUAC pools efforts with the African Commission on Human and People's Rights, as well as other governmental, non-governmental and civil society organisations. The networking and partnerships ensconced in its activities thus cement the role of Arusha as a diplomatic hub in Sub-Saharan Africa. Moreover, the emphasis in this case on public accountability adds to the reputation of the city as an incubator or citadel of good governance on the continent.

International Courts and Legal Establishments

Besides furthering peace building and good governance, Arusha has also hosted trials relating to the outcomes of war or human rights abuses. Here, the role of the Tanzanian government has been instrumental in the selection of the city for this purpose. Due to the perceived benefits of these endeavours, the local government has been very supportive of the national efforts. From 1994 to 2015 for instance, Arusha served as the host of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR). The court was established to judge people accused of serious crimes and human rights violations in the Rwandan genocide of 1994. This was based on Resolution 955, adopted by the United Nations Security Council in November 1994 (Barria and Roper, 2005; Reydams, 2005, 2013; Westberg, 2011). The tribunal gave impetus to the 1948 Geneva Conventions by defining genocide and putting on trial those guilty of this crime. It also elucidated rape under international law and categorised it as a tool for the perpetuation of genocide. Moreover, the landmark *media case* highlighted the ability of public broadcasts to be employed as platforms for instigating people to engage in genocidal acts. During the course of its work, the tribunal oversaw cases involving several high-profile or prominent people. The ICTR ended its work in December 2012 (Barria and Roper, 2005; Reydams, 2005, 2013; Westberg, 2011).

As the home of the ICTR, Arusha served to promote international law in three main ways. To begin with, it provided a safe haven for the speedy and judicious trial of persons accused of serious crimes. This occurred in part because it was not located in Rwanda which was the hotspot of the genocide (thus implying that the hosting of the trials in the country itself could have inflamed ethnic and political tensions). Simultaneously, the relative proximity of Arusha and Tanzania to Rwanda implied less cost and more convenience in dispensing justice. Moreover, Arusha was a good location for the ICTR because of its historical pedigree as a place for the incubation of peace and justice in the African political landscape. This served to engender confidence amongst the various parties associated with the court. Also, the choice of Arusha was germane due to the presence of many other international

organisations and networks. The implication was that it was relatively more feasible to establish the support and resource networks necessary for the successful operation of the tribunal.

Following the end of the ICTR's tenure, its successor the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (IRMCT) also has a branch in Arusha. The Arusha branch of residual tribunal is responsible for the unfinished work of the ICTR. Thus, one of the mandates of the residual mechanism is the arrest and prosecution of serious genocide offenders who evaded justice during the work of the ICTR. This successor was premised on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1966 (United Nations: IRMCT, n. d.).

The African Court on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) is also based in Arusha. This court is envisaged as a supporting mechanism to the work of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights. Specifically, it creates a platform for protecting the human rights of all peoples across Africa. In order to ensure its establishment and facilitate its work, the Government of Tanzania signed an agreement with the African Union for the establishment of this court in Arusha (ACHPR, 2019; African Union, n. d.) As part of the terms of agreement, the Tanzanian government was enjoined to provide permanent premises, as well as facilities necessary for the efficient functioning of the court. The court seeks to provide the necessary institutional and cross-national support for the protection of human rights in Africa. This occurs by ensuring the independence or impartiality of the judges and the stipulation of clear terms of reference for its operations (ACHPR, 2019; African Union, n. d.)

As the host of the ACHPR, Arusha has further emblazoned its reputation as a focal point for the dispensation of international law or justice in Africa. This occurs through the provision of the conducive atmosphere for the operation of the court. Moreover, the *agglomeration* of several similar international judicial establishments in the city serves as a source of institutional memory and helps to pool synergies towards effective justice delivery. The presence of the African Court, which is a permanent body (unlike the ICTR for instance) serves to create a more enduring legal legacy in the body politic of the city. Moreover, because this particular court is a creation of the African Union, it epitomises the capacity of Africans themselves to actualise the reality of effective justice delivery in an African setting.

Besides the aforementioned courts, the African Institute of International Law (AIIL), an independent body, is also based in Arusha. The institute is envisaged as a research and educational centre which fosters understanding of international law. Notwithstanding its independence, the body has been endorsed by both the African Union and the United Nations as a place of excellence for promoting international law on the continent (AIIL, 2019). Thus, this approach (unlike the ICTR and ACHPR for instance) embodies the roles of both global and continental bodies when it comes to the protection of human rights and international law. This occurs through mechanisms such as capacity building, specialised training, research publications and fellowships (AIIL, 2019).

Refugees

Arusha also plays an important role when it comes to refugees. The city's approach to dealing with refugees however appears to be shaped by the national policy context. Specifically, the Tanzania Country Refugee Response Plan comes to mind. The plan seeks to host an increasing number of refugees mostly from Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR]: Regional Refugee Coordination Office [RRC], 2019-2020). While

Arusha serves as an important venue on events relating to refugees, it however appears to be a relatively less active host for the refugee population. This is because the national response plan recommends the settlement of refugees in camps in the north west of Tanzania. These include Nyarugusu, Nduta and Mtendeli. Thus, major cities such as Dar es Salaam and Arusha only host a small proportion of refugees. Moreover, the Governments of Tanzania and Burundi, under the facilitation of the UNHCR, have actively encouraged the voluntary return of refugees home (UNHCR: RRC, 2019-2020).

The Tanzania Country Refugee Response Plan embodies the fulfilment of Tanzania's international legal commitments with respect to the refugee population, particularly in East Africa. This occurs in three main ways. First, the plan recognises the nation's obligations as a host or venue for refugees from conflict-prone countries. Second, it creates the legal and policy framework for agency on the part of the Tanzanian government, in collaboration with other actors such as the UNHCR and relevant local authorities. Third, the plan serves as the basis for the mobilisation of local and international resources towards providing for the needs of the refugee population.

Arusha has a stronger reputation as a venue for conferences or events focused on the refugee population in Africa. This development may largely be traced to May 1979 when the city hosted the Pan-African Conference on the Situation of Refugees in Africa. The conference, organised at the behest of the Government of Tanzania, brought together various stakeholders such as non-governmental organisations and international partners. These actors deliberated on the gaps in existing policies towards refugees with the view of adopting a more humanitarian approach to dealing with the continent's refugee population (UNHCR, 2020, 2010; Eriksson, Melander and Nobel, 1981). The 1979 Arusha conference underscored the rights of refugees to seek asylum in other countries, as a break from the persecution being experienced in situations of war or human rights abuses. It also reiterated the salience of various international and African conventions to the protection of refugees. These included the 1951 Convention, the 1967 Protocol and the 1969 Convention by the then Organisation of African Unity (UNHCR, 2020, 2010; Eriksson, Melander and Nobel, 1981).

Arusha also hosted an international refugee conference in July/August 1990. Three of the main recommendations from this conference focused on *integration*, *voluntary repatriation* and *resettlement* of refugees. Specifically, refugees should be able to integrate within their host countries so that they eventually become citizens if they wish to be. Moreover, those who wish to be returned to their home countries should be provided with the necessary institutional and logistical support to do so. Also, refugees should be assisted to resettle in third countries where necessary. This is particularly important in situations where neither the countries of origin nor the present places of residence provide viable options for the refugees involved (University of Oxford: Refugees Studies Centre, 1990).

In April 2011, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) organised a conference focused on the inter-linkages among *international refugee law*, *international criminal law* and *international human rights law*. The conference was held at the premises of the ICTR in Arusha. The goal for establishing the aforementioned linkages was partly to eulogise past conventions on refugees and their contribution to the protection of refugee rights. These included the *1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees*, as well as the *1961Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness* (UNHCR, 2011; Edwards and Hurwich, 2011).

The 2011 Arusha conference recognised several interconnections among international refugee law, international criminal law and international human rights law. These were particularly evident in terms of forced relocation of persons, deportation, maltreatment of refugees, civil war and the rights of civilians. It also examined persons excluded from international refugee protection and assessed the process for international criminal jurisprudence associated with such persons.

In keeping up with its reputation as a focal point of refugee initiatives in Africa, Arusha currently hosts a liaison office of the UNHCR in Tanzania. The UNHCR is an agency of the United Nations which is involved in managing international and local responses to the plight of refugee populations around the world. It thus engages with governments and local actors to protect refugee rights. The UNHCR liaison office in Arusha works in close conjunction with the main office in Dar-es-Salaam and other offices around the country to better coordinate refugee responses in Tanzania and elsewhere in East Africa.

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Arusha also has a special role to play in the actualisation of the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As per the Urban Authority Act of 1982 (subsequently amended in 1992), the Arusha City Council is mandated to pursue initiatives to protect the environment as a way of ensuring the attainment of sustainable development outcomes. Moreover, the Arusha strategic plan for the 2011/12 to 2014/15 period stressed the salience of environmental and social sustainability in its mission and vision. Specific strategies adopted by the Arusha City Council include improving the quality of water supply and sanitation services. Moreover, there are efforts to ensure the conservation of natural resources as a way of serving the needs of both current and future generations (Arusha City Council, 2016).

In the recent past, Tanzania's Ministry of Water and Irrigation has transferred much of the responsibility for water supply and sanitation to the Arusha Urban Water and Sanitation Authority (AUWSA) while the city council retains these functions only in peri-urban areas. AUWSA has responsibility for ensuring the provision of potable water within the confines of Arusha Municipality while simultaneously ensuring the conservation of this resource for sustainable development. Moreover, it manages the city's sewage system as a way of promoting public sanitation and health (Overseas Development Institute, n. d.).

Much of Arusha's prominence regarding the UN SDGs however appears to be with respect to its role as a space for advancing the goals. The Arusha Declaration of November 2018 for instance was in furtherance of the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists. The declaration underscored the roles of national, sub-national and judicial authorities in the protection of the rights of journalists. This was in tandem with Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as Article 9 of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization [UNESCO], United Nations Tanzania and Republic of Tanzania, 2018).

The Arusha Declaration of 2018 was also in consonance the UN SDG 16 which focuses on *peace, justice and strong institutions*. This goal recognises legislation at both the national and international levels as the bases for enhanced information access to the general public. It also underscores the need to track and make public incidents involving the arrest, detention, prosecution or killing of journalists in any country (UNESCO, United Nations Tanzania and Republic of Tanzania, 2018).

At the national level, Tanzania has been teaming up with various partners such as the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) and the Association of Local Authorities of Tanzania (ALAT) to promote local capacity and reforms towards the actualisation of the SDGs. This partnership culminated in the first conference of the East African Local Government Forum (EALGF) in Arusha. Moreover, in wake of Tanzania's maiden multi-party local government elections, a capacity building initiative was rolled out in 1995 by the CLGF to support the democratic gains made (CLGF, 2017-18, 2020).

Arusha hosted the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in September 2012 following the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) which was hosted by the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro in June 2012. The conference sought to develop a plan of action for Africa in wake of the resolutions reached at the Rio+20 summit. Moreover, it underscored the salience of efforts by organisations such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United National Development Programme (UNDP), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Development Bank (ADB) towards actualising the various resolutions reached on the continent. The Arusha declaration also welcomed the ten-year programme outdoored at the Rio+20 Summit to support regional and national efforts towards attaining sustainable development outcomes in terms of production and consumption (UNEP, 2012).

In March 2019, Arusha hosted a meeting of non-governmental organisations and the private sector on the progress of implementing the UN SDGs. At the event, the Deputy Coordinator of the UN Global Compact Badru Juma underscored the gains made by Tanzania in actualising the goals. These include free education, poverty reduction, improved health care access and reduction in hunger. Other speakers at the meeting however observed challenges in terms of water supply and the right to information (The Citizen, 2019).

Syntheses and Conclusions

While the role of Arusha in international law appears largely evident in terms of the spatial domain rather than local agency, this is still important for three main reasons. First, the Arusha context reveals that even in instances of national political centralisation, the urban space remains indispensable in the promotion of international law. This occurs because cities possess the physical infrastructure and political networks necessary for the advancement of transitional justice. Second, Arusha symbolises the spatial context of national influence in international law. This is evinced by the fact that the Tanzanian government continues to actively promote the city in the international arena with the view of cementing the role of the nation in the global legal, political and diplomatic spheres. Also already noted this situation has been facilitated by the relatively centralised local governmental system in Tanzania which makes it easy for the national government to prioritise which cities or regions receive specific attention. The efforts by the government may therefore be comprehended within broader legislative contexts such as the Local Government (District Authorities) Act 1982, the Local Government (Urban Authorities) Act 1982, the Regional Administration Act 1997 and the Local Government Laws (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act number 9 of 1999. Third, notwithstanding the limited role of Arusha as an actor, the pursuit of various SDG initiatives reveal that sustainable development is largely a localised phenomenon even if these are implemented in tandem with global goals. The pedigree of the city in SDGs thus evinces the global-local nexus in the context of a major African urban centre.

Besides the Tanzanian government, the African Union and other regional inter-governmental bodies have been forthcoming in propping up the role of Arusha. This may be due to its historical reputation and the crucial role it plays in fostering peace and security on the African continent. Also, the international community comprising of the United Nations, national governments and various donors continue to reinforce Arusha's path dependency as an incubator of international peace and law. This occurs through resource commitments, the adoption of relevant resolutions and the availing of politico-legal networks necessary for the city to play its functional role.

The role of Arusha in international law may be comprehended within the lenses of globalisation from above and below. Here, globalisation from above embodies supra-national forces such as the need for international justice and how these configure the willingness of national governments, the United Nations and African Union to commit resources to Arusha. Moreover, globalisation from below entails the content-specific reifications of the city which shape its pedigree and approach to hosting dialogues and institutions focused on international law, peace and security. As already noted, the historical context and path dependencies of Arusha strongly intermesh to define its orientation towards international endeavours.

In a sense, the role of Arusha in international law may be comprehended within the *sanctuary city* and *human rights city* conceptual purviews. The sanctuary city status occurs in part due to the city's reputation as a hub for conferences and initiatives relating to refugees. Moreover, it emerges because of Arusha's reputation as a destination of choice for various international and regional endeavours aimed at ending wars in other countries. Thus, political and other actors have confidence in travelling to Arusha to find peaceful solutions to their conflicts. In terms of the human rights frame, the preference for Arusha as a venue for hosting trials and courts dedicated to the promotion of justice lends credence to this assertion. As already noted, these include the ICTR and ACHPR. Arusha's status as a sanctuary and human rights city has been facilitated by its historical reputation, physical infrastructure, political goodwill and strategic location in East Africa.

In terms of the UN SDGs, Arusha serves as a localising platform by bringing together various experts from around the world on the issue of sustainable development. It therefore pools the efforts of international organisations, national governments, local authorities and non-governmental organisations towards attaining the SDGs. Arusha itself is a direct beneficiary of these initiatives as reflected in its urban water and sanitation strategies.

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