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INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC LAW AND LEGAL EDUCATION IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

The studying and teaching of International Economic Law (IEL) in Nigeria is largely undeveloped. This is because within the legal curriculum of undergraduate studies, IEL is not prioritised in the research agenda and curriculum within the Faculties of Law. For several years IEL was excluded as a course of study in Nigerian universities and where it is taught, it is relegated to the status of an optional course. At a time where there is a conscious call to decolonise international legal education in Africa and consider Third World Approaches to International Law (TWIAL), the paper argues that it is important to have an in-depth knowledge and understanding of IEL and then begin a process of adjusting the curriculum to capture pan-African experiences. A specific challenge in the teaching and scholarship of IEL in Nigeria and generally in African Universities is that the curriculum is embedded in Eurocentric conception of international law generally and by implication IEL. This paper however argues that where skill is undeveloped and there is scarcity of knowledge, it adversely affects the quality of IEL scholarship expertise needed to facilitate any decolonisation agenda. The paper proceeds from the perspective of a teacher of International Economic Law (IEL) in a Nigerian university.