



DR. SYLVIA AMA ADUSU

**CANDIDATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA
FOR ELECTION AS ITLOS JUDGE,
FOR THE TERM 2026 - 2035**

ENDORSED BY THE AFRICAN UNION



Dr Sylvia Adusu is Ghana's nominee and African Union-endorsed candidate for election as Judge of the Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS). She brings over three decades of legal practice and leadership in international law. As Chief State Attorney and head of International law in the Office of the Attorney-General and Ministry Justice of Ghana, she has combined courtroom advocacy, treaty negotiation and research to advance the rule of law in ocean governance, among others.

Dr Adusu has a distinguished record in both domestic and international litigation. She has represented the Republic before the superior courts of judicature in Ghana, international tribunals, and in foreign jurisdictions such as the United state and Norway. She serves on the quasi-judicial panel for Formal Hearing of the Public Utilities and Regulatory Commission to resolve disputes. Her administrative expertise includes serving as the Solicitor Secretary of the Lands Commission and on various governing boards and national committees. she is also a Notary Public.

Since 2007, Dr. Adusu has worked actively on the Law of the Sea matters. She played a pivotal role in Ghana's successful maritime boundary delimitation case against Cote d'Ivoire before ITLOS and advised on the *ARA Libertad* (Argentina v Ghana) prompt release case. She was also part of the team that made submissions for Ghana's extended continental shelf beyond 200NM. She also represented Ghana in the climate change advisory opinion proceedings before the ICJ.

Dr. Adusu holds a PhD in International Law from the University of Lancaster, UK, where her research focused on the delimitation and conservation of marine resources under UNCLOS within the context of "Cooperation over Gulf of Guinea Resources". She lectures part-time on the Law of the Sea at the University of Ghana and teaches Civil Procedure at the Ghana School of Law. She has also presented conference paper on subjects relating to the Law of the Sea.

Dr. Adusu envisions ITLOS as a cornerstone for peaceful ocean governance, promoting cooperation, safeguarding maritime resources, and delivering impartial justice. Her integrity and fairness alongside the blend of litigation experience, diplomatic engagement, and academic insight uniquely position her to strengthen the Tribunal's mandate as a global anchor for the maintenance of international peace and security, the facilitation of sustainable development, and the preservation of marine biodiversity.



Profile

Dr. Sylvia Ama Adusu, a Chief State Attorney in Ghana with over thirty year at the Bar. Prior to her doctoral research in the Law of the Sea, she gained extensive experience and practice in international law as well as civil litigation, criminal prosecution and arbitrations. An outline of her curriculum vitae is presented:

PhD in Law, University of Lancaster, United Kingdom.
Area of Research - International Law (Law of the Sea).

MPhil International Relations, Legon Centre for International Affairs, University of Ghana.
Area of Research – International law.

Postgraduate Diploma International Law and Sustainable Development,
Institute of Social Studies, The Hague, Netherlands.

Qualifying Certificate in Law, Ghana School of Law, Accra, Ghana.

B.A.(Hons) Law and Sociology, University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana.



Office of the Attorney-General and Ministry of Justice - (1996-present)

Current Position – Head, International Law Division.

- International Relations and Human Rights: manages Ghana's international legal relations in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign; Coordinating the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-Ups to prepare Ghana's reports to the UN Human Rights Council, the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights and other treaty bodies; attending sessions of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland and attending States Parties meetings for the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.
- Representation & litigation: Attends States parties meeting for the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, Human Rights Council meetings, meetings of the African Union among others; represents the state in Regional Courts and judicial committees(ECOWAS Court of Justice, the African Court and the African Committee on the Welfare of the Child of the African Union; represents Ghana at joint - cooperation meetings between Ghana and other states,

National Multisectorial Committees & Appointments

- Ghana Boundary Commission: member involved in negotiating maritime boundary delimitations
- Co-Chair of the Steering Committee on Business and Human Rights overseeing the National Action Plan for Business and Human Rights in Ghana.
- Coordinator, Ghana's National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-ups (NMRF).
- Member, National Assets Management Working Committee.
- **Notary Public** of the Republic of Ghana (Appointed in 2013).

Notable Achievements & Candidacy

- ITLOS candidacy: Ghana's nominated candidate for the 2026 election to the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)
- National Honour: Awarded the Companion of the Order of the Volta for crucial contribution as co-counsel in the Ghana Cote d'Ivoire maritime boundary dispute case.

Relevant Professional Development and Training

- Yeosu Academy of the Law of the Sea (2021).
- Meeting of the International Criminal Court on Witness Protection held in Accra-2014.
- Gulf of Guinea Maritime Security Workshop Accra (8-12 April 2013).
- 'Mastering the Techniques and Modern Trends in Negotiating and drafting Commercial Agreements' - Centre for Commercial Law and Financial Regulation University of Reading UK (24 August 2012).
- 'Maritime Boundary Delimitation', Center for International Law, National University of Singapore. (September 26-28, 2012).
- Ghana Security Sector Governance and management Course, organised by the Ghana Armed Forces at the Kofi Annan International Peace Keeping Training Centre, Accra. 5 August -26 August 2008.
- Project Design & Management Workshop. Accra (13-14 September 2005).
- 'Mediation and Conflict Transformation' United Nations Development Programme Project on Developing Capacity for Conflict Prevention Management and Resolution in Ghana Swedru – Ghana.(October 2005),
- Ghana Arbitration Centre Workshop on Techniques of Arbitration. 26 November 2004.
- Basic Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Training Workshop. California State University, Sacramento and collaboration with Ghana Association of Chartered Mediators and Arbitrators (2003).
- Advanced Securities, Ghana Stock Exchange Securities Course. Nov 1998.



At the International Court of Justice (ICJ)

International Court of Justice (ICJ)

Counsel for Ghana: Represented the Republic of Ghana before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the matter of the *Request for Advisory Opinion on the Obligation of States on Climate Change* (December 2024)

International Leadership and Working Groups

- Member, Commonwealth Military Justice Working Group (2024- present).
- Chair, Specialised Committee: Revision of the Treaty Establishing the Gulf of Guinea Commission, and its Fundamental Texts (2023 – present).
- Focal Point for Ghana: United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) Review Mechanism (July 2023 – present).
- Chair, Expert Working Group: The Enforcement of Suppression Orders in the Commonwealth, Commonwealth Secretariat (2022 - present)
- Participant, The 39th session of the International Law Commission held at the Palais des Nation, Geneva Switzerland from 7th to 25th July 2003.

International arbitration and litigation.

- *Beijing Everyway v GOG (Government of Ghana)* - Arbitration before the Permanent Court of International Arbitration and the London Court of International Arbitration (2021 – 2025).
- *TJGEM vs Republic of Ghana, Accra Metropolitan Assembly, & others*: Represented Ghana before the United States District Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia in conjunction with Counsel in the USA) (2013).
- *CP Construction vs The Government of Ghana and others*: International litigation conducted in conjunction with counsel in the UK) (2012).

Law of the Sea & Maritime Boundaries

- Co-Counsel, *Ghana v Cote d'Ivoire Maritime Boundary Dispute* ITLOS case No 23 (2014-2017)
- Member, Negotiating Team: Ghana - Cote d'Ivoire Maritime Boundary Dispute (July 2008- May 2014).
- Member of legal Team, “*ARA Libertad*” (*Argentina v. Ghana*): Provisional Measures before the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea (ITLOS case No. 20) in Hamburg, Germany (2012).
- Member of the Continental Shelf Delineation Project that successfully submitted a claim for the extension of Ghana’s continental shelf beyond 200NM (2004-2009).



Part Time Lecturer

University of Ghana School of Law - Part time Lecturer – LLM Programme, 2022 -Present
 Lancaster University, UK - LLM International Law (Distance Learning) Oct.– Dec. 2017
 Ghana School of Law, Accra - Part time Lecturer in Civil Procedure - 2012 - 2015
 Ghana School of Law, Accra - Part time Lecturer in Civil Procedure - 2022 - Present

Unpublished Research

- Cooperation over Gulf of Guinea Resources (Phd Thesis)
- Sovereign Immunity: Charles Taylor's Indictment and Implications for International Relations (MPhil Thesis)

Conference Papers

Delivered at the Summer Academy on the Continental Shelf in Arusha Tanzania. Organised by the University of Faroe Islands in collaboration with the African Institute of International Law. April 21-27, 2024

- 'Tacit agreement in maritime boundary delimitation'
- 'Transboundary resources' • 'Activities in undelimited marine areas'

Delivered at the Ocean Governance Joint Interdisciplinary Conference, University of Ghana, Legon- September 2025. Organised by the University of Ghana School of Law.

- 'Post Judgment / Award Procedures in Maritime boundary Delimitation'



Lecturing during the Summer Academy on the Continental Shelf in Arusha Tanzania.



Statement of the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice of the Republic of Ghana. Dr. Dominic Akuritinga Ayine



The Republic of Ghana, with its rich maritime history and vast offshore resources has always upheld international law as the basis for its international relations. As a state party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), Ghana has always endeavoured to settle her maritime boundary disputes with its neighbours in a spirit of cooperation in complete fidelity to international law. I am therefore pleased to announce the nomination of Dr. Sylvia Adusu for the 2026 elections to the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea (ITLOS).

She is a lawyer of over thirty years standing with a remarkable career in government service and a reputation for fairness and integrity. She has over the years provided invaluable legal advice to government on a wide range of subjects notably those related to the law of the sea matters. As a member of the Ghana Boundary Commission, she has taken part in crucial negotiations between Ghana and neighbouring states on their maritime boundaries as well as promoted joint cooperation among the states in the region. These experiences will no doubt stand Dr. Adusu in good stead to serve on the Tribunal.

This is also the first time a Ghanaian woman has been nominated as a candidate for elections to the ITLOS and I am confident that her nomination will bring to the Tribunal an opportunity to provide a gender perspective in international dispute settlement and could also provide inspiration for UNCLOS tribunals. The Republic of Ghana takes this opportunity to affirm its unreserved support for the Tribunal by endorsing the candidature of Dr. Adusu for the 2026 election to the Tribunal.



“Dr. Sylvia Ama Adusu’s integrity, strategic insight and tireless commitment to fair, rules-based governance will be an asset to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS). I extend to her my full and unreserved support”.

His Excellency John Dramani Mahama
President of the Republic of Ghana