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The *Comparative and International Law Journal of Southern Africa* (CILSA) is proudly entering its 59th year of publication. It is both an honour and a privilege to contribute to the stewardship of a journal with such a long and rich history and important intellectual legacy.

CILSA aims to foster discussions and growth in international and comparative law. Its goal is to provide a platform for academics and other experts to discuss developments in the fields of comparative law, international law, legal practice, and in the statutory, case and treaty law of the states of Southern Africa, Africa and other countries. Over the decades, the journal has published scholarship reflecting the diversity of legal traditions in Southern Africa while engaging with broader global debates.

We are currently living through a period in which international law is a central topic in public discussions, not just academic circles. Major recent global events have raised important questions about the role, limits and effectiveness of international law. One example is the case brought by South Africa against Israel before the International Court of Justice. It is one of the most closely watched international law cases in recent years and has drawn global attention to the interpretation of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and restrictions on humanitarian aid under International Humanitarian Law. The protracted war between Russia and Ukraine has also generated intense scrutiny of the rules governing the use of force within the international legal system. More recently, the escalating war involving Iran following strikes by the United States and Israel has raised profound questions about the stability of the contemporary international legal order. These situations have sparked intense international debate about issues like genocide, state responsibility and the legality of military actions under international law. Emerging topics such as climate change, digital regulation, artificial intelligence and migration law are also shaping legal discussions.

What stands out about these developments is the degree to which international law now features in everyday public discourse. This offers an opportunity for scholars to provide constructive legal analysis and contribute meaningfully to global debates.

It is within this context that CILSA continues its work. The journal remains committed to publishing high-quality scholarship that combines critical analysis with a comparative approach. Looking ahead, my vision for the journal is that it should

continue to serve as a leading platform for scholarship on international and comparative law, while promoting African legal scholarship. Voices from Africa are often overlooked in global discussions on international law, yet they bring valuable insights. We thus aim to highlight African perspectives and engage with current global legal issues.

This issue of CILSA covers a diverse range of thought-provoking topics. These include: recent developments to the Uniform Dispute Resolution Policy for trademark-related domain disputes; the controversial issue of pardons before the African Criminal Court; the effectiveness of labour law in protecting employees' mental health in toxic work environments; critiques of Namibia's eviction laws; the regulation of international trade in insects in South Africa; and the problem of child labour in conflict situations, highlighting the scale of the issue both globally and across the African continent.

As global challenges continue to test international law, the need for thoughtful legal scholarship is more important than ever. I hope that CILSA will continue to be a vibrant platform for such work. In a world where international law faces many challenges, scholarly dialogue is essential.