

Profile

Leonard O. Ugbajah is the Resident Representative of CUTS International in Abuja Nigeria. He is a trained Lawyer with close to 10 years' experience in different aspects of legal practice and consultancy. Leonard's career path took him through a couple of law firms from where he volunteered with the National Association of Nigerian Traders (NANTS) as a trade policy analyst and subsequently progressed to become the Head of the Legal and Legislative Affairs Department. Leonard resigned his position in NANTS in June 2009 and became an Independent Consultant on trade policy and economic regulation.

In the course of his career, Leonard has attended workshops and trainings. He has served in Government Committees on trade including serving in the Secretariat of the Nigerian Government Technical Committee on the ECOWAS-EU Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA) in which capacity he was deeply involved in the EPA processes both in Nigeria and at the regional level.

Leonard has consulted on a number of projects on such areas as competition law and policy, trade and industrial policy, etc. He is also a Partner in a law firm involved in corporate legal services and real estate advisory services. He has served as resource person in a number of workshops and conferences locally and internationally. As an advocate for sound trade and economic regulatory policy, Leonard has to his credit a number of opinion articles published in reputable traditional and online news media. Leonard is currently a postgraduate research student in the department of International

Law and Jurisprudence, Faculty of Law,
University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus.

Leonard O. Ugbajah



Position

Resident Representative, Nigeria

Email: lou@cuts.org

Year of Birth: 1977

Nationality: Nigerian

Language:

- English – Fluent
- Igbo - Fluent

Qualification

- LL.B (Hons), B.L

Other Qualifications

- Certificate in Food and Agriculture Trade
- Certificate in Export Development and Diversification: the Role of Market Analysis Tools

Key Sills

- Policy/Legal Research and Analysis
- Public Private Policy Dialogue
- Legislative Advocacy

SELECT PROJECTS WORKED ON

- Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS) International 7Up4 Project (Strengthening Constituencies for Effective Competition Regimes in Selected West African Countries) -**Researcher and Project Consultant on the Country Research Report for Nigeria.** 2008/2010
- NANTS' Project on Support to Business Member Organisations' Coalition for Legislative Advocacy on Competition Law in Nigeria. (Funded by DFID/ENABLE under the management of Adam Smith International)- First phase completed. **Conceptualised and worked as a Consultant in the implementation, 2009.**
- Field Study of local small scale producers of foot-wears and garments in Aba, Abia State of Nigeria which is a first step in an intervention project aimed at increasing their market locally and regionally by improving their productive capacity (quality and quantity wise) and their policy intervention capacity- **conceptualised, managed and participated in the Study** (NANTS, 2008)
- Legislative Advocacy on Trade Policy/EPA in Nigeria (Component of NANTS/OXFAM NOVIB Project on Trade and Livelihoods, 2008/2009) **managed the project, which included regular briefing session with different Committees of the Nigerian Parliament.**
- Drafting of Nigeria's position text on the EU-West Africa Economic Partnership Agreement. (Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry/DFID, 2008) **Research/Legal Assistant to the Committee**
- Harmonisation of stakeholders and experts' comments on the Nigerian position EPA text-(Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry/NANTS, 2008).
- Development of a Blueprint for Raw Material Based Industrial Clusters for Nigeria- (Raw Materials Research and Development Council-RMRDC/ Centre for Development and Corporate Responsibility-CDCR) 2010-. **Consultant**
- Preparation of Report on Production and Utilisation of Leather Raw Material in Nigeria- (Raw Materials Research and Development Council-RMRDC/ Centre for Development and Corporate Responsibility -CDCR) 2010-. **Consultant**
- Preparation of Memorandum on the proposed Federal Competition Bill submitted to the House of Representative. Commissioned by NANTS. Completed, January, 2014.
- Preparation of Memorandum on Reform of Import Duty Waiver Administration in Nigeria submitted to the House of Representative Committee investigating the abuse of import duty waivers in Nigeria. Commissioned by NANTS. Completed. February, 2014.
- Facilitation of Stakeholder' Consultation on the Draft Nigerian Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Policy

SELECT ESSAYS

1. **Reflections on the Nigerian - U.S Trade and Investment Framework Agreement, TIFA** (op-ed, Leadership Newspaper (Nigeria), Monday, 10th December, 2007, p.35)
2. **Market Liberalization and Competition Law: The Challenge before Nigeria.** (*Trade Policy Monitor*, Vol 1, Issue 3, May 2008: National Association of Nigerian Traders, NANTS,)
3. **EPA: Reasons why Nigeria is a Sitting Elephant** (op-ed)(co-authored). Available at: <http://www.acp-eu-trade.org/library/files/Ukaoha-Ugbajah> -
4. **Nigeria, EPA and GSP+:** (op-ed, Thisday Newspaper, Tuesday 21st Oct, 2008).(co-authored)
5. **Catherine Ashton: the Changing Face of EU's Trade Policy?** (op-ed). Available at: [dgroups.org/.../EPAs-ECOWAS- The Changing Face of EU Trade engagement-NANTS_031108.doc](http://dgroups.org/.../EPAs-ECOWAS-The_Changing_Face_of_EU_Trade_engagement-NANTS_031108.doc).
6. **Issues in Nigeria's Trade and Industrial Policy: Likely Agenda for the New Minister of Commerce and Industry** (op-ed). Available at: www.nigerianmuse.com/.../issues-in-nigeria-s-trade-and-industrial-policy-likely-agenda-for-the-new-minister-of-commerce
7. **Why the Nigerian Economy Needs a Competition Policy and Law- Part 1**
<http://saharareporters.com/article/why-nigerian-economy-needs-competition-policy-and-law-part-1-leonard-ugbajah>
8. **Why the Nigerian Economy Needs a Competition Policy and Law- Part 2**
<http://saharareporters.com/article/why-nigerian-economy-needs-competition-policy-and-law-part-2-leonard-ugbajah>

SELECT WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

1. **Nigeria's Trade Policy Strategy and Development:** A Presentation at the Stakeholders' Sensitization Workshop on the EPA under the World Bank's Nigeria Trade Policy Development Series, 25-26 May, 2009, Abuja.
2. **Competition Regime Scenario in Nigeria:** A Presentation at the Interim Review Meeting of the 7Up4 Project. 29th-30th July, 2009, Banjul. Available at: [www.cutsccier.org/.../PPT-IRM-State of Competition Regime in Nigeria.ppt](http://www.cutsccier.org/.../PPT-IRM-State_of_Competition_Regime_in_Nigeria.ppt)
3. **Complementary Measures for Services Sector Development in Nigeria:** A Presentation at the Workshop for Services Sector Development in Nigeria- Organised by NANTS/ ILEAP, Abuja, September, 2009. Available at: http://www.ileap-jeicp.org/programmes/meetings_workshops/abuja_nov09_presentations.html

4. **Process of Evolution of the Competition Legislation in Nigeria:** A Presentation at the CUTS 7Up4 Final Conference, Dakar, August, 2010. Available at: www.cuts-ccier.org/.../Process_of_evaluation_of_the_competition_legislati...
5. **UEMOA, ECOWAS and Regional Co-operation for Jurisdiction and Enforcement of Competition Law.** A Presentation at the Inception Workshop of the EU/ACP Tradecom Facility Project for Implementation of the ECOWAS Competition Act. Abuja, September, 2010.
6. **Legal Action: Avoiding Liability in Trade Compliance:** A Presentation to the 1st National Trade Compliance Summit organized by African Center for Supply Chain. Sheraton Hotels and Towers –Lagos (14th–15th May 2013)
7. **Towards an Efficient Payments Transactions Platform in West Africa: Leveraging Market Players Insight.** A Presentation at the Workshop: "*Towards an Efficient Payments Transactions Platform in West Africa*", organised by the World Bank. Dakar, 14th-15th June, 2013