The ECOWAS Court of Justice, as part of its annual work programme, organises international conferences that it hosts in any selected Member State in collaboration with the host government. The international conference provides a forum for the Court to examine, in conjunction with scholars, jurists, and stakeholders from Member States, important and topical legal thematic issues. The 2023 international conference therefore gives the Court the opportunity to address an urgent and grave issue of concern in the ECOWAS Community legal landscape. In the past two years, there have been unconstitutional changes of government in three Member States of ECOWAS, following the military coups in the Republics of Mali, Guinea and Burkina Faso.

The 2023 international conference focused on the need for participatory democracy and constitutional order in all ECOWAS Member States with the theme: “**ECOWAS Zero Tolerance for Unconstitutional Change of Government**”. It was held between 22nd and 25th May, 2023 in Banjul , The Gambia.