

**CAN DECENTRALISATION CONTRIBUTE TO PROMOTING RULE-OF-LAW
STRUCTURES? THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, RWANDA AND
BURUNDI AS EXAMPLES****

H Hamann *

SUMMARY

Decentralisation can enable a country's population to exercise political influence at regional and local level. This presupposes a willingness to assume responsibility. It also presupposes that those in power are willing to hand over some of the power. Together these two factors can foster rule-of-law structures.

This paper describes the constitutional and administrative framework for decentralisation in DR Congo, Rwanda and Burundi. It also explores the actual situation in those countries with reference to legal literature from those countries.

In addition, it raises questions regarding the effect of instruments of international law on the decentralisation processes (international organisations, regional integration and international cooperation).

KEYWORDS: Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, decentralisation, rule of law, international law, regional integration

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^{*} Hartmut Hamann. Prof. Dr, jur., Stuttgart, lawyer with focus on complex international projects and arbitration proceedings; lecturer on dispute resolution and international law at Freie Universität Berlin and Technische Universität Chemnitz, Hartmut.Hamann@cms-hs.com; regularly works in Africa; the author thanks Claire Pillot (Master II in Corporate and Tax law (Diplôme de Juriste Conseil en Entreprises (DJCE)), University of Strasbourg, Trainee lawyer (Ecole Régionale des Avocats du Grand Est, Strasbourg)) and Yohali Vanessa Ifulu (stud. jur. Universität Tübingen) for their help in researching legal details.