

The launch of UNDP's Justice Futures CoLab - World Justice Forum

3 June 2022, 10am-11:30am (virtual and in-person)

Background

Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goal 16 put rule of law and justice clearly at the heart of peace and development, prompting widespread dialogue and action on rethinking approaches to promoting rule of law and justice for the achievement of “Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies.” A people-centred approach to justice focuses on ensuring that justice services respond to people’s actual priorities and needs.

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020 made the need for this problem-driven approach to finding meaningful solutions to injustice and inequality even more urgent. The pandemic exposed and aggravated the justice gap and the limitations and inadequacies of systems and institutions in delivering justice for all. This justice crisis is only worsened by the environmental crisis, protracted conflicts, rising authoritarianism and shrinking of civic space, and polarization across societies. Today, people are demanding justice not only for civil and criminal wrongs committed in the present, but also for the wrongs of the past (legacies of slavery and colonialism, for example) and potential injustices of the future (such as environmental justice).

Recently, UNDP undertook an extensive reflective and consultative process to adapt and develop Phase IV (2022-2025) of its *Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development*. Phase IV of the Global Programme embraces the paradigm of people-centered approaches to justice as a core component of our efforts to enable transformative change over the next four years.

Objectives

The main aim of this side-event is to introduce **UNDP’s Justice Futures CoLab**, an initiative for exploration, innovation and action in tackling the justice challenges of today and preventing injustices tomorrow. The CoLab generates evidence and new knowledge and provides thought leadership in both policy and practice. It facilitates collaborative learning opportunities, produces cutting edge guidance, training and toolkits for practitioners, and mobilizes partnerships. The CoLab is an incubator for innovation at the local level, using insights, data and learning to strengthen the role of the Global Programme as a strategic influencer and enabler of transformative change.

A spotlight on the e-justice initiative will illustrate one area of UNDP’s justice response. New tools for rights-centred technology in justice and exciting country-level innovations will be the basis for a conversation about how technologies can help achieve concrete systems transformation, improve access to justice and sustainably increase human rights protection.

Draft Agenda

- 10:00 **Opening**
Presentation of the Global Programme Phase IV and the Justice Futures CoLab
Ms. Katy Thompson, Head of Rule of Law, Security and Human Rights, UNDP Crisis Bureau
- 10:10 **The urgency and necessity of re-thinking justice: illustrated through the e-Justice lens**
Ms. Leanne McKay, Senior Justice Advisor, UNDP Crisis Bureau
Ms. Sarah McCoubrey, Access to Justice Strategist, UNDP
- 10:30 **Examples of UNDP supported e-Justice work**
Three video snapshots of UNDP supported e-Justice projects (Brazil, Pakistan, State of Palestine) highlighting the human rights, rule of law or justice emergency the project addresses.
- 10:35 **Reflections on e-Justice responses to the Justice Emergency**
Panel of national counterparts and/or beneficiaries from the three spotlighted projects (Brazil, Pakistan, State of Palestine).

Facilitated discussion about the impact of e-justice on human rights protection and rule of law.
- 11:00 **Moderated Q&A session from audience**
- 11:20 **Justice Futures CoLab Opportunities**
- 11:25 **Closing Remarks**
Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 11:30 **Session end**