

Justice 2023: Pivoting to People-Centered Justice

Ministerial Meeting of the Justice Action Coalition

30 May 2022

Outcome Document

Today, we met as members and partners of the Justice Action Coalition.

Our coalition is a network of countries and partners championing justice for all and working to close the global justice gap. We have joined forces at the international level and will demonstrate ambitious leadership on our national priorities for people-centered justice.

At the core of this approach are efforts to put people at the center of justice systems and deliver fair, inclusive, relevant and timely solutions to their justice problems, that lead to fair outcomes and respect human rights. Our joint action is focused on the achievement of SDG16's promise to provide access to justice for all, builds on the international agenda for action set out in the [Justice for All](#) report and will be guided by the principles of people-centered justice, which we endorsed in our [Joint Letter](#) to the UN Secretary General. Leaving no one behind and ensuring gender equality are prerequisites to achieving equal access to justice for all and delivering on the 2030 Agenda.

We discussed that the future of our societies depends on our ability to re-establish trust between people, communities and governments and renew the social contract in countries around the globe. The peace and prosperity of our societies requires safeguarding democracy and responding to human rights violations and abuses, not least in countries affected by violent conflict. To achieve this, we must reduce inequalities and exclusion, prevent all forms of violence, and provide equal access to justice for all.

The pandemic has put social contracts under unprecedented pressure. We believe that putting people at the center of justice is key to reviving the bonds that hold our societies together and to re-establishing trust between people and communities, and governments.

We need bold action to transform justice systems.

We need to make 2023 a turning point for people-centered justice.

This is our 2023 Justice Appeal.

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We challenge ourselves and appeal to other countries to come to the SDG Summit in September 2023 with data and evidence to demonstrate their contribution to closing the global justice gap. The pivot to people-centered justice can include:

1. *Gathering data on the justice people want and need and how they experience their justice journey.*
 2. *Co-creating strategies to become much better at resolving and preventing people's most common justice problems, ensuring gender equality of all responses.*
 3. *Setting shared goals for a range of justice actors and starting implementation of strategies to achieve these goals.*
 4. *Investing at scale to transform justice as it is delivered to and experienced by people, reducing the number of unresolved justice problems, and creating fair outcomes.*
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We appeal to all those working for justice and fairness, including grassroots justice defenders, community paralegals, civil society actors and other justice providers, justice entrepreneurs and innovators, civil servants, lawyers, judges and other state as well as non-state justice professionals to join forces and strengthen the global movement for people-centered justice. We invite them to initiate and supplement government efforts to:

1. *Gather and share data on people's most common justice problems in the communities they serve, who faces them and what can be done to resolve and prevent them.*
 2. *Capture and present evidence of innovative strategies which work to prevent and resolve justice problems and empower people to participate fully in society and the economy.*
 3. *Urge, encourage and support countries to submit country reports for the voluntary national review of progress towards the SDGs.*
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We appeal to young people to speak up on their expectations and dreams of justice in their present and future. We invite them to:

1. *Come together to form networks or self-help groups and get involved in their communities to ensure that their voices and justice concerns are heard by policy makers.*
 2. *Become or connect with local elected leaders and justice actors to raise justice concerns and realize their vision of a fair and equal society.*
 3. *Support each other and community members in resolving their justice problems.*
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We appeal to regional bodies, international organizations, foundations, philanthropists, other donors, data collection and research institutions and relevant private sector actors to provide coherent support to national and local actors and where relevant, increased financing to close the global justice gap. We invite them to:

1. *Prepare and present thematic reports and data to better understand the justice gap.*
2. *Collect and analyze disaggregated data and prepare specific reports for those who find it hardest to access justice, including, but not limited to, women and girls, children, refugees and victims of human rights violations and abuses, especially in contexts affected by violent conflict.*
3. *Prepare and present regional progress reports on achieving equal access to justice for all.*
4. *Support national and local efforts to provide justice for all by investing in local capacities.*
5. *Support the local and national collection of people-centered justice data and evidence and their translation into programs and strategies.*
6. *Increase political and financial support for people-centered justice programs and strategies.*
7. *Ensure the participation of victims of human rights violations and abuses, in the design, implementation, and operation of justice processes, especially in contexts affected by violent conflict.*

As the Justice Action Coalition we will:

- Present the **Justice Appeal 2023** at relevant international meetings and fora, including the UN's High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July 2022, as we seek to increase political and financial support for people-centered justice.
- Collaborate to **operationalize the Justice Action Coalition** and develop a permanent structure to facilitate our joint work and promote effective justice action. This structure will facilitate coordination on justice data and evidence, promotion of learning and exchange among countries, coherence of international assistance and funding of catalytic people-centered justice initiatives.
- Form and support a **task team** to develop proposals, support decision-making, and prepare a formal announcement of a permanent structure to support the Justice Action Coalition at the Second SDG Summit in September 2023.

This document is the agreed outcome document of the second Ministerial Meeting of the Justice Action Coalition, hosted by H.E. Liesje Schreinemacher, Minister for Foreign Trade and International Cooperation of the Netherlands, held virtually on 30 May 2022.

The meeting was attended by the Ministers of Justice, their deputies, the Attorneys General, the Minister of International Cooperation, or the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the following countries: **Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, France, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Liberia, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Niger, Portugal, Sao Tome and Principe, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands and Sweden.**

The meeting was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the g7+ secretariat, The Elders, and the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies. Representatives of the following organisations participated in the meeting: HiiL, ICTJ, IDLO, OGP, OECD, United Nations (EOSG), UNDP, UN Women, World Bank and World Justice Project.

For more information, please see: www.justice.sdg16.plus