



Action to achieve SDG16 by 2030



Justice Action Coalition

Leaders committed to taking action for justice for all

Providing Equal Access to Justice for All

Around the world calls can be heard for social justice, gender justice, racial justice, and against inequality, corruption, and all forms of violence. The need to build back better and to build back fairer is widely recognized. People want their government and institutions to work for them, to overcome structural injustices and deliver solutions that affect their lives and opportunities.

Our current justice systems only deliver justice for the few and need to be transformed so that they can deliver equal access to justice for all, as promised by SDG16. By putting people at the center of justice and resolving and preventing justice problems, justice actors can make essential contributions to the economic recovery and societal reset.

Justice systems have a role to balance out power asymmetries, address rising inequalities and respond to demands for justice and fairness. When they embrace people-centered justice, they can restore trust by actively shaping a fair society.

Putting People at the Center of Justice

The past four years have seen a remarkable international mobilization to accelerate implementation of the SDG goals and targets that call for justice for all by 2030. The Task Force on Justice, chaired by ministers from Argentina, the Netherlands, and Sierra Leone, and by the Elders, was at the heart of this movement. Its flagship report, *Justice for All*, proposes an agenda for action that:

- Places justice at the heart of sustainable development – as a lever for reaching the furthest behind, creating conditions for shared prosperity, and promoting peace and inclusion.
- Puts people at the center of justice systems – and starts with an understanding of what works to meet their justice needs.
- Moves from justice for the few to justice for all – with a call for a transformation of ambition and a sustained effort to provide billions more people with access to justice.

2018-2019

2020-2021

2021-2022

2023

Task Force on Justice

- Justice for All report
- Hague Declaration
- Buenos Aires Declaration
- G7+ Joint Action Plan

Justice in a Pandemic

- Justice in a Pandemic briefings
- National and Regional meetings
- Global Dialogue of Justice Leaders
- Joint Letter to UN SG

Justice Action Coalition

- Action at national and regional level
- Better data on the justice gap
- Evidence on innovations that work
- Campaigns for those furthest behind

SDG Summit

Demonstrate measurable progress towards ensuring equal access to justice for all on the road to 2030

Justice Action Coalition

On 14 April 2021, ministers from a diverse group of countries met to discuss building peaceful and inclusive societies through justice for all. They agreed to a justice action coalition and to forge new partnerships and strengthen collaboration across borders.

The Justice Action Coalition is a multi-stakeholder, high-ambition coalition of countries and organizations, championing equal access to justice for all.

The guiding ambition of the Justice Action Coalition is to close the global justice gap and the goal is to achieve measurable progress in justice outcomes for people and communities by the second SDG Summit in 2023.

The Justice Action Coalition includes workstreams, campaigns and partnerships that contribute to the overall goal. Each member is encouraged to take initiatives to promote SDG16+ and people-centered justice, in partnership with other coalition members.

The Justice Action Coalition holds a yearly meeting, online or in person, with high-level representatives from member countries and organisations. It organizes strategic exchanges to inspire, take stock of progress, share experiences, identify opportunities and align efforts to promote people-centred justice.

The justice team at the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies is the secretariat of the Justice Action Coalition.

Objectives

The Justice Action Coalition, which can be seen as a successor to the Task Force on Justice, will collaborate on the following:

- Promote people-centred justice in domestic and international agendas and speak up for access to justice as part of the global debate on the Sustainable Development Goals and the implementation of the UN common agenda.
- Promote and mobilise political and financial support for equal access to justice for all, including in conflict-affected and fragile countries.
- Join forces to influence international strategies and priorities, including at the UN, World Bank, OECD and regional organisations such as the EU, ECOWAS and others.

Justice Action Coalition

1. *Better data on the justice gap*

Members of the Justice Action Coalition will promote the collection of people-centered justice data at the national level. They will collaborate on data collection efforts, methodological development and international standardization, and use key events leading up to 2023 to present and discuss results. At the second SDG summit in 2023, the Justice Action Coalition will present an updated estimate of the global justice gap.



- *Start new data collection initiatives domestically*
- *Fund justice data collection internationally*
- *Develop better methodologies on data collection*

2. *Innovations that work*

Members of the Justice Action Coalition will set out a common research agenda to develop evidence of what works to close the justice gap. They will make concerted efforts to build the evidence-base necessary to systematically evaluate cost and effectiveness of innovations and collect case studies of what works in different contexts.



- *Set out a Common research agenda*
- *Build the evidence-base of what works*
- *Collect case studies on innovations*

3. *Campaigns to reach those furthest behind*

Members of the Justice Action Coalition will create partnerships to provide justice to those furthest behind and prioritize justice for women and justice for children. They will work together to put the spotlight on the most common justice problems, how and why they occur and who faces them.



- *Ensure that programs reach at least 50% women*
- *Create a campaign for justice with children*
- *Include grassroots organizations in global advocacy*

Justice Action Coalition

The principles of people-centered justice are set out in The Hague Declaration on Equal Access to Justice for All by 2030, the Buenos Aires Declaration, and the Joint Action Plan of the g7+.

- **Put people and their justice needs at the center of justice systems.**
Understand what people need and want when they seek justice, and the justice they receive. Make better use of data (including the new indicator SDG 16.3.3) to map and understand the context and tailor actions to groups that are more likely to suffer injustice.
- **Resolve justice problems.**
Transform justice institutions and broaden the range of formal and informal justice actors to provide people with fair, inclusive, relevant and timely justice solutions that respect human rights. Promote open justice and embrace high-tech as well as low-tech innovations based on data, digitalization, evidence and learning.
- **Improve justice journeys.**
Empower people and communities to understand, use and shape the law, increase meaningful participation in justice, and provide people-centered justice services that help them achieve fair outcomes.
- **Use justice for prevention and to promote reconciliation.**
Take measures to reduce violence and de-escalate conflicts and disputes, build trustworthy and legitimate justice systems, prevent recurrence of grave human rights violations, tackle the root causes of injustice and use the law to reduce risks.
- **Empower people to access services and opportunities.**
Eliminate legal, administrative, financial and practical barriers that people face to obtain documents, access public services, including for mental health, and participate fully in society and the economy, while promoting gender equality.

The Joint Letter to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, “Reimagining social contract: A call to put people at the centre of justice”, was endorsed at the Ministerial Meeting on Building Peaceful and Inclusive Societies through Justice for All organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the g7+ secretariat, The Elders, and the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just & Inclusive Societies.

The meeting was hosted virtually on 14 April 2021. Representatives of IDLO, OECD, OGP, UNDP, World Bank, USAID, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway took part in the meeting as observers.



The letter to the Secretary-General was endorsed by the Justice Leaders on the 29th of April 2021 and by the Conference of the Ministers of Justice of the Ibero-America Countries (COMJIB) on the 6th of July 2021.

For more information, please visit sdg16.plus or reach out to justice@sdg16.plus