

Leveraging the SDGs for Inclusive Growth: Delivering Access to Justice for All

18 September 2016, 18:30 – 21:00

Westin Grand Central Hotel, New York

Agenda

On the occasion of the first anniversary of the UN Sustainable Development Summit, the event will aim to highlight the role of access to justice as an enabler of inclusive growth and sustainable development. Achieving inclusive growth and sustainable development requires fair and equal access to justice to protect citizen rights and to address any legal disputes that may arise due to disparities in access to health, employment, education, and entrepreneurship. This calls for focused understanding of citizen legal needs, legal empowerment and tools that can help lead to better informed, more balanced decisions and policies in supporting accessibility of justice.

The event will support national implementation of Sustainable Development Goal #16 on inclusive institutions and access to justice. It will also provide an important contribution to the OECD Inclusive Growth Agenda and the Open Society Foundations' Legal Empowerment Initiative.

18.30	Arrivals and drinks reception
19.00	Opening Session
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcoming remarks from Mr Ángel Gurría, OECD Secretary-General
19.10	Panel discussion
	<p>The panel discussion will aim to showcase good practice examples of how different countries are implementing access to justice and legal empowerment policies, and the impact of those policies national development and inclusive growth, including progress towards the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals.</p> <p><i>Speakers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr Wolfgang Brandstetter, Federal Minister of Justice, Austria Mr Joseph Fitzgerald Kamara, Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Sierra Leone Ms Frances Fitzgerald, Tánaiste and Minister for Justice and Equality, Ireland Mr Tshililo Michael Masutha, Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, South Africa Mr Pavlo Petrenko, Minister of Justice, Ukraine Mr Bill Baer, Principal Deputy Associate Attorney General, United States of America Mr Gabriel Cifuentes, Director of Justice, Security and Governance, Department of National Planning, Colombia <p><i>Moderator:</i> Ms Zain Verjee, former anchor and senior CNN Correspondent</p>

Questions for discussion:

- How can we best monetise the social and economic benefit to a country of providing effective access to justice, including basic legal services?
- How can access to justice and legal empowerment be fully integrated into national development and inclusive growth strategies?
- How can governments shift towards helping people access justice from the more traditional focus on internal processes of justice institutions, in order to support effective implementation of the SDG 16.3?
- What are the good practices providing people-focused, targeted and timely legal and justice services, including legal empowerment?
- How can we take better advantage of new technology and other justice innovations for the delivery of legal and justice services in low, middle and high income countries?
- What are the innovative financing approaches? How can the private sector be better engaged, including in investing in low cost legal services?

19.50	Closing Session
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Closing remarks and thanks from **Mr George Soros**, Founder and Chairman of the Open Society Foundations

20.00	Cocktail reception
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21.00	Close
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