



Telling a Story for why Justice Matters: People-Centered Justice as a Pathway to Better, More Accountable Governance

October 7, 2025 | 8:30-10:00h (GMT +2)

(In-person only) Hotel NH Canciller Ayala Vitoria (Ramón y Cajal, Araba Kalea, 5, 01007 Vitoria-Gasteiz, Araba, Spain)

- **Format:** (90 minutes interactive workshop in English (no simultaneous interpretation))
- **Registration:** Register [here](#)

This is a side event of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Global Summit. It is hosted by the Hague Institute for Innovation of Law (HiiL), Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just, and Inclusive Societies, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

- **Audience:** Government and civil society from OGP members at national and local level, multilateral partners, donors, and other governance practitioners.
- **Outcomes:**
 - Increased capacity among Open Government Partnership (OGP) stakeholders to make the justice-governance link tangible and strategic.
 - Shared insights from the opening panel on linking wider governance strategies with people-centered justice.
 - Strengthened community of practice on people-centered justice within the OGP ecosystem.

Overview

Across the world, and to varying degrees, OGP members face governance challenges such as declining trust in institutions, persistent inequalities, and public services that do not always meet people's needs. Meanwhile, justice systems are not always equipped to respond effectively - they may be underfunded, difficult to access, or distant from the issues people encounter in their daily lives. A people-centred approach offers a constructive path forward by showing how justice can strengthen broader governance efforts.

This session brings together governance practitioners who may not work explicitly in the justice sector but whose agendas intersect with it. Through joint brainstorming, we will explore why justice matters for broader governance priorities and how it connects to areas such as transparency, service delivery, and trust in institutions. Participants will also consider practical tools, from digitalization to inclusive policymaking, that can help link justice with the wider governance agenda.

OBJECTIVES

- Formulate a compelling narrative that links people-centered justice to governance objectives of OGP members
- Support participants in conceiving entry points for integrating people-centered justice into OGP Action Plans and national governance strategies.

Activities

Framing and Opening Panel: A diverse panel of governance practitioners will share short reflections on how justice issues intersect with their own priorities and mandates. Rather than introducing people-centered justice directly, the panel will highlight how justice connects to broader governance goals like service delivery, accountability, and trust. This framing sets the stage for participants to reflect on why justice matters for their own work.

Collaborative Group Work: Participants break into small groups to craft short, audience-focused narratives that connect specific governance outcomes to people-centred justice. Using personas and empathy mapping, groups will translate abstract policy goals into practical and persuasive messages.

Presentation and Plenary Discussion: Groups share their narratives in lightning pitches, followed by plenary discussion on common themes, insights, and next steps for integrating justice into governance agendas.

Agenda

Framing and Opening Panel (20')

- **Dr. Reyson Lizardo**, Director of Coordination and Monitoring of the Digital Agenda, Government Office for Information and Communication Technologies (OGTIC), Ministry of the Presidency of the Dominican Republic.
- **Mr. Shahid Korjie**, Coordinator, Justice Sector Coordination Office, Office of the Attorney General and Minister of Justice of Sierra Leone
- **Mr. Fernando Marini**, Program Director, Justice, Inclusion, and Equality, Pathfinders, Center on International Cooperation at New York University
- (Facilitation) **Ms. Zainab Z. Malik**, Senior Policy and Advocacy Advisor, Hague Institute for Innovation of Law (HiIL)



Interactive Group Work (40')

All participants will be divided into small groups for this portion of the event.

- (Facilitation) **Mr. Roman Meier**, Justice Analyst, UNDP
- (Facilitation) **Ms. Zainab Z. Malik**, Senior Policy and Advocacy Advisor, HiIL
- (Facilitation) **Mr. Nate Edwards**, Program Officer Justice for All, Pathfinders, Center on International Cooperation at New York University



Presentation of Group Work and Plenary Discussion (25')

Small groups will be given the opportunity to present their ideas back to the larger group.



Closing Remarks (5')

- **Maaïke de Langen**, Senior Advisor, Public Governance Directorate, OECD

About the Hague Institute for Innovation of Law

The [Hague Institute for Innovation of Law](#) (HiIL) is an organisation dedicated to ensuring that justice is accessible, affordable, and easy to understand. We call this people-centred justice. By collaborating with justice providers, including ministries of justice and judiciaries and informal and community-based justice leaders, we develop solutions that enable more individuals to prevent or resolve their justice challenges. This not only benefits people directly but also fosters safe, stable societies where economic growth, innovation, and entrepreneurship thrive. Our work spans multiple countries, with programmes in Nigeria, Ethiopia, Tunisia, Niger, Burkina Faso, the Netherlands, Iraq and Syria.

About Pathfinders Justice for All

[Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies](#) is a cross-regional and member state-led, multi-stakeholder coalition committed to advancing action on peace, justice, equality and inclusive institutions through the Sustainable Development Goals and beyond (SDG16+). It is convened by 46 governments, works with over 100 partners across civil society, the United Nations (UN), and regional and international organizations, and is hosted by the Center on International Cooperation at New York University.

The [Justice for All program](#) acts as an impact hub, convening countries, civil society, and multilateral and regional organizations to close the justice gap by accelerating action on people-centered justice. This program provides a platform to exchange innovative practices on data collection, evidence-based policy making, and effective use of resources to bridge silos and transform justice systems in preventing and resolving people's common justice problems.

About the New York University Center on International Cooperation

The [Center on International Cooperation \(CIC\) at New York University \(NYU\)](#) is a think tank and research center that, for over two decades, has been a leader in applied policy, connecting politics, security, justice, development, and humanitarian issues. Our mission is to inform and strengthen collaborative approaches and/or collaboration among national governments, international organizations, and the wider policy community to build trust, prevent and respond to crises—and advance peace, justice, and inclusion at all levels. Learn more on [our website](#) and @nyuCIC on social media.

About the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Within UNDP and across the wider UN system, the [Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development](#) is the primary mechanism for the implementation of comprehensive and integrated rule of law and human rights programmes.

Operating via headquarters and at regional and country levels, the Global Programme uniquely combines rule of law, justice, security and human rights expertise, knowledge and ambitions within an overarching umbrella framework for enabling peaceful, just and inclusive societies to ensure that no one is left behind.

The Global Programme contributes to establishing a culture of respect for the rule of law and embedding human rights principles in UNDP's work to build integrated and sustainable solutions for people and planet.

About Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

The [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development \(OECD\)](#) is an international organisation that works to build better policies for better lives. We draw on more than 60 years of experience and insights to shape policies that foster prosperity and opportunity, underpinned by equality and well-being.

We work closely with policy makers, stakeholders and citizens to establish evidence-based international standards and to find solutions to social, economic and environmental challenges. From improving economic performance and strengthening policies to fight climate change to bolstering education and fighting international tax evasion, the OECD is a unique forum and knowledge hub for data, analysis and best practices in public policy. Our core aim is to set international standards and support their implementation – and help countries forge a path towards stronger, fairer and cleaner societies.