

High-Level Meeting of the Justice Action Coalition

CHAIR'S SUMMARY



November 11, 2025
Madrid, Spain

Chaired by Sierra Leone's Attorney General and Minister of Justice, the High-Level Meeting of the Justice Action Coalition (JAC), held on November 11, 2025 in Madrid, came at a defining moment for global justice.

As inequalities deepen, the rule of law and trust in institutions erodes, and conflicts proliferate, participants reaffirmed that advancing people-centered justice is a shared global imperative, one that underpins democracy, peace, security, stability, sustainable development, and good governance.

The meeting, which marked the end of the second phase and ushered in the beginning of the Coalition's third phase (2026–2030), brought together Ministers, high-level government representatives, and partner organizations to translate collective political ambition into concrete transformation to close the global justice gap.

Delegations reiterated strong political support for the JAC and for the principles of people-centered justice articulated in the [Justice Action Coalition's 2023 Political Declaration](#).

Participants emphasized the imperative of national ownership, translating global commitments into concrete national strategies, budgets, and institutional reforms and the need for predictable, long-term financing to support system-wide justice outcomes, including investments at community and local levels.

The meeting also served as a call to action for all members to sustain and deepen their commitment to the Coalition through continued high-level participation, financial contributions, and strengthened national implementation of people-centered justice.

Achievements under the Coalition's four workstreams were welcomed, particularly progress on data and evidence, innovation, communications, and justice financing, accomplishments that provide the foundation for scaling up the work at national, regional and global level.

Under Workstream I, the Coalition made major strides in building a global measurement and evidence base for people-centered justice, developing a preliminary justice measurement framework, core outcome and policy indicators, and new methodologies to quantify the economic value of justice reforms.

Under Workstream II, the Coalition translated people-centered justice into practice through catalytic initiatives, now active in nine countries. These interventions are helping resolve everyday justice problems and making justice more accessible for women, youth, and rural communities.

Under Workstream III, the Coalition successfully elevated the global narrative on people-centered justice. The creation of the Communications Working Group brought together governments, practitioners, and communication experts to craft a unified story about why justice matters for people and societies.

Finally, Workstream IV's [Justice Financing Framework](#) was welcomed as a practical guide that provides governments and partners with principles and tools to plan, budget, and invest in justice that delivers for people.

Participants highlighted how the Coalition has successfully shaped the global justice agenda and influenced key United Nations processes, advanced research and evidence on people-centered justice, and fostered innovative partnerships and cross-sectoral collaborations.

These achievements underscore the value of the Coalition as a collaborative platform that translates political commitment into tangible results for people seeking justice.

Members welcomed the Coalition's transition to its third phase, which will operate through a streamlined, flexible, and sustainable operational model. The new phase will:

- Operate under a single-entity Secretariat led by Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies to increase agility and flexibility, while relying on partner contributions for technical delivery;
- Move from four workstreams to agile thematic tracks (on data and evidence; justice financing; innovation; among others), each led by a government or partner selected through consultations based on mandates, technical capacity, and resource availability, enabling flexible levels of engagement; and
- Strengthen coordination through a renewed Board structure and streamlined operation procedures.

These changes are intended to keep the Coalition fit-for-purpose over the remainder of the 2030 Agenda to achieve SDG 16.3.

During the interactive dialogue of the High-Level Meeting, members presented new commitments and collaboration proposals related to data and evidence, innovation, communication, and financing, as well as on justice for children, women, youth, customary and informal justice, criminal justice, transitional justice, AI and emerging technologies, democracy, and the rule of law.

Participants emphasized the importance of leveraging the Coalition as a platform for peer learning and exchange of good practices, strengthening triangular cooperation on justice innovation and exploring new partnership models and flexible engagement modalities. Participants also called for coordinating resource mobilization to support regional and cross-regional justice initiatives, including in the Ibero-American and African regions.

In January 2026, as the Coalition formally enters its third phase, all participating countries and partners will be invited to reconfirm their engagement, presenting a strategic opportunity to strengthen coordination mechanisms between national governments and the Coalition, and ensuring justice remains a cross-cutting priority in national development agendas. As a conclusion to the meeting, the Chair called upon all Justice Action Coalition members to:

- **Maintain robust political commitment** to people-centered justice as a development, peace, security and human rights priority.
- **Provide adequate and sustained financial support** for Coalition initiatives and national justice sector investments.
- **Strengthen national ownership** and implementation of people-centered justice commitments.
- **Advocate for people-centered justice** in relevant multilateral processes, positioning it as essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and building peaceful, just, and inclusive societies.

The meeting in Madrid reaffirmed the Justice Action Coalition's ambition: to be a catalytic, outcome-oriented platform that helps governments deliver justice that people experience as accessible, fair, and effective.

Members left Madrid with renewed resolve to convert political will into measurable change. The Coalition must now move decisively, with clear priorities, stronger partnerships, and a sharper focus on results so that by 2030, people everywhere see justice not as an aspiration but as a reality.

