

AI for Justice and Justice for AI: Expert Discussion on Artificial Intelligence (AI), Governance, and People-Centered Justice

February 5, 2026 | 10:00am-12:00pm

Location (In-person and online): Bahá'í International Community United Nations Office (866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 120)

- **Format:** (Hybrid) panel presentation/guided discussion + audience Q&A.
- **Registration:** <https://luma.com/vk4v2w94>

This event is hosted by the Pathfinders' Justice for All program at New York University's Center on International Cooperation in its role as secretariat of the Justice Action Coalition, and in partnership with the Oxford Institute of Technology and Justice.

- **Audience:** Governments, international organizations, private sector, philanthropies, civil society, and academic representatives.
- **Outcome:** Participants leave with an understanding of the role people-centered justice can play in supporting a more equal and inclusive AI governance. Participants will also gain an understanding of the priorities of the justice sector when it comes to artificial intelligence use.

Overview

The rapid development of artificial intelligence (AI) offers opportunities to create a more equal, just and inclusive world, but only if governance systems move in concert with innovation.

Leaders across all sectors are moving quickly to respond to the accelerating AI revolution. But with rapidly evolving technologies and uneven regulatory frameworks, they are operating in a constant shifting environment. To harness the positive potential of AI, the multilateral system needs to better utilize the tools already at its disposal. These tools include the ability to set normative frameworks, and enable collective action among diverse stakeholders to operationalize them.

The Global Digital Compact, alongside its implementation through the Independent International Scientific Panel and Global AI Dialogues build upon the UN's unique capacity to be an inclusive and universal norm-setting institution for AI governance. However, those shaping AI governance should not overlook the years of research, policy frameworks, partnership development, and programming established to advance sustainable development around the world in other fields. Integrating existing efforts could help maximize the positive potential of the AI revolution. One such effort is the international movement to provide equal access to justice for all. A world in which everyone has equal access to justice is a world with more equal and inclusive AI governance.

Inclusion, equity, human rights, and ethics are at the center of many AI governance conversations. They are also at the center of conversations on people-centered justice. However, those working in the global justice movement and those focused on global AI governance do not currently speak with one another. This is an overlooked opportunity.

Justice for AI

Ultimately, justice actors, including lawyers, judges, ombudsmen, legal aid providers, and community justice workers will be tasked with operationalizing the principles and frameworks of AI governance at the local level. Strong, well-designed legal systems, with the principle of equal access to justice for all at the center, could support a more balanced, inclusive, and equitable AI revolution. Effective, people-centered justice interventions complement social, economic, and political considerations of AI governance by ensuring accountability to individual rights and livelihoods. Applying a people-centered justice approach to these mechanisms central to AI governance can help enable the positive potential of AI, and mitigate its harms.

AI for Justice

People's direct experience of the rights and regulations pursuant to AI governance will often occur through the justice system. At the same time, justice systems are experiencing a rapid increase in the use of AI in their own right. Whether in the private sector, judiciary, or ministries of justice, AI is

changing the way in which people experience justice and interact with the values and laws that govern societies. To date, however, there is no single cohesive agenda for the ways in which national justice systems, whether ministries of justice, the judiciary, ombudsmen, legal aid providers, private sector practitioners, or civil society organizations, nor international justice advocates, should be interacting with digital innovation. At a time when global priorities for AI and AI governance are being set, the justice sector must prepare to engage collectively. A failure to develop a coherent people-centered justice AI agenda is a challenge not only for the justice sector, but for the implementation of AI governance more broadly. Ultimately, an inclusive and equitable AI revolution can increase equal access to justice for all.

About the Event

This hybrid event will include two expert panels to discuss Justice for AI and AI for Justice to respond to these two gaps in discourse around AI, governance, and justice.

Panel 1: Justice for AI will focus on the current state of AI governance and the role that the justice actors, as implementers of rules and guarantors of rights, can play to localize an inclusive and equitable AI revolution. It will explore how lessons from people-centered justice can contribute to redress, accountability, and participatory mechanisms that ensure everyone has access to the benefits of technology. Experts will also explore how the people-centered justice movement can engage with AI governance priorities and how the inclusion of justice actors in upstream global AI governance debates can support nuanced, inclusive, and effective people-centered governance outcomes on the ground. **(45 minutes)**

Panel 2: AI for Justice will focus on current challenges and opportunities that artificial intelligence presents to the justice sector. Experts will share innovations on AI and justice, opportunities for the future, and the challenges that they face. They will also discuss how AI governance gaps are impacting the delivery of equal access to justice for all. Panelists will help identify priorities for a people-centered AI for justice agenda. **(45 minutes)**

Background Resources

- [Global Digital Compact](#)
- [UN RES 79/325. Terms of reference and modalities for the establishment and functioning of the Independent International Scientific Panel on Artificial Intelligence and the Global Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence Governance](#)
- [AI for Justice and Justice for AI: Why Access to Justice Enables Better AI Governance](#)
- [Building Trust in AI Through Justice](#)
- [Chapter: AI in justice administration and access to justice, AI in justice administration and access to justice, OECD](#)
- [AI Justice Atlas](#)
- [A/80/169: AI in judicial systems: promises and pitfalls - Report of the Special Rapporteur on Independence of Judges and Lawyers](#)

About the Justice Action Coalition

[The Justice Action Coalition \(JAC\)](#) is a multi-stakeholder alliance of countries and organizations that is working to achieve measurable progress in justice outcomes for people and communities by the third SDG summit in 2027 and beyond.

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.