

STATEMENT

IBERO-AMERICAN ALLIANCE FOR ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Today, 31 May 2022, we meet to subscribe to and present to the global community, the Ibero-American Alliance for Access to Justice.

The Ibero-American Alliance for Access to Justice is a network of representatives of the vast ecosystem that works for justice in the region and includes international organizations, non-governmental organizations, intergovernmental organizations, government and state bodies, who represent, among others, ministries of justice, public defenders, public ministries, individuals and academia.

Those who make up this alliance, and those who might join us in the future, seek to join forces to contribute to the acceleration of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16.3 in the region. To this end, we believe it is essential to promote a regional normative framework on access to justice, to generate data and information that allows us to gauge the demand for justice, to exchange best practices and innovations, to evaluate existing policies as well and develop people centered justice plans and models.

We base our efforts on the international action agenda established in the Pathfinders Task Force report (2019) "Justice for All", on the 100 rules of Brasilia on Access to Justice for people in conditions of vulnerability adopted in the XIV Ibero-American Judicial Summit in 2008 and updated in the Plenary Assembly of the XIX Edition of the Ibero-American Judicial Summit, in April 2018, the Santiago Guides for the Protection of Victims and Witnesses of the Ibero-American Association of Public Ministries (AIAMP) (2008), updated in 2010, and the declaration on "Access to justice as an essential element to face inequalities regarding the impact of COVID-19", signed in Valparaíso, Chile, on January 14, 2022, as well as the proposals and recommendations made by civil society in the region in the document "Towards a Latin American Agreement for access to justice".

As the Secretary General of the UN stated in his report "Our Common Agenda"-paragraph 23 – *"Justice is an essential dimension of the social contract (...) The 2030 Agenda promises to promote the rule of law and provide access to justice for all (target 16.3 of the Sustainable Development Goals), but many justice systems deliver only for the few"*. Therefore, he committed to promoting *" a new vision for the rule of law, building on Sustainable Development Goal 16 and the 2012 Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels (see resolution 67/1) "*.

This declaration is guided by the principles of people centered justice, which have been included in the "The Hague Declaration on Equal Access to Justice for All by 2030" (2019), among which are: (1) Put people and their legal needs at the center of justice systems; (2) Provide an effective response to justice problems; (3) Use justice for prevention; (4) Provide people with means to access services and opportunities.

In the current global and regional context, after the COVID pandemic and its social, economic, and political consequences, it is necessary to strengthen the ties that hold our societies together, to strengthen the social contract. For this, a public justice system that places people, especially the most vulnerable at its center is fundamental.

The countries that comprise Ibero-America share a common cultural, linguistic, social and institutional heritage that facilitates collaboration and exchange on a regional scale. In turn, our countries share common challenges in advancing access to justice for all, among which are the need to strengthen democracy, the modernization of justice systems, the effectiveness of rights for groups in a situation of vulnerability, the equitable representation of women and other minority groups in positions of relevance and decision making within the justice system, the production of up-to-date and quality information on the legal needs of its population, the communication between various actors, among others .

Those of us who make up this alliance agree on how beneficial it is for the countries of the region to have an Ibero-American framework for the exchange of ideas, generation of synergies and proposals on a regional scale to achieve significant progress in the implementation of SDG 16.3, to exchange best practices and experiences, promote the generation of knowledge based on evidence oriented towards action, enhance regional and inter-regional exchange and conversation spaces.

The members of the alliance have exchanged ideas, presented their lines of work, explored strategies to accelerate the implementation of SDG 16.3, discussed opportunities for the application of innovative models, identified the barriers and obstacles they face, and considered recommendations. and potential commitments to achieve equal access to justice for all.

In order to move from justice for the few to justice for the many, the participants consider that it is necessary to direct all efforts to make the ideal of people centered a reality.

As actors of the great ecosystem of Ibero-American Justice, we plan to contribute in various ways to the construction of peaceful, fair and inclusive societies. One of them is the work that we will carry out through the **Ibero-American Alliance for Access to Justice**, which will serve as a platform for justice actors in the region to exchange experiences and in 2023 present a regional progress report on access to justice.

At the outset, the Alliance will work on a regional progress report on access to justice in the region to be presented in 2023. It will focus on the work carried out in the region around three axes:

- Data and innovation: We will seek to provide a status of the justice gap, through the following actions:
 - Generation and analysis of data on the justice gap.
 - Generation and Analysis of data on the digital divide and ICTs in the justice ecosystem.
 - Data generation and analysis on open justice
 - A compilation of innovative practices in access to justice programs.
- Normative framework for access to justice: efforts will be made to support the process of drawing up an agreement on a normative framework for access to justice for the region. This will be done within the framework of the Conference of Ministers of

Justice of Ibero-American Countries (COMJIB) with the support of the Ibero-American Judicial Summit, AIAMP, the Inter-American Association of Public Defenders (AIDEF) and with contributions from civil society, the formal sector and other actors and regional networks dedicated to justice. The development of National Plans for Access to Justice will also be promoted, within the framework of the Regional Strategy for Access to Justice of the Ibero-American Program for Access to Justice of COMJIB.

- Leave no one behind: Access to justice for vulnerability groups: actions carried out regarding access to justice for groups in situations of vulnerability will be systematized and reported, including:
 - Justice for Women
 - Justice for children and adolescents
 - Groups affected by multiple structural inequalities, such as people with disabilities, belonging to indigenous communities, and/or other ethnic-cultural diversities, including people of African descent, people made vulnerable by victimization, migration, refugee status, and asylum seekers, and internal displacement, poverty, gender, sexual orientation and gender identity, and deprivation of liberty.

The participants highlighted the importance of the diversity of members in the alliance, which facilitates the exchange of information, joint work between civil society and governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental institutions, international organizations, and avoids overlapping and duplication of efforts.

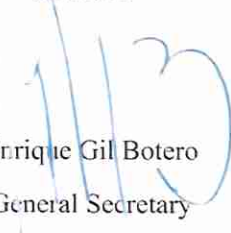
We are aware of the needs that the region presents in terms of institutional and/or financial support in order to achieve the goal of access to justice for all. For this reason, together with the **Global Action for Justice Coalition**, we intend to forge new alliances and strengthen collaboration, in line with the vision of an inclusive and connected multilateralism, seeking the implementation of innovative and evidence-based policies, in order to improve access to justice for all in the region.

This document was subscribed in the Hague, at the World Justice Forum on 31 May 2022 by the following organizations: the Conference of Ministers of Justice of the Ibero-American Countries (COMJIB), the InterAmerican Association of Public Defenders (AIDEF), the Iberomamerican Association of Public Prosecutors (AIAIMP), Center for Justice Studies of the Americas (CEJA), United Nations Development Program (UNDP), International Iberoamerican Foundation for Administration and Public Policies (FIIAPP), World Justice Project (WJP), Civil Association for Equality and Justice (ACIJ), Latinoamerican and Caribbean Network for Democracy (REDLAD), Due Process of Law Foundation (DPLF), International Development Law Organization (IDLO)

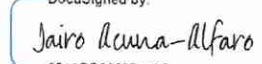
For more information on Pathfinders and the alliance see: www.justice.sdg16.plus




COMJIB


Enrique Gil Botero
General Secretary

UNDP

DocuSigned by:

Jairo Acuna-Alfaro
Team Leader Governance and Peacebuilding
Regional Hub UNDP LAC


World Justice Project


Elizabeth Andersen
Executive Director

AIDEF


Dra. Stella Maris Martinez
Coordinadora General

CEJA



NATALY PONCE
Directora Ejecutiva

ACIJ



Sebastián Pilo
Co-Director

FIIAPP


Anna Terrón i Cusi
Directora


Juan Agustín Meléndez Duplaquet
Fiscal Nacional (S)
Ministerio Público de Chile

NAMATI


Luciana Bercovich
Network Manager
Coordinadora para Latinoamérica