

High-Level Consultation on the Roadmap for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies
Side event at the High-Level Political Forum 2017, 18 July, UNHQ
Commentary on the Roadmap, by Mr. Héctor Mario Chayer, Coordinator of Justice 2020
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On behalf of Minister Garavano and the Argentine government I would like to thank you for the invitation.

The Argentine Ministry of Justice is strongly committed in promoting Goal 16.3 in terms of providing and guaranteeing *equal access to justice for all*.

I will describe a public policy that delivers comprehensive, legal and community services to the economically deprived sectors, and an indicator that, in our view, allows going beyond criminal matters.

“Equal Access to Justice” is a broader concept than criminal justice and appears to be underestimated when one goes through the Goal 16 indicators.

The Roadmap, at pages 31 and 32, accurately reflects Argentina’s contribution of how the target of equal justice can be delivered.

Each of what we call “Centros de Acceso a Justicia” (Justice Access Center) has a team of lawyers, psychologists, social workers and community mediators who cooperate with other agencies and “pro bono” legal services. There are 82 “Justice Access Centers” all over the country, delivering more than 280.000 consults per year, growing at an amazing rate of 12% per month.

This cross-cutting strategy is based on a legal needs survey and relies on a real-time control panel that lets us know how many people are being served, the reasons of each consultation, how did the person get to know the Center, etc... This provides evidence and data to support effective implementation.

We are developing an indicator to capture the results of the Justice Access Centers plus a group of other public services that are oriented to provide access to justice. It reflects the proportion of people - over 100.000 - that use the public funded or pro-bono services within a year. It includes mainly the services delivered by the “Centros de Acceso a Justicia”, but also people defended by the Public Defender’s Office and 3 more phone hot-lines.

We are ready to share the institutional design, the real-time control panel software, and lessons learned with the “Centros de Acceso a Justicia”, as a contribution to the implementation of the Roadmap.

Based on experience, Argentina’s government is determined to show leadership on access to justice and we have begun discussions on how we can make 2018 a year where the world focuses on how SDG 16.3 – access to justice for all – can be delivered.