

Launch of the roadmap for peaceful, just and inclusive societies

Remarks by Gustavo Zlauvinen,

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Thank you to Switzerland, Brasil and Sierra Leone for organizing the event as well as the CIC.

Argentina is strongly committed to continue in its active role as "Pathfinder" in this common effort to make SDG 16 and the whole 2030 agenda a reality.

In this regard, Argentina hosted –together with the UNODC and the International Legal Foundation– the “Second International Conference on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems”, which was held in Buenos Aires in November 2016, where we discussed effective strategies to improve access to justice and the establishment of an International Legal Aid Network. We also hosted in June this year the first regional workshop of the "Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Promoting Peaceful, Just, and Inclusive Societies". And in November this year, Argentina will host, together with the ILO, the “IV Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labor”. We have chosen as main theme of the Conference the Fight against Child labor and Forced Labor, with emphasis on youth employment.

We also would like to share with you some of the efforts that we have been implementing in Argentina to reach the target of equal justice for all. As shown in the Roadmap’s case studies, Argentina has more than 80 centers that provide comprehensive legal and community services to underprivileged communities. Each center has a team of lawyers, psychologists, social workers and community mediators. Some centers also provide access to social protection services and cooperate with state agencies such as the National Social Security Administration. In addition, a set of public ombudspersons, law schools and bar associations provide free legal representation in civil cases that are not usually accepted by private lawyers. For example, for 2017, the network aims to support up to 400,000 people and is complemented by the program “El Estado de tu Barrio” (The State in your Neighbourhood).

The access to justice service in Argentina aims to bridge the gaps in access to justice that affect the most disadvantaged communities, through a human rights and multidimensional perspective. Thus, Access to Justice programmes are based on six principles: Geographic equity, Demand-based supply, Interdisciplinary and integral approach, Multicultural and Gender Perspective, Quality of services and management, Active transparency and citizen participation.

This cross-cutting strategy is based on a legal needs survey and relies on a real-time control panel that lets the Government know how many people are being served, the reasons of each consultation, how did the person got to know the Center, etc. This provides evidence and data to support effective implementation and adapt our policies to the needs of the most disadvantaged groups (people with disabilities, migrants, women, LGBTBIQ, indigenous communities).

We are developing an indicator to capture the results of the Justice Access Centers and 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 Defenders Office.

Finally, Argentina is ready to share the institutional design, the real-time control panel software, and lessons learnt to others, as a contribution to the implementation of the Roadmap.

We believe that institutions with ability to respond and transfer capacities for community empowerment generate peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

Thank you