Overview: The Rule of Law and People-Centered Justice Cohort

Country Co-Leads: Dominican Republic, Republic of Kosovo
Civil Society Co-Leads: Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just, and Inclusive Societies, ABA Rule of Law Initiative, World Justice Project, Transparency International

In a lead up to the Second Summit for Democracy, various Democracy Cohorts have been formed to encourage multi-stakeholder, concerted action toward commitments and implementation in areas of common interest. Each Cohort brings together governments/authorities that demonstrate political will toward progress on Summit commitments on a specific issue area with key non-governmental stakeholders invested in the outcome. The process provides opportunities for meaningful dialogue and collaboration among civil society representatives, private sector leaders, philanthropic partners, academics, and government decision-makers on issues vital to good governance and democratic renewal.

In preparation for the second Democracy Summit in March 2023, the Rule of Law and People-Centered Justice Cohort has been formed and is co-led by the Republic of Kosovo and the Dominican Republic, together with civil society co-leads: Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just, and Inclusive Societies, ABA Rule of Law Initiative, World Justice Project, and Transparency International. The Cohort considers the rule of law to be a cross-cutting, foundational element of democratic societies. In order to ensure vibrant democracies and build trust, the Cohort appreciates the need to transform justice systems by putting people at the center and delivering equal access to justice for all.

If interested in joining the Cohort please email co-chairs Anselmo Muñiz Hernández (Dominican Republic), Yil Sh. Sadiku (Kosovo), or Swati Mehta (Pathfinders, on behalf of civil society partners).

Key objectives of the Cohort include:

• To draft and deliver a Joint Statement and Call to Action on People-Centered Justice and Democracy during the Second Summit for Democracy in March 2023. The joint statement will tie together the themes of the Summit for Democracy to the vision of SDG16+ agenda with a call to action on people-centered justice and its five principles as articulated in The Hague Declaration.

• To engage interested governments, organizations, private sector actors, and donors to participate in the activities of the Cohort to other global rule of law and access to justice processes and facilitate cooperation with the Justice Action Coalition, in order to strengthen partnership between like-minded cohort members on the people-centered justice agenda and contribute to sustained collaborative engagement beyond the Summit for Democracy.

• To encourage participating member states and organizations to formulate achievable high ambition commitments to advance the Joint Statement and Call to Action to promote the rule of law and people-centered justice, including potential membership in the Justice Action Coalition, for presentation at the Summit for Democracy.

• To encourage and facilitate sharing around major achievements and main challenges for rule of law and justice reforms at the national and international levels, as well as exploration of cross-cutting themes of environmental justice, anti-corruption, judicial reforms, ICT justice solutions, financing for people-centered justice, and more.