

“All persons, institutions and entities, public and private, including the State itself, are accountable to just, fair and equitable laws and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law.”¹

World Justice Forum Consultation

The United Nations is hosting consultations at the 2013 World Justice Forum to inform a report to the General Assembly on the ways and means to develop further the linkages between the rule of law and peace and security, human rights and development.

Date and time: 11 July 2013, 9.00 -10.30 a.m.

Panellists:

1. Mr. Edric Selous, Director, United Nations Rule of Law Unit, Executive Office of the Secretary-General (Moderator)
2. Ms. Irene Khan, Director-General, International Development Law Organization
3. Dr. Abiodun Williams, President, Hague Institute for Global Justice
4. Ambassador Hans Corell, former United Nations Under Secretary-General for Legal Affairs
5. The Honorable Petar Stoyanov, former President of the Republic of Bulgaria

Format:

There will be short panel presentations, followed by an interactive discussion around the following questions:

1. *What aspects of the rule of law are most relevant to your area of work?*
2. *How are those aspects of the rule of law that you identified important for peace and security, human rights and development?*

To frame the discussion, the United Nations has commissioned a collection of think pieces on the topic, which will be provided in advance.

¹ Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels (A/RES/67/1), paragraph 2.

Annex

Background to the Consultations:

The Declaration adopted at the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels (A/RES/67/1) reaffirmed universal commitment to the rule of law and its fundamental importance for the further development of the three main pillars of work of the United Nations: peace and security, human rights and development. The Declaration, at paragraph 41, states as follows:

We emphasize the importance of continuing our consideration and promotion of the rule of law in all its aspects, and to that end we decide to pursue our work in the General Assembly to develop further the linkages between the rule of law and the three main pillars of the United Nations: peace and security, human rights and development. To that end, we request the Secretary-General to propose ways and means of developing, with wide stakeholder participation, further such linkages, and to include this in his report to the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session.

Pursuant to this request, the United Nations Secretary-General is now undertaking consultations with a wide range of stakeholders, including through the World Justice Forum.

The General Assembly is the main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations. Comprising all 193 Member States, it is a forum for multilateral discussion of international issues covered by the UN Charter. The General Assembly can act in a number of ways in order to move forward issues under its consideration:

- Generate international consensus through resolutions or declarations (such as the High-level Declaration on the Rule of Law)
- Institute treaty-making
- Adopt soft law instruments such as guidelines (for example the UN Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems)
- Initiate authoritative studies
- Request and debate reports on specific issues
- Raise the profile of an issue on the international stage