

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 25, 2012

Contact: Sophie Gebreselassie

Phone: (202) 407-9327

(301) 908-9047 - cell

E-Mail: gebreses@wjpnet.org



The World Justice Project Convenes Taskforce to Address Rule of Law Reform in Tunisia

TUNIS, TUNISIA--The World Justice Project (WJP), a multinational initiative to advance the rule of law, was invited to convene a taskforce of Tunisian leaders from business, government, and civil society in Tunis on May 28, 2012 to assess rule of law opportunities and challenges facing Tunisia during the ongoing reform process. The workshop will be informed by new data assessing Tunisia's present rule of law adherence from the WJP Rule of Law Index[®].

"The rule of law is the key to the promotion of good governance, economic opportunity, social progress and fundamental fairness and equity," said World Justice Project founder William H. Neukom. "Effective rule of law helps strengthen the ability of business and engineering to create jobs, enhance education, improve public health and allows governments to better serve the citizenry."

The WJP provides impartial data and assembles leaders from all sectors—including civil society, business, and government—to address rule of law deficits and develop reform efforts.

Workshop participants will develop an assessment of areas in need of attention and develop practical solutions. A delegation of distinguished international leaders and Tunisian taskforce members will visit with government officials following the workshop to discuss the workshop outcomes.

"The WJP's goal is to act as an honest broker of information, providing a tool for informed, rational deliberations based on rigorous new data," said Juan Carlos Botero, WJP Executive Director. "The WJP has been useful for governments in several countries and it is our hope we may do the same for Tunisians in these important times."

New data on Tunisia's current rule of law climate and Tunisians' experience with the law, produced by The WJP Rule of Law Index[®], will be examined by workshop participants. The WJP Rule of Law Index[®] measures adherence to nine major factors on the rule of law, such as open government and fundamental rights. The Index is based on rigorous polling of 1000 ordinary citizens and independent assessments by legal experts. Tunisia's performance in the Index will be released at the conclusion of the workshop.

"We look forward to helping facilitate a dialogue in Tunis and advancing the rule of law as a priority in the country's future," said Neukom.

###

About The World Justice Project

The World Justice Project (WJP), a global independent, non-profit organization, works to advance the rule of law for the development of communities of opportunity and equity worldwide. The WJP's multinational and multidisciplinary efforts are aimed at: increased

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 25, 2012

Contact: Sophie Gebreselassie

Phone: (202) 407-9327

(301) 908-9047 - cell

E-Mail: gebreses@wjpnet.org



awareness about the concept and impact of the rule of law, government reforms; and development of practical programs on the ground in support of the rule of law. The Project has three complementary programs: Research and Scholarship, the WJP Rule of Law Index[®], and mainstreaming practical on-the-ground programs to extend the rule of law. For further details, visit www.worldjusticeproject.org.

About the WJP Rule of Law Index[®]

The WJP Rule of Law Index[®] is an innovative, quantitative assessment tool designed by The World Justice Project to annually measure countries' adherence to the rule of law and track changes across time. Scores are based on interviews of over 2000 legal experts and 66,000 regular people in 194 cities around the world. The Index aims to provide a picture of where countries stand with regard to 52 rule of law variables. Each country's findings are compared to the scores for other indexed countries, with a special focus on countries in the same region and income group. A statistical audit of the Index was conducted by the Econometrics Unit of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre. The full report is available at www.worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index.