

For Immediate Release: April 22, 2011
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The 2011 World Justice Forum III to Bring International Focus to the Rule of Law

As political instability defines one region and natural disasters threaten others, and while economic uncertainty persists around the globe, challenges to the rule of law—the foundation of prosperous and equitable societies—are unprecedented.

From June 20-23, 2011 in Barcelona, Spain, over 450 leaders from over 100 countries and representing over 20 work disciplines will convene at World Justice Forum III to incubate projects that will advance the rule of law in communities around the world. Invited by hosting organization the World Justice Project (WJP), participants include heads of state and Supreme Court justices, public health workers, military and public safety officials, religious leaders, school teachers, business people, journalists, engineers, environmentalists and artists.

The rule of law is essential to the work of all parts of society. It is the key to the promotion of political stability, economic opportunity, social progress and fundamental fairness and equity. Without the rule of law, women and children suffer atrocities, corrupt governments divert public resources needed for public works and economic growth is stifled.

“The rule of law is essential for the eradication of the world’s gravest ills,” said World Justice Project Founder, President and CEO, William H. Neukom. “It is the foundation for economic opportunity and accountable government. It is not the rule of lawyers; all of us are stakeholders.”

The World Justice Forum is the world’s largest global multidisciplinary gathering of policymakers, advocates and representatives to advance the rule of law, and is the only such platform in the world. The objective of the Forum is the design of multidisciplinary projects by Forum participants that can be implemented locally to strengthen the rule of law. Examples include ensuring women’s rights in Sierra Leone, helping marginalized communities in India obtain basic health care, promoting labor rights of indigenous workers in Mexico, combating corruption in construction in Tunisia, protecting the rights of pollution victims in China and increasing access to civil justice for the poor in the United States.

The Forum will feature inspiring panel discussions on pressing rule of law issues relating to public health, the environment, underground economies, human trafficking, fair elections, freedom of press, as well as economic development. Confirmed speakers include: WJP Honorary Co-chairs William H. Gates Sr., Co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Mary Robinson, former president of Ireland; Amr Musa, Secretary-General of the Arab League; Michael J. Holston, Executive Vice President and General Counsel of Hewlett-Packard; Adama Dieng, Registrar for the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda; and Somaly Mam, Cambodian sexual slavery survivor, anti-human trafficking activist and founder of The Somaly Mam Foundation.

The Forum participants will also be provided with new data from the ***WJP Rule of Law Index™***, the WJP’s quantitative assessment tool measuring countries’ adherence to the rule of law. Launched in October 2010, the *Rule of Law Index* will be expanding to include data from 65 countries—including Brazil, China and Russia. The new data will be released this June, in time to aid dialogue and project planning at the Forum.

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The World Justice Project welcomes nominations from the general public of outstanding individuals who aspire to advance the rule of law at the local, national and international levels, to participate in the invitation-only Forum. The WJP is especially interested in participation in the Forum by women and young leaders from least-developed and post-conflict countries. Please use the participant nomination located at the Forum website at www.wjp-forum.org/2011/participant-nomination.

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About the World Justice Project

The World Justice Project (WJP) is an independent, 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization that works to advance the rule of law for the development of communities of opportunity and equity worldwide. Its work is being carried out through the convening of global and regional meetings of world leaders including the World Justice Forum, the provision of seed grants for rule of law projects, the creation of a comprehensive Rule of Law Index, and the origination of new scholarship on rule of law issues. The Project's multinational, multidisciplinary efforts are dedicated to developing practical programs in support of the rule of law around the world. For more information on the Project's outstanding and multidisciplinary Honorary Co-chairs, co-sponsoring organizations, funders, and its founder, William H. Neukom, please visit www.worldjusticeproject.org.

About the World Justice Forum

The World Justice Forum is the World Justice Project's largest international event, where representatives from a variety of disciplines develop projects that strengthen the rule of law. The World Justice Forum is the world's largest global multidisciplinary gathering of policymakers, advocates and representatives to advance the rule of law, and is the only such platform in the world. The first two World Justice Forums were held in Vienna, Austria, in July 2008 and November 2009, respectively. World Justice Forum III will take place on June 20-23, 2011, in Barcelona, Spain. For more information, please visit www.wjp-forum.org.

About the WJP Rule of Law Index™

The *WJP Rule of Law Index™* is a new, quantitative assessment tool, designed by the World Justice Project, which offers a detailed and comprehensive picture of the extent to which countries adhere to the rule of law in practice. Based upon the WJP's culturally competent definition of the rule of law, the *Index* provides original and detailed data regarding a variety of dimensions of the rule of law. This enables stakeholders to assess a nation's actual adherence to the rule of law, to identify a nation's strengths and weaknesses in comparison to other similarly situated countries, and to track changes over time. A statistical sensitivity and reliability analysis of the *Index* data was conducted by the Econometrics Unit of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre and concluded that it is statistically and conceptually coherent.