

COUNTRY PRESS RELEASE

Washington DC (14 October 2021)

Mexico ranked 113 out of 139 countries on rule of law, dropping one position

- *Deterioration in rule of law is spreading worldwide for the fourth consecutive year, as seen in the WJP Rule of Law Index® 2021.*
- *Areas of greatest decline globally include constraints on government powers, civic space, timeliness of justice, and absence of discrimination.*
- *Mexico placed 27th out of 32 in the Latin America and Caribbean region.*

WASHINGTON, DC (14 October 2021) – The World Justice Project (WJP) today released the *WJP Rule of Law Index® 2021*, which evaluates rule of law in 139 countries or jurisdictions. The report is the first in this annual series issued since the COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020, and it **shows multi-year negative trends worsening during this period.**

“With negative trends in so many countries, this year’s WJP Rule of Law Index should be a wake-up call for us all.” said WJP Co-Founder and CEO Bill Neukom. “Rule of Law is the very foundation of communities of justice, opportunity and peace. Reinforcing that foundation should be a top priority for the coming period of recovery from the pandemic.”

The *WJP Rule of Law Index®* is an annual report based on national surveys of more than 138,000 households and 4,200 legal practitioners and experts around the world. The WJP’s framework for the rule of law covers eight factors: Constraints on Government Powers, Absence of Corruption, Open Government, Fundamental Rights, Order and Security, Regulatory Enforcement, Civil Justice, and Criminal Justice.

The 2021 edition of the *WJP Rule of Law Index* includes 11 new countries: Republic of the Congo, Cyprus, Haiti, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Paraguay, Slovak Republic, and Sudan.

Rule of Law in Mexico

Mexico’s overall rule of law score decreased 2.9% in this year’s Index. At 113th place out of 139 countries and jurisdictions worldwide, **Mexico fell one position in global rank.** Mexico’s score places it at 27 out of 32 countries in the Latin America and Caribbean region* and 37 out of 40 among upper-middle income** countries.

Mexico’s greatest strength continues to be Open Government, at 7th place out of 32 countries in the region and 43 of 139 countries worldwide.

As in most countries included in the Index, Mexico suffered declines in civic space (civic participation, the effectiveness of civil society and the press as counterweights to the executive, freedom of opinion and expression, and freedom of meeting and association). Also, it experienced increased delays in civil and criminal justice procedures, as in 94% of the countries.



Mexico's greatest challenge is Absence of Corruption, with its lowest score of the eight factors. Specifically, there were decreases in absence of corruption in the legislative and judicial branches.

Regionally, Latin America and the Caribbean's top performer in the Index is Uruguay (25th out of 139 countries globally), followed by Costa Rica and Chile. The three countries with the lowest scores in the region were Nicaragua; Haiti; and Venezuela, RB (139th out of 139 countries globally).

Two new countries in Latin America and the Caribbean were added to the Index this year: Haiti and Paraguay.

In the last year, 22 out of 30 countries declined in Latin America and the Caribbean (considering the 30 Latin American and Caribbean countries included in the 2020 edition of the report). Of those 22 countries, 13 had also declined in the previous year. The region's average overall score decreased 4% since the previous edition of the Index.

Rule of Law Around the World

The 2021 Index shows that globally more countries declined than improved in overall rule of law performance for the fourth consecutive year.

In a year dominated by the global COVID-19 pandemic, 74.2% of countries covered experienced declines in rule of law performance, while 25.8% improved. **The 74.2% of countries that experienced declines this year account for 84.7% of the world's population, or approximately 6.5 billion people.**

The declines were widespread and seen in all corners of the world. For the second year in a row, **in every region, a majority of countries slipped backward** or remained unchanged in their overall rule of law performance.

Over the past year, **82% of countries in the Index experienced a decline in at least one dimension of civic space** (civic participation, freedom of opinion and expression, and freedom of assembly and association) and **94% of countries in the Index experienced increased delays in administrative, civil, or criminal proceedings.**

The top three performers this year were Denmark, Norway, and Finland. Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cambodia, and Venezuela, RB had the lowest overall rule of law scores.

The countries with the biggest improvement in rule of law in the past year were Uzbekistan (4.1%), Moldova (3.2%), and Mongolia (2.0%). The countries with the biggest decline in rule of law in the past year were Belarus (-7.5%) and Myanmar (-6.3%). Nigeria, Nicaragua, Kyrgyz Republic, and Argentina tie for the third biggest decline (-3.7%).



Mexico Rankings

WJP Rule of Law Index 2021 performance (1 is best)

MEXICO OVERALL GLOBAL RANK: 113/139

MEXICO OVERALL REGIONAL RANK*: 27/32

FACTOR	GLOBAL RANK	REGIONAL RANK*	INCOME RANK**
Constraints on Government Powers	102/139	26/32	30/40
Absence of Corruption	135/139	32/32	40/40
Open Government	43/139	7/32	6/40
Fundamental Rights	91/139	26/32	29/40
Order and Security	130/139	30/32	39/40
Regulatory Enforcement	105/139	24/32	33/40
Civil Justice	131/139	28/32	38/40
Criminal Justice	129/139	26/32	38/40

*Countries and jurisdictions measured in the Latin America and Caribbean region: Antigua and Barbuda; Argentina; The Bahamas; Barbados; Belize; Bolivia; Brazil; Chile; Colombia; Costa Rica; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; El Salvador; Grenada; Guatemala; Guyana; Haiti; Honduras; Jamaica; Mexico; Nicaragua; Panama; Paraguay; Peru; St. Kitts and Nevis; St. Lucia; St. Vincent and the Grenadines; Suriname; Trinidad and Tobago; Uruguay; Venezuela, RB

**Upper-middle income countries and jurisdictions: Albania; Argentina; Belarus; Belize; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Botswana; Brazil; Bulgaria; China; Colombia; Costa Rica; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Georgia; Grenada; Guatemala; Guyana; Indonesia; Iran, Islamic Rep.; Jamaica; Jordan; Kazakhstan; Kosovo; Lebanon; Malaysia; Mexico; Namibia; North Macedonia; Paraguay; Peru; Russian Federation; Serbia; South Africa; St. Lucia; St. Vincent and the Grenadines; Suriname; Thailand; Turkey; Venezuela, RB

About the WJP Rule of Law Index

The WJP Rule of Law Index® is the world’s leading source for original, independent data on the rule of law. Now covering 139 countries and jurisdictions, the Index relies on more than 138,000 household surveys and 4,200 legal practitioner and expert surveys to measure how the rule of law is experienced and perceived worldwide. The Index provides current and reliable information to policy makers, civil society organizations, academics, citizens, and legal professionals, among others, and is intended to encourage policy reforms, guide program development, and inform research to strengthen the rule of law.

About the World Justice Project

The World Justice Project (WJP) is an independent, multidisciplinary organization working to create knowledge, build awareness, and stimulate action to advance the rule of law worldwide. Effective rule of law reduces corruption, combats poverty and disease, and protects people from

injustices large and small. It underpins development, accountable government, and respect for fundamental rights, and it is the foundation for communities of justice, opportunity, and peace.

The World Justice Project defines the rule of law as a durable system of laws, institutions, norms, and community commitment that delivers: accountability, just laws, open government, and accessible justice. Learn more about these four universal principles and our work at:

www.worldjusticeproject.org.

Materials under embargo until October 14

Access the complete report and insights booklet [here](#).

Consult complimentary media (graphs, rankings, and comparative maps) [here](#).

Regional country press releases, with issue specific scores and rankings [here](#).

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