“Makes legal services accessible, affordable and reliable”

Legal Inclusion towards Global Goal for Sustainable Development

SYMPOSIUM REPORT
7 November 2017

December, 2017

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INTRODUCTION</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE SYMPOSIUM</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PART I: LEGAL INCLUSION</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PART II: POLICY CONTEXT</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PART III: LEGAL INCLUSION PROGRAM TOWARDS SDG 16</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PART IV: START SDG16 PARTNERSHIP FOR LEGAL INCLUSION</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONCLUDING REMARKS</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PART V: DECORATION BY THE KING OF PATRICIA VAN NISPEN TOT SEVENAER</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANNEX 1: SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANNEX 2: SPEAKERS’ BIOGRAPHIES</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Introduction

MJ4All started its legal empowerment work 20 years ago, and that is something to celebrate. However, making the issue of legal inclusion of the excluded worldwide an international priority is still a challenge. Hence more important than celebration is the way forward: to work globally, in a structural manner on the legal inclusion of the people excluded within their country. Global Goal for Sustainable Development 16\(^1\) (SDG 16) provides an important opportunity for enhancing legal inclusion globally.

The Symposium

The goal of the symposium that was held in The Hague on November 7, 2017, was to develop a common plan to implement the Legal Inclusion aspect of SDG 16, based on the experience of 20 years of legal empowerment work undertaken by MJ4All.

The first part of the symposium presented legal inclusion work globally from different perspectives: from legal empowerment work on the ground by MJ4All fields teams, to the international policy context and many levels in between. In the second part, the Legal Inclusion Program was presented as the way forward and the partners in this program gave their reaction and input.

As a follow-up to the symposium, the Legal Inclusion Program will start globally with legal inclusion mappings, initially with a pilot in Kenya and Bolivia. Further fundraising will determine to which other parts of the world the mapping of excluded groups and their legal needs will be extended.

The Institute of Economics and Peace (IEP) will be the leading partner for the Legal Inclusion Mapping. To support these mappings, Delft University will conduct a pilot research project on how ICT can help to scale up data-collection. Local partners such as Microjusticia Bolivia, the Autonomous Technological Institute of Mexico (ITAM) and the Housing Rights’ Observatory will support the applied action research on the ground. The Pathfinders group that is convened by the governments of Brazil, Sierra Leone, Switzerland and The Netherlands, with support from the Center on International Cooperation of the New York University, will be an essential partner in facilitating the process for the legal inclusion mapping methodology, the action plans and the indicators to become part of the UN 2030 Global Agenda.

With the support of: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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\(^1\) Global Goal for Sustainable Development 16: “To promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”.
Part I: Legal Inclusion

Legal Inclusion of the Indigenous communities in Bolivia & 10 Years of Microjusticia Bolivia

The Legal system in Bolivia was inherited from the colonizer, Spain. With the current Government, a pluri-national state has come into existence, respecting the legal systems of each of the nations within its boundaries:

- The issue of access to justice is paramount to the people
- New paradigm: Political, economic and especially legal pluralism: acknowledge ourselves within one territory, as long as international human rights standards are respected,
- Indigenous communities in rural areas have their own justice systems as well. This basically means inclusion!

International justice is also plural and inclusive.

MJ4All and Microjusticia Bolivia stand up for people, help people to access the new system, provide knowledge about their rights and how to put them into action.

Presentations on 20 Years of Microjustice4All & Experiences in Former Yugoslavia, Bolivia, Peru, and Kenya

Post-war Former Yugoslavia 1997-2006

Cross-border legal rehabilitation of the refugees

Solved the Catch 22 situation of refugees in the former Yugoslavia after the wars: Millions of people had been displaced and did not have valid civil documentation because: 1) Yugoslav papers were no longer valid; 2) they lived in a new country; 3) they had to arrange their papers in the places where they had fled from, across the border, but needed valid papers to cross the border! Cacht 22! MJ4All with its partner organizations of lawyers and paralegals from all over former Yugoslavia arranged civil documentation for over 50.000 refugees, who could then cross the border and arrange the paper work for their family members and friends. Property was reclaimed, reconstruction loans accessed, problems with banks resolved, work books updated, and hundreds of thousands of other administrative and legal issues were solved in the period from 1997-2006.
Microjusticia Bolivia

Legal Empowerment to access the social, economic and political empowerment programs 2007/2017

As of 2006 the Government of Bolivia has developed new policies for the inclusion of the most vulnerable, mostly indigenous groups. But these target groups often did not have access due to their legal exclusion. From 2007 onwards Microjusticia Bolivia (MJB) helped the most vulnerable with their legal inclusion in order to access social-economic, political empowerment policies:

- New state pension and other social benefits. To be able to access these, MJB has helped tens of thousands of people to obtain correct Civil Documentation.
- A law to ease the procedure for housing-property registration was promulgated by the Government. On a very large scale MJB has prepared the paperwork for people to get their property registered correctly.
- Indigenous communities and their leaders legally empowered; Microjusticia Bolivia helps leaders all over Altiplano (the highlands), to get correct civil documents and legal personality to be able to participate and access government programs.

Microjusticia Perú

Microjusticia Perú was set up in 2008 in Puno for the integration into society of marginalized indigenous people of the southern highlands, the poorest region of Peru on the Titicaca Lake. The support and technical assistance of Microjusticia Bolivia and the funding of the Embassy of the Netherlands were key in the creation of Microjusticia Perú.

Key legal issues dealt with in south Peruvian Highlands (Puno)

- Correct civil documentation; required to access health insurance, to get diplomas, to access the state pension for the elderly, among other social programs, and for political participation.
- Formalize Legal personality of indigenous communities, who need their papers in order to obtain access to the municipal budget; or to sue companies polluting their rivers and lands
- Formalize Productive groups and small business to access bank credits.

In the Peruvian Amazon rainforest and the Ica region where there was an earthquake in 2007, humanitarian interventions together with the Peruvian Red Cross focused on:

- Support to flood victims, mostly women and children, to (re)obtain their basic legal documents, to receive humanitarian aid and access to health and education.
- Support to earthquake victims to obtain basic legal documents, mainly related to property papers to rebuild their houses or to formalize in their new settlements.
Microjustice4All in Kenya

- Worked at Microjustice4All Kenya, participating in Legal Empowerment Education and awareness raising activities.
- Results include the completion of various partnerships and individual success stories. One that stood out was 3 school children who were prohibited to attend school due to the lack of civil documentation. After supporting them to obtain these documents they were back in school with a smile on their face.
- Flower farms began paying for the legal services provided to their workers, showcasing the much-needed issue of sustainability.
- Various challenges exist in Kenya, e.g. corruption was a big hindrance in completing our objectives.
Microjustice4All Legal Empowerment Methodology
Patricia van Nispen tot Sevenaer, Director MJ4All

Background of the methodology
- The cross-border legal aid in the post-war rehabilitation of the refugees in the former Yugoslavia from 1997-2006 was a humanitarian program, fully funded by international donors.
- Assessment missions in Sudan, Georgia, Iraq, Colombia showed that providing legal services to the victims of conflict and marginalized groups to fulfill their basic legal needs is needed everywhere. However, no-one is doing this structurally and no budget lines are available for this work.
- With the goal to work on legal empowerment of the excluded people globally, MJ4All started to develop its Legal Empowerment Methodology inspired by Microfinance (financial services for the poor provided in sustainable way). MJ4All provides legal services for the poor, with a sustainable model, where legal services are delivered with economies of scale.

The elements of the MJ4All Concept:
- The provision of standardized legal services
- To marginalized target groups
- With a view to their social, economic and political inclusion
- While undertaking bottom-up institutional capacity-building, and building a bridge between the people and their government
- Financed in a cost-efficient and sustainable way which can be scaled up

Legal inclusion issues of the Commission for Legal empowerment of the Poor
The legal empowerment methodology of MJ4All was in line with the Report of the UN Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor. MJ4All focuses on non-litigious private and administrative legal matters. MJ4All offers practical, legal solutions which often take the form of a legal document, in the issues identified by the Commission for the Legal Empowerment of the Poor in 2008:
- Civil documents: birth certificates and other documents relating to personal identity;
- Documents relating to property and housing: property registration, property transfer;
- Documents and issues relating to income-generating activities: setting up businesses, cooperatives and other legal entities;
- Documents and issues relating to family law and inheritance matters; and
- Documents and issues relevant to the specific geographic context, for example, post-conflict, natural disasters, refugee crises and environmental issues.
20 years of Legal Empowerment work in the Field

THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS
Headquarters MJ4All

BOLIVIA
2008-2017 (1)
- 20 Outlets in La Paz, Oruro and Cochabamba
- 168,333 consultations (3) of which 84,236 are new and 84,097 are connected to a case
- 30,438 cases (4)
- 61,755 Persons directly assisted
- 261,081 beneficiaries from legal solutions
- 7,333 people reached in 143 events (5)

PERÚ
2009-2016 (1)
- 18 Outlets in Puno, Pisco, Iquitos and Lima
- 58,584 Consultations (3) of which 50,684 are new and 7,900 are connected to a case
- 6,121 Cases (4)
- 32,022 Persons directly assisted
- 100,938 beneficiaries from legal solutions
- 17,688 people reached on 488 events (5)

KENYA
2015-2017 (2)
- 6 Outlets in the slums of Nairobi
- 5,322 consultation (3)
- 468 cases (4)
- 3,921 Persons directly assisted
- 2,466 people reached on 25 events (5)

RWANDA
2015-16: (2)
- 4 outlets in border regions
- 5,852 consultations (3)
- 702 cases (4) solved
- 57,221 people reached on 199 events (5)

Western Balkan
1998 - 2006; (2)
- Over 80,000 administrative documents, in majority arranged across state-borders
- Over 100,000 consultations (3) & legal solutions relating to post-war legal rehabilitation
- 2007-2017 per year around 500 cross-border administrative

(1) The Case Management System of MJ4All (CMS) is the source of information of these numbers
(2) The numbers are based on the reports of the MJ4All Country organizations. The CMS is not the information source
(3) Consultation = provided personal legal advice (which is free)
(4) Case = Legal solution developed by the lawyers of a MJ4All Country Organization (for a fee on a cost basis)
(5) Events = Legal training, awareness raising in legal rights, community workings, etc.
Part II: Policy Context

UN Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

Work to achieve the SDGs started in 2016. This is a huge opportunity for globally coordinated action for sustainable development. Pitch for SDGs:

1. 193 government leaders of all the countries in the world adopted the Agenda, which contains 17 goals to be achieved by 2030 and 237 indicators to measure progress. Common horizon: working on different paths to the same goals on the same horizon;
2. The goals are universal, indivisible and interconnected;
3. No cherry-picking, but priority to SDG 16 is allowed, because it is cross-cutting;
4. SDGs are a lingua franca to us all, it is a language everywhere. Whether it is business; invitation to make use of this present.

SDG 16 as an Enabler for the other SDGs

The interconnectivity of the SDGs is important;

- SDG’s are very much interrelated. For instance, if we don’t address climate change (goal 13), we can’t make sustainable progress on hunger (goal 2).
- If we can’t reduce inequality (goal 5), we can’t achieve quality education for all (goal 4),
- Focus on SDG 16, the one that deals with rule of law. Concrete examples of how SDG 16 is related to other SDGs:
  - SDG 3 and fake drugs, to deal with this problem we need to look at SDG 16. Many countries lack the capacity to deal with fake drugs and it is very much an issue of criminal law.
  - SDG 5 about gender equality, one of the ways to tackle gender based violence is through an effective legal system to protect and deter.
  - SDG 15 deals with ecosystems and the environment. A legal approach is essential, for example in combating the illegal exploitation of forests.
  - SDG 8 about economic growth. Commerce can only succeed in a stable, legal framework where regulations and so on are clear and defined.
Our generation is the first to have the means to make the transformation to a world with more prosperity and less inequality, to protect the diversity of nature and the stability of our climate, to peace and security. The Sustainable Development Goals are our agenda for such a world in 2030. These goals are interlinked and they transcend boundaries between sectors and countries. Achieving them requires joint action.

The Dutch SDG Charter convenes diverse actors, catalyzes joint action and creates synergy towards the SDGs. MicroJustice4All does exactly that, for SDG16. Therefore, we are very happy to welcome the coalition as signatory of the Charter! We are looking forward to our cooperation. You can join the Charter through info@SDGCharter.NL. You can share your activities and find others on SDGGateway.NL.

Maresa Oosterman
Director SDG Charter
Foundation The Netherlands
Legal Inclusion Program towards SDG 16

Global Goal for Sustainable Development 16 (SDG 16) reads:

(A) Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development,
(B) Provide access to justice for all, and
(C) Build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Legal Inclusion is the central issue in these three objectives. MJ4All has 20 years of experience in this area, and proposes the Legal Inclusion Program as a tool for the implementation of the Legal Inclusion part of SDG 16.

The Legal Inclusion Program towards SDG 16 has three components:
1. Legal Inclusion Mapping per country; to make legal exclusion tangible and actionable, making clear what issues need to be addressed for inclusion of the excluded groups.
2. Legal Inclusion Action Plan per country, for legal inclusion of the marginalized groups within their country through both institutional capacity building (top-down) as legal empowerment programs (bottom-up).
3. Proposing the Legal Inclusion (action-oriented) Mapping Methodology and Indicators within the policy context of SDG 16 and the UN Agenda 2030, to get legal inclusion activities on the sustainable development agenda and included in international cooperation policies and funding schemes.

Value added:
- People’s focus; excluded people are the point of departure for mapping the legal system and institutional framework of a country, connected to concrete, practical and actionable recommendations and Programs on how to enhance their legal inclusion.
- Technical legal approach: ‘big injustice’ is cut into bite-sized pieces that can be solved. The low-hanging fruit are tackled first, developing simple legal solutions before embarking on the more complex ones.

First, the Action Mapping will take place in 2018 in 7 countries. This mapping should not only lead to Legal Inclusion Action Plans, but should provide substantiated recommendations for the implementation of the SDG 16 to be integrated in UN Agenda 2030.
Legal Inclusion Mapping

The Mapping concerns applied research:
1. Identifying the excluded communities;
2. Their legal need in relationship to their exclusion;
3. The legal-institutional framework related to those rights;
4. The accessibility in practice and the obstacles, including accessibility of legal services;
5. What is needed to include these people on an institutional level and a legal empowerment level, leading to the Legal Inclusion Action Plan.

The Legal Inclusion Indicators are based on the legal inclusion issues on which MJ4All has been working in its legal empowerment programs in the past 20 years (see MJ4All Legal Empowerment Methodology on page 5).

The action mapping has two phases:
1. The Preliminary Research (desk-study), that will identify excluded groups and their legal needs, with as output an in-depth research plan
2. The Research on the basis of the research plan

Example Preliminary Research: Kenya

An example of a legal inclusion mapping was given in regard to the situation of the nomads in Kenya: the various ethnic groups in the different geographical regions, their general situation of poverty and exclusion, and their legal needs to be included (civil documentation, land rights, inheritance for women and children, etcetera).
Innovative Use of ICT for Scaling Up Legal Inclusion Work

ICT in support of scaling-up
ICT has been fundamental in our legal empowerment programs to enable to work with economies of scale. ICT will also be key in the Legal Inclusion Program:

1. To facilitate the Mapping: data collection and analysis;
2. ICT tools may increase the overall transparency, accessibility, efficiency and effectiveness of legal institutions and procedures in a country;
3. ICT tools are an essential part of the legal products (standardized legal services) in legal empowerment programs, e.g. for property/land surveying or standardization of contracts;
4. In the form of legal case management systems (CMS) supporting large-scale legal service provision programs.

CMS (Case Management System)
- Supports case management, during the legal-administrative process allowing all relevant information to be available when needed: client information, management by users, process steps inside each legal case, finances, encountered obstacles.
- Generate reports: legal advice/consultations, training events, control the team performance and generates customized reports.
- The CMS is adaptable to different contexts, including adaptation to new products (standardized legal service in a specific legal need).
- It has been used in Bolivia (3 regions: La Paz, Oruro and Cochabamba), Peru (5 regions: Puno, Cusco, Lima, Pisco, Iquitos), Kenya (1 region, Nairobi) and Rwanda (2 region: Kigali, North).
- It is continuously optimized.

Responsible ICT Innovation for Legal Empowerment

In the academic year 2017-2018 Delft University of Technology will explore the viability of a new thematic research program on Responsible Innovation (RI) for the UN Sustainable Development Goals. One of the pilot projects addresses Responsible ICTs for Measuring / Mapping Legal Inclusion/Empowerment. It will result in an issue paper reporting on a literature review and consultations with researchers and practitioners.
Measuring the Impact of Legal Inclusion on Peace

SDG 16 is composed of three overarching domains: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions which connect well to IEP’s Positive Peace framework. The impact of legal inclusion on peace can be measured by identifying the positive effects of the legal empowerment activities on a community’s access to justice, hence show the correlation between the three domains. For instance, more access to justice as a result of legal inclusion is an indicator of an improvement in the rule of law. In turn, a well-functioning government demonstrated by a higher confidence in the rule of law are among the factors that sustain and create peaceful societies.

IEP’s role in the legal inclusion mapping is to conduct a quantitative mapping in pilot countries to identify who is excluded and show what the effects are of this exclusion, thus how exclusion leads interactions toward violence. On the flipside, IEP aims to show the effects of legal inclusion, thus how this alters interactions away from violence.

Mr. Hill commented on some of the observations of other speakers and noted that the important work of MJ4All is related to work that is done by a functional ombudsman in countries where such an institution exists.
Need and Use for Index and Mapping

The two core challenges for Microjustice4All involve measuring and mainstreaming legal inclusion. Measuring is about making the abstract concrete so that progress can be mapped and monitored worldwide. Mainstreaming is about making legal inclusion the core issue in societal debates concerning justice and equality – one that the people will demand and that governments will have to grant.
Part IV: Start SDG16 Partnership for Legal Inclusion

The concept of legal inclusion has not sufficiently been taken into account in development cooperation strategies, reducing the sustainability of development activities. MJ4All’s approach is different, requiring the involvement of the target population in the institutional capacity building for legal inclusion. Since 1997 MJ4All has tried to convince development cooperation actors to take into account the legal inclusion of marginalized people as a key element for improving their welfare situation. Legal inclusion is needed to reduce vulnerability and to safeguard their assets, enabling them to overcome catastrophes and other unpredictable events. A more cohesive and inclusive society is better prepared to face any humanitarian crisis and legal inclusion will allow more efficient reactions, allowing for smoother recovery. MJ4All has been promoting the concept of legal inclusion globally, both at the institutional level and civil society level. Now we are persuaded that the time has come to disseminate our results and propose the way forward among the International Community in order to accelerate their ownership of the legal empowerment tools and processes. This will allow the integration of legal inclusion in development cooperation strategies.

The very important goal ahead, establishing peace, is not an easy task. We have a long way to go. But I’m certain about one thing: if we act together, we’ll get there. The City of The Hague is happy to facilitate initiatives like this conference. That’s also why we help fund it. But it’s not about money. It’s about working to ensure justice. The Hague is called the legal capital of the world. That’s what distinguishes our city. Just like you, Patricia. You distinguish yourself with your work for liberty and equality.

Presentation of the MJ4All Legal Empowerment Handbook to the Alderman
Concluding remarks

This symposium shows how necessary Microjustice4All is and what great work it has done. But also, that this movement for legal inclusion globally has just started and it is of the utmost importance in the light of SDG 16 that this will be picked up by all people and institutions involved.

The purpose of this Symposium has been to build a Global Partnership for Legal Inclusion for promoting, advocacy, and addressing the legal inclusion aspect of SDG 16. Legal Inclusion is a double sense action as the population has to want to be part of society and the State/Institutions have to develop inclusive policies. Therefore, Legal Inclusion Partnership has to work in both senses, bottom up (legal empowerment) and top down (institutional capacity building).

In this context, Universities, Governmental Institutions, private companies and law firms as well as non-governmental institutions are essential and their complementarities and synergies will allow integration of the legal inclusion concept in all development strategies.
The law is the backbone of our existence. For many people outside Western Europe, such a legal basis is still an unattainable luxury. I am referring to the possession of birth certificates and other documents which people need to prove that a house or a piece of land belongs to them. Or to gain access to education, health care, social provisions and credit facilities. If their documents contain errors or are incomplete, people are powerless. This is about the ‘legal empowerment of the poor’. In many countries MJ4All, along with many others, tries to bend non-functioning systems in the right direction.

An organization like Microjustice4All therefore, deserves enormous respect for its efforts to address this issue. For over twenty years, this organization has provided a helping hand to the very poorest people in many countries. I am in awe of their work. And I am proud that The Hague may host this anniversary congress. Because this meeting obviously belongs in the international city of peace and justice.

After a summary of the professional life of the MJ4All Director, Ms Krikke announces that the King has conferred the Royal Decoration of ‘Officier in de Orde van Oranje Nassau’ to Patricia van Nispen tot Sevenaer for her long-term meaningful merits with special value globally for our society.
Annex 1: Symposium Program

SYMPOSIUM
Global Legal Inclusion towards SDG16

20th Anniversary MicroJustice4All
Launching The Hague SDG16 Coalition for Global Legal Inclusion

7 November 2017

Conference Room 3.46 (until 15.00) and 3.60 (after 15.00),
Wijnhaven Building, Campus The Hague, University Leiden, Turfmarkt 99, The Hague

AGENDA

Moderator: Eppo van Nispen tot Sevenaer, “connector, analyst of the future, dreamer”. International researcher/speaker on digital transformation, linking the digital world and the human factor

13:30 – 13:35 | Welcome

13:35 – 14:25 | Global Legal Inclusion
- Legal Inclusion of the Indigenous in Bolivia & 10 Years of Microjusticia Bolivia
  Eduardo Rodríguez Veltzé, Ambassador, previously: President of the Supreme Court, President of Bolivia
- 20 Years of Micro justice4All
  Patricia van Nispen tot Sevenaer – Director MJ4All
- Microjusticia Perú (MJP)
  Ronald Chura Carlos, ICT Engineer Microjustice4All, established MJP
- Microjustice4All in Kenya
  Marvin Lindijer, student Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam / MJ4All in Kenya

14:30 – 14:55 | Policy Context
- UN Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)
  Hugo Von Meijsenfeldt – SDG Coordinator, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- SDG 16 as an Enabler for the other SDGs, Ted Hill,
  International Development Law Organization (IDLO)
  Head Branch Office Netherlands & Senior Legal Advisor
- SDG Charter, Maresa Oosterman - Director Dutch SDG Charter Foundation

14:55 – 15:10 | Break

2 Global Goal for Sustainable Development 16: “To promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”.

Page 17
15:10 – 16:30 | The Hague SDG 16 Coalition for Global Legal Inclusion
Introductions and Working Towards Action Planning

Global Legal Inclusion Program
- Program Presentation
  Patricia van Nispen tot Sevenaer
- Legal Inclusion Mapping, Kenya as an example
  Carmen Monterroso Rivas, MJ4All Program Manager Global legal Inclusion Program and Coalition
  Marvin Lindijer
  Innovative Use of ICT for Scaling Up
- ICT Use for scaling up in MJ4All
  Ronald Chura Carlos
- Responsible ICT Innovation for Legal Empowerment
  Jeroen van den Hoven, Professor Ethics & Technology and
  Ilse Oosterlaken, Delft University of Technology

Comments by (potential) Partners
- Measuring the Impact of Legal Inclusion on Peace
  Marcel Smits, Program Director Europe, Institute for Economics & Peace
- Ted Hill, IDLO
- Need and Use for Index and Mapping
  Tim Sweijs, Hague Centre for Strategic Studies, Senior Strategist

Working Towards Action Planning

16.30 - 18.30 | Start The Hague SDG16 Coalition for Global Legal Inclusion
Presentations of Outcome Work towards Action Planning

Final Words and Way Forward
Jose Jaime de Domingo Angulo, Chairman Supervisory Board MJ4All, EU, Development, Humanitarian Expert
Saskia Bruines, Alderman International Affairs of the City of The Hague

Presentation to Ambassador of Bolivia and the Alderman: the MJ4All Legal Empowerment Handbook

Closing remarks
Pauline Krikke, Mayor of The Hague
Patricia van Nispen tot Sevenaer

18.30 – 19.00 | Reception
Annex 2: Speakers’ biographies

Enrique Eduardo Rodríguez Veltzé is the Ambassador of Bolivia to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Bolivia’s Agent before International Court of Justice, is also the Facilitator of The Hague Working Group of the Assembly of States Parties of the International Criminal Court for Budget Management Oversight and Focal Point of Legal Aid. Previously he was President of Bolivia and served as Chief Justice of the Bolivian Supreme Court. He holds a law degree from Universidad Mayor de San Simón and a Master of Public Administration from Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government. As the former dean of the School of Law and Political Science of the Universidad Católica Boliviana in La Paz, Mr. Rodríguez Veltzé is also an experienced academic.

Patricia van Nispen tot Sevenaer set up Microjustice4All in 1996 and has developed MJ4All ever since, leading the organization through its different phases: starting in the former Yugoslavia working on the post-war rehabilitation of refugees; and since 2007 MJ4All has served as an innovative way of international development cooperation in Latin America and since 2010 in Africa as well. Patricia van Nispen always wanted to do what she is doing now. That is why after her Masters in Law, she did her post-graduate studies in International Relations, and became inspired to focus in particular on the ‘human aspects’ of it. To her this is something that seemed to be lacking. A precondition for democracy and durable peace is that all people are protected and integrated in the system; thus, instead of speaking of abstract concepts such as ‘States’, one has to look beyond this concept. The people living within that State need to be protected. In MJ4All she has found the perfect way to engage in this in a structural way. Prior to creating MJ4All, she worked with a commercial law firm in Amsterdam (Houthoff Buruma; 1990-94) and with the UN in Rwanda, Malawi and Croatia (1994-96).

Ronald Grimaldi Chura Carlos, an ICT engineer, has worked with Microjusticia Peru (MJP) since its creation in September 2008, as part of an excellent interdisciplinary team that has been able to boost Microjustice in Peru in the regions of Puno, Cusco, Pisco, Iquitos and Lima. He is responsible for all management, development, research and support related to ICT for MJ4All international network. He feels glad to be able to use his professional skills to contribute to the work of an organization that helps the most vulnerable people to become legally empowered.

Marvin Santara Lindijer is a masters student at Vrij Universiteit Amsterdam in the field of transnational legal studies. Marvin has worked with MJ4All for over a year. After finishing his undergraduate studies in Utrecht University, he interned at the MJ4All division in Kenya providing assistance and expertise in its daily activities. Marvin was born in Kenya and lived there most of his adolescence, he is currently writing his master’s thesis on Kenyan issues showcasing his profound knowledge of the country.
Hugo G. von Meijenfeldt coordinates the implementation of the Global Goals at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Prior to his current position, Hugo was the Consul General of the Netherlands in San Francisco. He is an environmental legal expert, manager and diplomat, on European and global level. Hugo G. von Meijenfeldt has held the position of director of International Affairs and director of Soil, Water and Rural Environment at the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment. He was previously Chairman of the Environmental Policy Committee of the UN-ECE in Geneva. He also fulfilled the position of environmental liability lawyer in the soil clean-up division. Until 2013 he was the deputy director-general at the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment as well as special envoy for climate change at the ministry.

**Personal motto.** In the long history of species those who learned to collaborate and improvise most effectively have prevailed, Darwin taught us. Humankind could achieve this as well, due to inspirational leadership towards sustainability.

Maresa Oosterman is Director of the Dutch SDG Charter Foundation. The Charter connects organizations around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and catalyzes their (joint) contributions to these goals. Before, she was a policy advisor at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. At the Permanent Representation in New York, her focus was on sustainable development issues, gender and human rights. She represented the Netherlands in negotiations on the SDGs, in the UNDP Board and on the creation of UNWOMEN. Based in Rwanda, she set up a regional program in the Great Lakes area, linking economic development, environment and peace building. In Ghana, she was seconded to Ahold (one of the world’s largest retailers) to help scale up export from Africa to its supermarkets. She started at Greenpeace and at the Dutch Met Office (KNMI), working on climate change, and was part of the Dutch delegation to the Kyoto Protocol negotiations. She studied physics and philosophy. Her drive in her work is to connect positive forces in society, to work together on the future we want.

Carmen Monterroso Rivas joined MJ4All in June 2017, as the Program Manager, The Hague SDG 16 Coalition for Global Legal Inclusion. Carmen has been working as an expert in social development, human rights and gender in Latin America with various national and international institutions, in order to improve the life of women and indigenous people, especially to support women to actively participate in the political and business society. During her work within European Union programs in Guatemala, she dealt with the implementation, management, monitoring and evaluation of projects. Carmen has a Master degree in Social and Political Studies of Latin America from the University Alberto Hurtado in Chile. She is Guatemalan and lives in The Netherlands since 2010.

Ilse Oosterlaken has a mixed educational background in engineering, social sciences and philosophy. She has a doctoral degree from Delft University of Technology, where she wrote a dissertation about the capability approach of Nussbaum and Sen and its application to technology and design. Currently she is supporting various projects and initiatives in academia, both as a part-time employee and a freelancer. One of her freelance projects concerns the pilot
Marcel Smits is the Program Director for Europe in IEP’s office in The Hague. Prior to this he was the Policy Specialist on Private Sector and Conflict at Oxfam in The Netherlands. Over the last twenty years he has worked for international nongovernmental organizations operating in conflict prone and affected areas in South Asia, Africa, Balkans and the Caucasus. Marcel served as the Director of the Forum on Early Warning and Early Response, the Institute for International Mediation and Conflict Resolution and the Institute for War and Peace Reporting-NL as well as the Country Director for the Nonviolent Violent Peaceforce in Sri Lanka during the civil war. There he worked closely with UN agencies and local groups to protect vulnerable groups against violence and rights violations and he negotiated with rebel and paramilitary groups for the release of child soldiers. Marcel has a background in international law and politics and specializes in conflict analysis and conflict sensitive approaches, peacebuilding, rule of law, human security and corporate responsibility in fragile settings. Currently, he lives in The Netherlands with his Sri Lankan wife and 4-year old daughter.

Tim Sweijs is a Senior Strategist. He is the initiator, creator, and author of numerous studies, methodologies, and tools for research projects in horizon scanning, conflict analysis, international and national security risk assessment, and capability development. He has led multicenter research projects for both private and public sector organizations – including the European Commission and various European governments.

Mr. Sweijs spearheads the HCSS StratMon program, which offers strategic assessments of medium to long-term risks in the global security environment to the Strategic Monitor of the Dutch Ministries of Defence, Foreign Affairs, and Security and Justice. He is the architect of the Drivers-of-Vulnerability Monitor, a web-based interactive mapping platform of global state vulnerability to intrastate conflict. Tim has lectured at civilian universities and military academies around the world. Tim is presently working on a PhD thesis about the use and utility of ultimata in coercive diplomacy in the period 1920-2010.

Ted Hill: Mr. Ted Hill serves as Senior Legal Advisor (Program Development) and as Head of IDLO’s Branch Office in The Hague. As Senior Legal Advisor (Program Development), Ted Hill leads the Program Development Unit within IDLO. This team transforms opportunities into new programming that aligns with IDLO’s Strategic Plan as well as donors’ and beneficiaries’ priorities. Mr. Hill brings to these duties a background that includes experience legal practice, project management, judicial capacity development, policy, legislative drafting, commercial ADR and academia. As a former IDLO Country Director in South Sudan, Ted brings a field perspective to his duties.

As Head of the IDLO Branch Office in The Hague, Ted represents IDLO to foster and maintain strategic and functional relationships with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and with embassies, international organizations, and tribunals.

Ted has worked extensively in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and the South Pacific. He has been admitted to the practice of law in 3 countries and is the author or articles, chapters and manuals relating to the rule of law.
**Saskia Bruines**, The Hague’s alderman for the Knowledge Economy, International Affairs, Youth and Education as well as the Haagse Hout and Loosduinen districts. She studied Social Geography at the University of Amsterdam, with a major in Historical Geography. From 1999 to 2002 Saskia Bruines was alderman in Amsterdam. Her portfolios were Art and Culture, Information and Communication Technology, and as of 2001 also Public Space and Green, Environment, Taxi Affairs, Inland Waterway Management and Resources, Well-being and Education (inner city). From 1998 to 1999 and from 2002 to 2006 she was a member of the Amsterdam Municipal Council for D66. 

Saskia Bruines thereafter held various positions in the cultural sector. In 2008 and 2009 she was the quardermaster for the establishment of the Culturalis Theater in The Hague, now called Theater De Vaillant. Saskia Bruines was director of the former De Hint centre for the arts in Aalsmeer and Uithoorn from 2009 to 2012. From 2012 until she became alderman of The Hague in February 2017, Saskia Bruines was alderman in Leidschendam-Voorburg. Her portfolios were Education, Economy and Business Climate, Child Welfare, Spatial Development, Services, Social Services, Modern Government program, Information Security and Internal Affairs.

**José Jaime de Domingo** has been engaged with MJ4ALL since 2006 when he was the International director of the Spanish NGO MPDL and the two organizations worked together on the legal rehabilitation of the refugees and IDPs in the former Yugoslav republics. He later helped to establish MJ4ALL country organization's in the Bolivia, Peru and Rwanda as well as the MJ4ALL International Platform. Mr. de Domingo supports MJ4All because he is persuaded that legal services should be an integral part of cooperation tools. First, because it is necessary for improving social cohesion and social cohesion improves the welfare and help to diminish poverty. Second, because the cooperation support will never be sustainable without the participation of a strong legal capacity affordable for everyone. Mr. de Domingo’s knowledge and skills have developed as an international civil servant, as an NGO executive and as a director of private companies. He is currently Team Leader of the Mediterranean Project for Intervention Epidemiology Training. Prior to that, he was the Director of International Cooperation at ISOFOTON S.A, a pioneer in the world for the development of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems. Since 1991 he has also served as Team Leader of “EUROsociAL Health,” an EC-funded project which improved the social cohesion in the Latin-American countries, Director of International Action for the NGO Movement for Peace (MPDL) and Desk Officer of Direct Action Program, which provided aid to 1,200,000 Bosnian refugees across the Balkans.

**Pauline Krikke**, Mayor of The Hague. She studied in Amsterdam, during which time she became a member of the People’s Party for Freedom and Democracy (VVD). Representing the VVD, she became a member of the municipal council in Amsterdam in 1994. In 1996 she became deputy mayor for Economic Affairs, Airport and Seaport. After the municipal council elections of 1998, she was re-elected as deputy mayor and changed her portfolios to Economic Affairs and Employment, Construction, Housing and the Economy.

In September 2001 Pauline Krikke became mayor of Arnhem. In 2007 she was appointed for another 6 years. From 2003 to 2007 she was also a member of the Taskforce Youth Unemployment. After 2 full terms, she decided not to continue as mayor for a third term. In addition to her role as mayor, she was also a member of the board of the international Red Cross /Red Crescent Movement from 2005 to 2013. After resigning as mayor, Pauline Krikke established herself as an independent consultant and regulator for government and industry. From October 2014 she was general director
of the National Maritime Museum in Amsterdam. Nevertheless, her main love remained public service. In 2015 she therefore became a member of the Senate. She resigned that membership when she was inaugurated as mayor of The Hague on 17 March 2017.

Eppo van Nispen tot Sevenaer is a well-known international researcher and speaker on digital transformation. He is a one of a kind in making unique connections between the digital world and the human factor. Eppo works on different international and national projects and programs on a variety of subjects like Big Data Analytics, School X.0, Libraries of the Future, Cultural heritage future thinking and the iGovernment. Since 2010 Eppo is also involved in the future of the book as the managing director of a unique foundation that promotes books and reading. He is also the president of the Dutch national board on the use of analytics (Big Data), board member of the Prince Claus Fund and member of the Creative Industries Council. He started in 2005 the DOK Library Concept Center that was designated by international experts as the worldwide number one library in innovation. In 2010 he was asked by the national government to work and fully focus on the future of media and data together with universities and schools. Eppo van Nispen gets most of his inspiration from the IWP, his own “Institute of Wise People” (his 5 kids and grandma of 102). His motto is the same as Buzz Lightyear’s “To infinity and beyond”.