

Statement on behalf of

Switzerland, the United States
members of the Justice Action Coalition

78th Session
of the General Assembly of the United Nations

6th Committee

Agenda item 3:
The Rule of Law at the National and International Levels

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Thank you, Mr./Madam Chair,

Madam Deputy Secretary General, Your Excellencies,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, France, Germany, Indonesia, Luxembourg, Portugal, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States, our own country the Kingdom of the Netherlands. We represent the [Justice Action Coalition](#) a multistakeholder coalition of countries and partner organizations championing equal access to justice for all as part of SDG16

At this annual committee conversation about the rule of law we wish to highlight three points:

1. The Secretary-General's new Vision for the Rule of Law and Guidance Note on Transitional Justice. These guiding documents underline that justice systems must put people at the center, addressing their needs and delivering fair outcomes for them.
2. The need to invest in innovation and leverage technology effectively ensure accessibility, inclusivity, responsiveness and accountability advance equal access to justice for all.
3. The importance of crossregional and crosssectoral partnerships to achieve progress and close the justice gap.

Mr/Mme Chair,

To our first point: We take note with appreciation of the Secretary-General's new Vision for the Rule of Law, which commits the Organisation to reinforce the centrality of the rule of law in all its activities. This is fundamental to lasting peace, the fulfilment of human rights and sustainable development.

We are particularly pleased to see the close alignment of the Secretary-General's new Vision with the principles of people-centered justice. These have been articulated for instance in the [The Hague Declaration on Equal Access to Justice by 2020](#) that has been endorsed by over 60 countries. For example, the new UN Vision states that the rule of law is essential for sustainable development and this implies that

Furthermore, we commend the new Vision for its emphasis on the role of law in advancing gender equality, as well as recognising all different stakeholders within and beyond the UN whose enhanced engagement is essential in realising this vision. This multistakeholder approach is also an important feature of

We strongly believe that we cannot address poverty, inequalities, the impact of climate change and root causes of conflict and violence without people-centered justice. We therefore call on all states to redouble their efforts and work closely with each other, non-state actors and the United Nations, to implement the vision for rule of law and make equal access to justice for all a reality.

Thank you.