

## **CHARTER OF THE GFLJD**

The partners of the Global Forum on Law Justice and Development (GFLJD) (the “Partnership”) adopt the present charter (“the Charter”). The Charter describes the membership and structure of the GFLJD, as well as the work of the Partners and the way decisions are made.

The Charter constitutes an expression of mutual good faith and is neither legally binding, nor commits any of the Partners to enter any specific activity or project.

Moreover, the Charter does not create an exclusive commitment for any of the Partners hereto, nor does it constitute a legal agency relationship between the Partners.

The Partners acknowledge that cooperation under the present Charter, and the joint activities and programs deriving thereof, are subject to the Partners' respective mandates, funding constraints, policies and procedures.

### **I. Preamble**

The promotion of peace, justice and strong institutions as reflected in SDG 16 and its indicators are of paramount importance for the GFLJD and is a core and permanent value for all its projects and achievements. Strong legal and justice systems and institutions are internationally recognized as key drivers in development. However, the knowledge required to fully leverage this relationship is unevenly accessible to development experts, legal practitioners, policymakers and academics worldwide. The Global Forum on Law Justice and Development is created to address such constraint by providing an innovative and dynamic system of exchange and knowledge translation by connecting government, think tanks, regional and international organizations, international financial institutions, private sector and civil society organizations with relevant research and practices to improve development outcomes. The GFLJD, by paving the way for increased international collaboration among these players, will accelerate knowledge dissemination in line with the sustainable development goal of providing access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. The GFLJD provides an active framework that comprises a coherent, sustained program of collaborative research and special pilot projects by promoting a multidisciplinary approach, combining economic, legal and technical aspects of target issues.

The Forum is based on the following essential foundations:

- 1) Working groups which will identify, co-generate, share and disseminate relevant knowledge and legal “solutions” to development challenges through a multi- disciplinary approach.
- 2) A continuously updated Website.
- 3) The series of events
- 4) An effective and dynamic Steering Committee.

This Charter is intended to promote transparency, accountability and effective support to the GFLJD governance. It reflects the norms and practices developed to implement the objectives and principles of the GFLJD.

## **II. GFLJD Objectives**

The Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development is a network of organizations dedicated to creating legal knowledge that promotes achievement of sustainable development goals.

In order to promote the achievement of SDG 16, GFLJD's main objective, the GFLJD will act as a collaborative, transparent, decentralized and efficient vehicle for the exchange and co-generation of legal knowledge, based on the following principles:

- a. Strengthening and promoting a better understanding of the role of law and justice in sustainable development through a multi-stakeholders dialogue and collaboration;
- b. Reaching the targets of better integrating the legal approach, the judicial institutions and the access to justice in the development process in order to increase development effectiveness;
- c. Encouraging the co-generation of innovative legal solutions and practices to development issues;
- d. Supporting knowledge dissemination sharing of legal solutions to development challenges;
- e. Encouraging an inclusive partnership built upon shared principles, values and vision.

To achieve its objective, the GFLJD relies on a clear structure of governance and decision-making. Communication among Partners is built upon clarity, transparency, and trust. In establishing the Partnership's work programs, Partners are requested to give careful attention to both results and effectiveness, as well as to the promotion of GFLJD's values.

Due to the importance of collaboration and communication for the GFLJD, the Partners' Membership will be terminated by the Secretariat in the event of the Partners inactivity. Inactive partners are those that do not respond to the Secretariat for an extended period of time and after repeated efforts or are never active in any Working Groups or events within the GFLJD.

## **III. GFLJD Activities**

By subscribing to the GFLJD, Partners intend to provide innovative, dynamic solutions, practices and knowledge to improve sustainable development outcomes. Knowledge activities/products may be geared toward the following purposes:

- Providing inputs for new regulations/legislation
- Improving existing regulations/legislation
- Providing innovative legal solutions for cross-cutting issues
- Providing innovative and empiric practices
- Capacity Building

The GFLJD knowledge activities/products may take different forms, including but not limited to:

- Offering research and assessment of regulations/legislation and legal and policy analysis;
- Providing opportunities and involvement by students and youth groups in the Forum's activities and programs.
- Providing guidance on the search for legal solutions, such as:
  - Precedents, model laws, agreements and clauses;

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- Operation manuals;
  - Guidance notes, toolkits and good-practice checklists;
  - Data collection and action research (systematic collective, collaborative, self-reflective and critical inquiry);
  - Reference material;
  - Studies and literature;
  - Collection of laws, policies, commentaries, doctrine, comparisons and jurisprudence;
  - Contract Models
- Providing institutional analysis on:
    - government agencies and non-governmental organizations that implement or support policy reforms;
    - Identification of constraints that undermine policy implementation;
  - Providing a network of practitioners;
  - Database of experts, peer reviewers and practitioners;
  - Providing training materials
  - Providing innovative legal solutions applicable to the private sector;
  - Promoting knowledge sharing activities among private and public sectors and the judiciary, related to development issues;

#### IV. Nature of the Partnership and adherence procedure

The GLFLJD Partners may contribute to the Partnership in any of the following forms:

- Providing already-developed knowledge products or other intellectual resources to the GFLJD.
- Providing staff time, travel and logistics support relating to GFLJD activities/products
- Providing an annual financial contribution with no minimum requirement.
- Knowledge sharing by contributing to the GFLJD information communication technology platform with existing knowledge products (e.g., studies, databases, training material, etc.);
- Mobilizing their own staff for the pursuit of GFLJD objectives and the assistance of the GFLJD Secretariat;
- Promoting expert meetings, workshops, and/or open trainings sessions to jointly build technical capacity and to strengthen the understanding of global, regional and country legal issues;
- Providing facilities for workshops, conferences and/or training seminars;
- Providing translations of relevant documents into their native languages for wider dissemination in their respective countries;
- Providing updates in specific areas of national legislation;
- Assisting with the maintenance of the GFLJD website;
- Engaging and funding studies/researches and publications;
- Increasing cooperation on global, regional and country issues, in concert with other interested parties, by developing a shared understanding of key legal development challenges and promoting complementarities in their studies and knowledge products;
- Providing support to relevant stakeholders;
- Such other means as the Partners may agree.

To become a “Partner” a Letter of Endorsement is signed by the future Partner, expressing its commitment therein to contribute to the GFLJD, a due diligence assessment is conducted by the Secretariat, and the Steering Committee approves the admission of the Partner.

Any Partner may withdraw from the GFLJD at any time. Such withdrawal shall become effective upon receipt of a written notification of withdrawal by the Secretariat.

Any Partner inactive to the GFLJD’s activities (WG, Newsletter, Events, etc.) for more than two (2) consecutive years will be expressly notified by the Secretariat of the partner’s potential withdrawal. Such withdrawal shall become effective upon the Secretariat’s receipt of a written notification of withdrawal from the Partner. If no response is received, the withdrawal shall become effective 30 days after the Secretariat’s notification.

## **V. Governance of the GFLJD**

### **A) The GFLJD Steering Committee**

The Steering Committee “SC” is the supreme governing body of the GFLJD and is composed by the following members (“Members”)

- Chairman of SC: World Bank Legal Vice President.
- Members of SC:
  - World Bank Legal Vice-Presidency “WB LEGVP” member appointed by the Senior Vice President.
  - Contributors’ representatives.

In order for a Partner to become a “Contributor”, it must fulfil one of any of the following conditions:

- Providing an annual financial contribution with no minimum amount requirement
- Providing staff time, travel and logistics support relating to GFLJD activities/products

On an occasional basis and in accordance with the agreement of SC member’s, Partners’ representatives or technical experts may deliver fundamental information to assist the SC on the decision-making process for a specific topic.

The SC welcomes International Organizations, Multilateral development Banks and National or Regional Development Agency, which are Partners of the GFLJD, as Observers. Observers will be granted the right to speak at the Steering Committee but will have no voting rights pertaining to the decision-making process on any topic.

Steering committee members serve on the Steering Committee for a term of three years renewable.

Financial contributions may be made through the World Bank’s Eternally-Financed Output mechanism or by providing a secondment staff assigned to the GFLJD Secretariat.

Terms and conditions of specific instruments will be governed by the applicable policies and agreements, as they may be amended from time to time. Acceptance of a financial contribution by the Global Forum or

one of its partners does not constitute an endorsement of the contributor or its activities/business, nor will it have an impact on any business relationship with the partners.

An alternate Steering Committee member is appointed by each Member to act in its name and on its behalf in case of absence, incapacity or impediment of that representative.

**Chair of the SC:** Meetings of the SC shall be chaired by the General Counsel of the World Bank Group (or designated alternate). The Chair does not participate in voting decisions by the SC, unless there is a tie.

The Chair promotes commitment of Partners to the GFLJD and its work. With the support of the Secretariat she/he will also ensure that meetings are planned effectively and that they focus on Partnerships' key issues and priorities.

**Tasks:** The SC has the following roles and responsibilities:

- Select and endorse a list of new proposed topics for the coming year on focus areas and review its implementation
- Adopt and amend the GFLJD Charter in accordance with its terms;
- Decide on operational strategies and procedures for the WG activities;
- Approve the establishment of WGs, their objectives, targets and scope of activities of the WG
- Review the use of funds and ensuring that they are being used according to the objectives of the GFLJD
- Guide the work of the Secretariat;

**Ordinary Steering Committee meetings** take place regularly, typically twice a year and may be held either in person or virtually, via electronic means.

**Quorum:** Two thirds of the Members constitute a quorum for opening a session of the Steering Committee.

**Decision-Making:** The SC will make all decisions by consensus, i.e. when no Member blocks a decision. A dissenting Member that does not wish to block a decision may state an objection to be recorded in the meeting minutes. When consensus cannot be reached, in which case decisions will be taken by a simple majority. For the purposes of this Charter, consensus is a procedure for adopting a decision when no Member blocks a proposed decision.

## **B. The GFLJD Secretariat**

The GFLJD Secretariat is housed in the World Bank, Washington DC, and is legally operating as part of the Bank. The Secretariat's staff costs are funded by the World Bank and by all Partners that provide staff.

The Secretariat is responsible for the general coordination of the Global Forum and the implementation of the Steering Committee's policies and approved work plans and reports to the Chair of Steering Committee on the progress of activities and progress against results targets.

A Program Management Team which is a sub-set of the Secretariat, reports to Bank Management in charge of the LEGVP.

The staff of the Secretariat will be selected by the World Bank based on the professional profiles required for the efficient delivery of the tasks assigned to the Secretariat.

The Secretariat will have the following duties:

- On a yearly basis, reach out to the Partners and provide a list of new potential topics on focus areas to the SC.
- Moderate, coordinate, participate and support the WGs;
- Be the interface between the GFLJD Partners and the WB LEGVP;
- Organize specific events involving partnership between WB LEGVP/NGO/IO/Private Sector, etc;
- Coordinate and support the fund-raising efforts of the World Bank management and other Partners;
- Reach out to potential Partners, with special attention to Partners from developing countries and from judicial bodies;
- Support the SC by drafting conceptual and procedural documents, organizing Steering SC's meetings;
- Update the SC on the regular basis.
- Assist in the preparation of the exclusive Global Forum side-events to the annual Law, Justice and Development Week.
- Connect the needs of the donors with these of the Partners, by assisting the former in finding projects to fund and the later in finding donors for their projects.

### **C. The Working Groups (WGs)**

The Working Groups (WGs) are the core of the GFLJD as they provide an innovative and dynamic system of exchange and knowledge translation to improve development outcomes. They will have a duration of two years, except specific request subject to the SC approval.

Accordingly, a new WG can be launched by:

- The SC
- One or several Members subject to the SC approval

The Secretariat will launch a call for proposals for Global Forum's Partners. The selection process will be carried out by the SECRETARIAT+LEGVP within a timeframe of four weeks from the date on which the call for proposals was launched.

The WG representatives will also be determined during the same selection process among the Global Forum's Partners.

WGs will be led by one representative that will provide overall leadership in the implementation of the agreed activities. In particular, the leader will be in charge of:

- planning and implementing the activities relevant to the work program on an annual basis with support from the GFLJD Secretariat.
- Leading the development of expected outputs and outcomes from the activities with members agreement;
- Communicating with members of the WG to maintain dynamism, in particular but not limited to, following up on activities and commitments;

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- Ensuring that gender balance, regional diversity and public / private sector balance is maintained in WG activities;
- Helping identify resources, opportunities and potential collaborations that would benefit the WG and allow it to carry out its activities;
- providing the Steering Committee with the following deliverables:
  - A Proposal of their annual work program with expected outputs and outcomes (based on draft template developed by the Secretariat);
  - A brief annual report on progress of the activities and outputs of the WG.

### **Internal operating of the Working Groups:**

Partners of each WG will also identify additional Partners that may be invited to join the WG to include valuable intellectual contributions. Special attention will be paid to ensure gender balance and regional diversity in the selection of WG members. The inclusion of specialists in other areas that can bring a multidisciplinary perspective is strongly encouraged.

Overall the WG members will have the following duties:

- Fill out and provide to the Secretariat the Concept Note of the WG indicating expected deliverables;
- Report workload information to the Secretariat monthly;
- Share current knowledge programs of each member in selected topics;
- Organize meetings;
- Agree on the working language and procedures for collaboration (frequency and forms of meetings);
- Identify on-going and/or upcoming related activities at the country and regional levels for potential collaboration;
- Work as a team to deliver the products/activities that have been agreed in the work program.
- Present the deliverables of the WG.

Each member of the WGs will cover its own staff costs.

At inception, and before finalization of knowledge products, each WG is required to get quality peer review and Partners are encouraged to provide quality peer reviewing.

### **VI. Effectiveness**

This Charter will come into effect on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019.