



MINISTÉRIO PÚBLICO DO ESTADO DE MINAS GERAIS

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### Letter of Endorsement

MINISTÉRIO PÚBLICO DO ESTADO DE MINAS GERAIS

November 16, 2011

Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development Secretariat  
c/o The World Bank  
Legal Vice-Presidency  
1818 H Street N.W.  
Washington D.C. 20433  
Mail stop MC6-607  
USA

Dear Sir,

I am pleased to confirm that Ministério Público do Estado de Minas Gerais endorses the *Joint Declaration and Statement of Commitment on Supporting the Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development* as set forth in Addendum I. and the *Global Forum Concept* as set forth in Addendum II. With this endorsement, we express our intent to advance those principles and commitments. We endeavour to promote the *Joint Declaration and Statement of Commitment* into our activities.

Ministério Público do Estado de Minas Gerais is considering making the following contributions to support the Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development:

- A financial contribution in the total amount to be budgeted and agreed by Ministério Público do Estado de Minas Gerais; and
- In-kind contributions in the form of:
  - (a) Sharing knowledge by contributing to the information communication technology platform with existing knowledge products (e.g. studies, databases, training material etc.);
  - (b) Mobilizing its own staff for the pursuit of the objectives of this Memorandum;



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- (c) Promoting expert meetings, workshops, and/or open training to jointly build technical capacity and strengthen the understanding of global, regional and country legal issues;
- (d) Providing facilities for workshops, conferences or training seminars;
- (e) Providing translations of relevant documents into their native language for wider dissemination in their respective countries;
- (f) Providing updates in specific area of national legislation;
- (g) Engaging and funding studies/researches and publications;
- (h) Increasing their 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 complementarity in their studies and knowledge products;
- (i) Providing support to relevant stakeholders; and
- (j) Such other means as the Partner may agree.

We anticipate having a significant involvement in the undertaking of collaborative initiatives, in particular, in the following substantive areas:

Global issues:

- (a) Climate change, development agenda and international law;
- (b) International Legal System: rebuilding the international legal architecture;
- (c) Financial Sector Regulation in MICs after the crisis;
- (d) Measuring the rule of law: how to develop useful and impartial indicators of Justice, rule of law and governance in development;
- (e) Dealing with Fraud and Corruption in International Development Projects;
- (f) Responding to the Global Financial Crisis through Domestic and International Legal and Regulatory Reform;
- (g) Intellectual Property & Development;
- (h) Law of Land and involuntary resettlement;
- (i) Criminal justice and development;
- (j) Gender and development;
- (k) Exchange among judiciaries: breaching the justice gap;
- (l) Governance and anti-corruption;
- (m) Consumer law.

Institutional Issues

- (a) International responses to emergencies and crises: legal and policy instruments of



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- IFIs (International Financial Institutions);  
(b) Rebuilding legal and justice institutions in fragile and conflict affected states: methodologies and best practices;  
(c) Access to Information: openness and accountability;  
(d) Methods and tools for quality impact evaluation in Justice sector;  
(e) Natural resources management and dispute resolution.

We have designated an Administrative Focal Point below with general responsibility for implementing the activities pursuant herewith.

Alceu José Torres Marques  
Procurador-Geral de Justiça  
Procuradoria-Geral de Justiça: Av. Álvares Cabral, nº. 1740, 12º andar, Belo Horizonte/MG – Brasil  
CEP: 30.170-001  
55 31 3330-8132  
[alceutorres@mp.mg.gov.br](mailto:alceutorres@mp.mg.gov.br)

Yours sincerely,

  
Signature

Name: Alceu José Torres Marques  
Title: Procurador-Geral de Justiça



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**Addendum I**  
**Joint Declaration and Statement of Commitment**  
Supporting the Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development

Washington, DC, 2011

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*We, the Partners of the Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development, declare*

*Noting* that strong legal and judicial institutions are an important cornerstone of sustainable economic and social development, and in our ever increasingly interconnected world, there is a need in the international community for a permanent global knowledge exchange forum on law, justice and development;

*Recognizing* that current technological advances are providing new opportunities to connect experts and stakeholders around the world, making it easier to identify, co-generate, share and disseminate relevant knowledge and solutions, and making them available as public goods complementary to financial resources for development;

*Aware* that the Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development will help identify, discuss and produce innovative and customized legal solutions to global, regional or national development challenges;

*Noting* that the Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development seeks to promote a better understanding of the role of law and justice in the development process, through structured South-South and North-South dialogues of relevant stakeholders and a research agenda that will support knowledge co-generation, and to strengthen and better integrate legal and judicial institutions in the development process, through selected capacity building initiatives and an open repository of knowledge;

*Convinced* that the gap in the international community for a permanent legal forum can be filled by harnessing these new technologies; and that construction of an Information Communication Technology (ICT) web-based platform will allow the Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development to draw on Partners' vast repository of law and development expertise to attract knowledge contributions from development partners and leaders;

*Noting* that the Partners of the Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development have expressed a desire that the institutions collaborate more closely;  
HEREBY agree, within the context of the Partners' respective responsibilities, capabilities, and priorities to participate and support the Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development.



## MINISTÉRIO PÚBLICO DO ESTADO DE MINAS GERAIS

### 1. Common Objectives

Consistent with their respective mandates, the Partners intend to collaborate in (1) joint initiatives furthering the understanding and the promotion of legal and judicial reforms to sustainable development in the world; and (2) supporting the World Bank member countries' efforts to create a "Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development" to co-generate legal solutions to development issues. To this end, the Partners intend to cooperate with each other to promote the establishment of a permanent forum on Law, Justice and Development through a global partnership, supported by: (i) an information communication technology platform that will facilitate the free access to, and dissemination of, relevant legal knowledge; (ii) in kind contributions (i.e. knowledge and logistics); and (ii) an adequate funding mechanism to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development.

### 2. Areas of Collaboration

The Partners anticipate that their collaboration will focus on a number of specific substantive areas as indicatively set forth in Partnership Program Instrument attached hereto as Addendum II, consistent with their policies and procedures, which substantive areas will be identified and agreed through a larger consultation with Partners of the Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development.

### 3. Forms of Collaboration

The Partners anticipate that each Partner will contribute to the activities undertaken pursuant herewith, in one or more of the following ways:

- (a) Sharing knowledge by contributing to the information communication technology platform by providing and updating knowledge products (e.g. studies, databases, training materials etc.);
- (b) Mobilizing its own staff for the pursuit of the Common Objectives;
- (c) Promoting expert meetings, workshops, and/or open training to jointly build technical capacity and strengthen the understanding of global, regional and country legal issues;
- (d) Providing facilities for workshops, conferences or training seminars;
- (e) Providing translations of relevant documents into their native language for wider dissemination in their respective countries;
- (f) Providing updates in specific area of national legislation;
- (g) Engaging in and funding studies, research, and publications;



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- (h) Increasing their 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 complementarity in their studies and knowledge products;
- (i) Providing support to relevant stakeholders; and
- (j) Such other means as the Partners may agree.

### 4. Source of Funding

Funding for any collaborative activities agreed upon will be subject to the funds and staff available to the Partners. Each Partner will cover its own costs, except in cases where dedicated funding is allocated to selected activities. In such cases, the terms of funding will be agreed by the relevant Partners before the commencement of activities and will be described in a separate document.

### 5. Implementation Arrangements

- (a) Each Partner will designate an Administrative Focal Point in their Letter of Endorsement to facilitate communications. By written or e-mail communication, each Partner may designate different or additional persons as its Administrative Focal Point(s).
- (b) Any work plan developed by the Partners will seek to include the following information, as relevant: (i) a description of the major activities to be undertaken, including any follow-up activities; (ii) the organization and execution of the activities; (iii) a proposed budget; (iv) the names of person(s) or entities designated to perform the activities; (v) a timeline; (vi) an agreement among the concerned Partners on the intellectual property rights, publication and use of the outputs, if different from the general principles expressed in paragraph 7 (*Intellectual Property*) below.

### 6. Governance

- (a) During the initial phase of the Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development, the governance will be provided by a Steering Committee, composed of representatives of each of the founding Partners, including the World Bank.
- (b) The Steering Committee will be supported by a Secretariat provided by World Bank Legal Vice-Presidency.
- (c) A proposed governance structure is provided in Addendum III

### 7. Information Sharing and Dissemination



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The Partners will facilitate public access to information with respect to the collaborative activities contemplated herein. In this respect, the Partners also recognize the importance of intellectual property rights protecting the materials used for or resulting from the joint activities conducted pursuant to the Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development. The Partners will have all rights to use the materials belonging to or created by each Partner, subject to any third party rights and such other terms of use in accordance with the Partners' respective policies.

8. **Scope of Participation**

- (a) This Joint Declaration and Statement of Commitment does not constitute an agreement or commitment by any Partner to enter into, or provide support for, any specific activity or project. Specific arrangements for individual activities and projects will be set forth in written document or work plan to be jointly formulated by the Partners.
- (b) The Partners may use reasonable efforts to seek additional participants who will collaborate on and contribute to the objectives and activities set forth in this Joint Declaration and Statement of Commitment.
- (c) Nothing in this Joint Declaration and Statement of Commitment shall be construed as creating a joint venture, an agency relationship, or a legal partnership between the Partners.

***Final Resolve***

*We, the Partners of the Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development, conscious of our commitments as articulated in the forgoing, are resolved to work together towards promotion of a better understanding of the role of law and justice in economic advancement and strengthened integration of legal and judicial institutions in the development process.*