



# OECD Riga Global Access to Justice Roundtable 2022

*Small Guild, Riga, Latvia*

21-22 September 2022

## **AGENDA**

*Preliminary version*

# OECD Global Roundtable on Access to Justice

Since 2015 the OECD Global Roundtables on Access to Justice have been a forum for exchange of good practices and lessons learned to close gaps in accessibility, effectiveness and efficiency of justice. The 2022 edition aims to advance SDG 16's call to ensure equal access to justice for all, focusing in particular on making the people-centred justice transformation happen. Hosted jointly by the Government of Latvia and the OECD (under the purview of the OECD Public Governance Committee), the goal of the meeting is to increase efforts across OECD and partner countries to strengthen people-centricity and accessibility to their justice systems, reinforcing the rule of law and strengthening democratic values and trust in institutions.

People-centred justice systems and access to justice are critical to maintaining and reinforcing democracy. Well-functioning and robust justice systems play a key role in increasing trust and accountability and contributing to a renewed and vibrant social contract. Indeed, while trust in justice institutions is higher than in other public institutions such as legislative bodies, political parties and the media, it remains at 56.9%, according to the 2021 OECD Survey on Drivers of Trust in Public Institutions.

The 2022 Roundtable aims to facilitate the implementation of the [OECD Framework and Good Practice Principles on People-centred Justice](#), with a view to support countries' efforts to:

- A. Increase the justice system's focus on the needs of **all** people, increasing people's engagement with the justice system and reinforcing the rule of law,
- B. Enhance the trust in, and accountability of, the justice system, contributing to democracy-enhancing efforts, and
- C. Facilitate the development of integrated and interdisciplinary justice responses to present and future global challenges, also in the context of economic uncertainty.

The Roundtable will aim to take forward the outcomes of the Global Dialogue of Justice Leaders held on 6 December 2021, which endorsed an agenda to move forward and transform justice systems in support of a vibrant social contract (the "Riga Justice Agenda"), also in line with the Our Common Agenda report of the UN Secretary General and the Sustainable Development Goal 16, also in the context of the OECD Reinforcing Democracy Initiative. In addition, it will aim to promote reflection on the lessons learned from other sectors and their applicability to advancing people-centricity across the justice system. The meeting will bring together a group of over 100 governmental and non-governmental officials (at the high- and expert-level) from OECD Member and partner countries, academics, civil society as well as representatives from international organisations.

# Agenda

## Day 1 – 21 September

### Opening session

9:00 – 9:20

This session will set the scene for the Roundtable discussions, including their objectives and relevance for the current policy and governance agenda, including the in the context of the implementation of the *OECD Framework on People-centred Justice*.

Speakers

- Jānis Bordāns, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Justice, Latvia
- Elsa Pilichowski, Director, Public Governance Directorate, OECD

### High Level dialogue: reinforcing democracy and the rule of law through people-centred justice

9:20-11:45

This High-Level session will aim to reflect upon the role of the justice system in providing responsive justice as its contribution to better engagement, the enhancement of trust, the reinforcement of democracy and restoring sustainable growth. It will also allow reflecting on the ways to enhance people-centricity of the rule of law more broadly.

**Questions for discussion:**

- **Rebuilding trust in justice:** What role can people-centred justice play in re-establishing trust in justice institutions and beyond?
- **Grounded on evidence:** How to ensure that justice system reforms and modernisation efforts are meaningful to people? What evidence do countries need to ground these efforts upon, and what strategies should be used to obtain this evidence?
- **Collaboration:** How can we promote collaborative, whole of state and whole of society approaches to justice system transformation?
- **Rule of Law:** What are the implications of people-centred justice approaches for our understandings of the Rule of law? How to deepen a people-centred culture for the Rule of law?
- **Case for better investment:** In view of the lower growth and higher inflation across countries, what could be the implications of the potential tightening of fiscal space for justice systems? How can we ensure that justice investments are well targeted? What adjustments could be needed in how legal and justice services are designed and delivered? How can the OECD best support countries in their efforts?

*Host:* Jānis Bordāns, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice, Latvia

Roundtable participants:

- Jean Paul Janssens, President, Federal Public Service Justice, Belgium
- Emil Dechev, Deputy Ministry of Justice, Bulgaria

- **Michael Sousa**, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy Sector, Justice Canada, Canada
- **Josip Salapić**, State Secretary, Ministry of Justice and Administration, Croatia
- **Takashi Kikkawa**, Assistant Vice-Minister, Ministry of Justice, Japan
- **Irēna Kucina**, Vice-President, Constitutional Court, Latvia
- **Jurga Greičienė**, Vice-Minister of Justice, Lithuania
- **Johan Galea**, Permanent Secretary, Ministry for Justice Equality and Governance, Malta
- **Veronica Mihailov-Moraru**, State Secretary, Ministry of Justice, Moldova
- **Pedro Tavares**, State Secretary, Ministry of Justice, Portugal
- **Mihai Pașca**, State Secretary, Ministry of Justice, Romania
- **Manuel Olmedo Palacios**, General Secretary, Innovation and Quality of the Public Service of Justice, Ministry of Justice, Spain
- **Naree Tantasathien**, Attorney General (incoming), Office of the Attorney General, Thailand
- **Muzraf Ikramov**, Deputy Minister of Justice, Uzbekistan
- **Heddi Lutterus**, Deputy Secretary General, Department for Legislative Policy, Ministry of Justice, Estonia
- **Johanna Suurpää**, Director General, Department for Democracy and Public Law, Finland
- **David Bartels**, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Germany in Riga, Germany
- **Anneke Van Dijk**, Director General, Administration of Justice and Law Enforcement, Ministry of Justice and Security, Netherlands
- **Aleksandra Rusin-Batko**, Director, Department of Strategy and European Funds, Ministry of Justice, Poland
- **Matija Vidmar**, Secretary, Office for International Cooperation and Mutual Legal Assistance, Ministry of Justice, Slovenia
- **Rachel Rossi**, Director, Office for Access to Justice, Department of Justice, United States of America
- **Ramin Garagurbanli**, President, European Commission for the efficiency of justice (CEPEJ), Council of Europe
- **Florian Geyer**, Head of Unit, Justice Policy and Rule of Law, Directorate General for Justice and Consumers, European Commission
- **Elsa Pilichowski**, Director, Public Governance Directorate, OECD

## [Family photo](#)

11:45 – 12:00

Lunch break 12:00 – 13:00

*A buffet lunch will be available for participants.*

## [Session 1: Justice, inclusive growth and business development](#)

13:00 – 14:00

This session will explore further the connection between responsive and effective justice systems, sound economies and business development. It will review the role of justice systems and enforcement for promoting vibrant competition, investment climate and inclusive economies. In addition, this session will explore the principles and practices needed to put in place justice services, which are responsive to business needs and conducive for positive business environment and sound competition, based on the Preliminary *OECD Working Paper: Supporting businesses through better*

*access to justice: A focus on SMEs and Entrepreneurship.* It will also aim to share country practices and experiences in improving user-centricity of justice pathways from a business perspective.

#### Questions for discussion:

- **Links between justice, rule of law and growth:** What is the latest evidence on the links between justice systems, rule of law and inclusive growth?
- **Investment climate and competition:** In what ways justice systems can promote positive investment climate? How can justice systems and rule of law support sound competition? What are the good practices and lessons learned? What mechanisms and practices need to be put in place?
- **User-experiences and good practices:** What are the business experiences in accessing justice? What are the good practice principles and practices to improve responsiveness of justice systems to needs of business? What are the examples of user-oriented pathways and of what works for responding to legal and justice needs of businesses?

*Moderator:* **Felix Steffek**, Professor, Faculty of Law, Cambridge University

#### *Speakers:*

- **Alejandro Ponce**, Chief Research Officer, The World Justice Project
- **Paul Prettitore**, Senior Specialist, World Bank
- **Māris Vainovski**, Lawyer, Member of the Foreign Investors' Council in Latvia (FICIL)
- **Felix Braun**, Director, Universal Arbitration Board of the Federation, Centre for Conciliation, Germany, *remote*
- **Despina Pachnou**, Policy Analyst, Competition Expert, Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs, OECD, *remote*

## Session 2: Designing and implementing people-centred justice

14:00 – 15:30

This session will focus on evidence, data, knowledge and tools needed to ground justice system transformation in people-centred approaches. In particular, the discussion will focus on the ways, good practices, challenges and opportunities in the implementation of the *OECD People-centred Justice Framework and Good Practice Principles*. In particular, it will focus on tools to determine the legal and justice needs of *all* people, ways to identify the most effective strategies in the particular circumstances, and support needed for planning, tailoring, targeting and delivering people centred services when and where they are needed. It will also explore necessary governance frameworks and regulatory environment with a view to delivering people centred justice services, including by non-governmental actors. It will also aim to reflect on the lessons learned from other sectors in promoting people-centred approaches. On a more practical level, it will set the frame for the rest of the discussions during the Roundtable, which will focus on the specific pillars and approaches to make people-centred justice happen.

#### Questions for discussion:

- **Evidence needs and what works:** What evidence is needed to design and deliver effective, responsive and people-centred justice, including to understand the legal and justice needs of the people from their perspective (also in the context of reporting on the implementation of SDG 16.3.3)?

- **People-centred services:** What are the examples of people-centred legal and justice services and initiatives? Examples of service transformation towards people-centricity – in both legal and justice systems and other sectors?
- **Regulatory, institutional and funding environment:** What is needed in terms of facilitating non-government/private legal and justice services in order to better meet needs of people and economic actors, such as regulatory reform, funding etc., to empower people-centred justice? What are the governance issues that need to be addressed in order to implement effective people-centred justice? What are the effective country practices in this regard?
- **Support, tools and learning from other sectors:** How can OECD support countries in designing policy and services based on evidence and centred on people? What tools may provide useful assistance to countries, also to deepen evidence on what works? What can be learned from other sectors in this area? What can we learn from other sectors in understanding and acting on people's needs?

*Moderator:* **Geoff Mulherin**, Director, Planning Justice

*Speakers:*

- **Jean-Paul Janssens**, President, Federal Public Service on Justice, Belgium
- **Johanna Suurpää**, Director General, Department for Democracy and Public Law, Finland
- **Laila Medina**, Advocate-General, Court of Justice of the European Union, *remote*
- **Rebecca Sandefur**, Professor and Director, School of Social and Family Dynamics, Arizona State University
- **Maurits Barendrecht**, Research Director, Hague Institute for Innovation of Law (HiIL)
- **Eliana Barrenho**, Health Economist/Policy Analyst, Health Division, Directorate for Employment, Labour, and Social Affairs, OECD, *remote*

Coffee break- 15:30 – 16:00

### Session 3: Interagency coordination for access to justice

16:00-17:00

Meaningful access to the legal help and justice can make a significant difference for people and businesses - for example, by keeping a person in his or her home or helping to address a consumer fraud, or keeping a small business afloat by addressing problems with dishonest suppliers. Yet achieving these outcomes requires overcoming often-siloed policy-making approaches and close collaboration across different sectors and agencies. It also requires sound cross-sectoral measurement frameworks and evaluation approaches, and understanding what works. This session will aim to review the latest examples of initiatives to promote collaboration to improve access to justice across different sectors.

**Questions for discussion:**

- **Impact of justice systems on life outcomes:** In what ways can justice systems support the achievement of broader improvements and life outcomes for people and businesses (e.g., health, housing, access to benefits, public safety, and consumer protection)?
- **Institutional, policy and coordination mechanisms:** What institutional, policy and coordination mechanisms need to be put in place to ensure robust cross-sectoral collaboration? What are the recent examples of country approaches and lessons learned to promote collaboration across sectors and branches of power?

- **Examples:** What are the examples of cross-sectoral collaboration at the policy level resulting in concrete integrated service delivery, improved access to legal support and better outcomes? How to measure the impact of access to justice on other areas / outcomes (e.g., reduction in unlawful evictions, or consumer protection)?

*Moderator:* TBC

*Speakers:*

- **Michael Sousa**, Senior Assistant Deputy Minister, Department of Justice, Canada
- **Rachel Rossi**, Director, Office for Access to Justice, Department of Justice, United States of America
- **Jacques Wijnen**, Senior Policy Advisor, Ministry of Justice and Security, Netherlands

## Session 4: People empowerment and legal capability

17:00-18:00

The *OECD People-centred Justice Framework* emphasises that people centred justice needs enhanced capabilities for people, for justice institutions and their employees. Justice sector actors require the skills and attitudes to deliver effectively modern and people-centred services and individuals must be empowered – through education, understandable legal information and recognisable pathways, among others, to both take action to protect their rights, but also to have the confidence to hold government to account.

**Questions for discussion:**

- **Skills, engagement and leadership:** What skills and capabilities are needed by individuals to participate effectively and proactively in the justice system? What skills and capabilities do justice system employees need to implement effectively people-centred justice? How to support employee engagement and leadership across the justice sector? What can be learned from other sectors?
- **Legal capability and empowerment:** What is legal capability and empowerment? What are the good practices and lessons learned that promote legal empowerment? How do we know what works?

*Moderator:* **Michael W. Grant**, United States Department of Justice, Regional Resident Legal Advisor, Embassy of the United States of America in Latvia, United States of America

*Speakers:*

- **Pedro Tavares**, State Secretary of Justice, Ministry of Justice, Portugal
- **Phiset Sa-ardyen**, Executive Director, Thailand Institute for Justice
- **Daniela Piana**, Research Director and Chair, Political Science, Bologna University/ENS Paris Saclay/ LUISS Rome, Italy, *remote*

Reception dinner - 19:30

Participants are kindly invited to a dinner at the **Latvian National Museum of Art**, address: Jaņa Rozentāla laukums 1, Rīga.

# Day 2 – 22 September

## Opening remarks

9:00-9:10 – Anna Skrjabina, Project Manager, Court Administration, Latvia

## Session 5: Enhancing responsiveness of justice systems via digital transformation

9:10- 10:40

The pandemic demonstrated that progress possible with the advance of digital justice service across OECD Member and partner countries. A growing number of countries is deploying technology to improve responsiveness and efficiency of their justice systems. In this context, this session will aim to reflect on challenges and opportunities for digital transformation of justice systems, including online dispute resolution, with a view to making justice more accessible and responsive, in line with the *OECD Framework for People-centred Justice* and the *OECD Policy Paper on Digital and Data Transformation on Access to Justice (forthcoming)*.

Questions for discussion:

- **Opportunities:** What are the opportunities to accelerate the implementation of people-centred justice arising from digital advances? What are the problems or challenges?
- **Strategic approaches:** What are the examples of strategic approaches to digital transformation of justice systems to support people-centric approaches? What are the opportunities and challenges?
- **Dispute resolution:** What are the specific opportunities and challenges for increasing technologies employment in dispute prevention and containment? What are the successful examples of implementing online dispute resolution? What lessons can be learned?
- **Pathways:** How can technology be employed to improve and grow 'access' pathways to support people-centred justice? What is the role of online resolution of disputes? What can be learned from other sectors?

*Moderator:* **Anna Skrjabina**, Project Manager, Court Administration, Latvia

*Speakers:*

- **Takashi Kikkawa**, Assistant Vice-Minister of Justice of Japan; **Takai Kentaro**, Attorney, International Affairs Division, Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Justice of Japan
- **Hashizume Makoto**, Judge, Director, Information Technology in Civil Procedure, Civil Affairs Bureau, Supreme Court of Japan
- **Manuel Olmedo Palacios**, Secretary General, Innovation and Quality of the Public Service on Justice, Ministry of Justice, Spain
- **Seçkin Koçer**, Judge, Head of the Department, General Directorate for Strategy Development, Ministry of Justice, Türkiye
- **Betty Huberman**, Director, Legal Aid Information System, Ministry of Justice, France, *remote*
- **Daiga Zivtina**, Member, Foreign Investors' Council in Latvia (FICIL)

Coffee break- 10:40 – 11:00

## Session 6: Measurement and data strategies for people-centred justice: Towards a data ecosystem

11:00 – 12:30

Gaining the benefits of people-centred justice required effective implementation based on sound research and justice data, as emphasised in the *OECD Framework on People-centred Justice*. However, the challenges to improve justice data collection, quality, availability and use are significant. This requires strategic and whole of state approaches to drive the holistic understanding of data needs, availability, collection and use. The growth of digital capabilities creates opportunities aiding the acceleration of data transformation. This session will explore strategies and opportunities to advance collection and use of legal and justice service data, strengthen monitoring and evaluation systems and to establish data and knowledge ecosystems to support people-centred justice.

### Questions for discussion:

- **Strategic approaches:** What are the examples of effective data strategies for justice institutions? What are the opportunities and challenges for designing and implementing whole-of state data approaches?
- **Data requirements:** What are the key data requirements underpinning people-centred and modern justice? What do we know about the needs, and use of data for justice (e.g., planning, design and delivery of services; forecast, foresight, monitor and evaluation of justice services/performance)?
- **Measurement frameworks:** What are the examples of sound measurement frameworks for service delivery in the justice sector? Justice sector performance?
- **Data governance and communication:** What are the key elements and examples of sound data ecosystem and infrastructure, including soft and hard instruments (laws, guidelines, standards, sandboxes, coordination mechanisms)? What are the challenges and good practices in data production, processing and dissemination in the justice sector? What are the effective strategies to communicate the justice data to increase trust in justice?
- **Lessons learned:** What lessons can be learned in collecting the right data and putting in place the right data governance elements from other sectors? What is the applicability to justice systems?

*Moderator:* **Tatyana Teplova**, Head of Division and Senior Counsellor, Public Governance Directorate, OECD

*Speakers:*

- **Luc Altmann**, Head of Insight, HM Courts and Tribunals Service, United Kingdom
- **Christina Field**, Assistant Director, National Centre for Crime and Justice Statistics, Australian Bureau of Statistics, *remote*
- **Adrian Franco**, Director, National Institute for Statistics and Geography (INEGI), Mexico, *remote*
- Sub-Directorate for Justice, National Planning Department, Colombia, *remote* (tbc)
- **Pascoe Pleasence**, Professor, Empirical Legal Studies, Faculty of Laws, University College London, *remote*
- **Ben Polk**, Global Policy Director, The International Legal Foundation

Lunch – 12:30 – 13:30

*A buffet lunch will be available for participants.*

## Session 7: What works in people-centred services?

13:30 – 14:30

The session will focus on identifying and sharing what is known and learnt about what strategies work – for whom and in what circumstance, in line with the *OECD Framework on People-centred Justice*. How can we fill knowledge gaps strategically and efficiently?

### **Questions for discussion:**

- **Good practices:** What are the recent good practice examples of identifying what works in meeting legal needs? What could be effective approaches to scale them up?
- **Systematic approaches:** What are the enablers and challenges in identifying what works and evaluating impacts of justice initiatives? What is needed to develop a systematic approach to learning what works at the country level? International level?
- **Country support:** How to go about filling the knowledge gaps around what works? What are the priority gaps? How can OECD assist countries to monitor what works?

*Moderator:* **Trevor C.W. Farrow**, Professor, Associate Dean (Research & Institutional Relations), Osgoode Hall Law School, York University, Chair, Canadian Forum on Civil Justice, Co-Academic Director, Winkler Institute for Dispute Resolution

### *Speakers:*

- **Cris Coxon**, Head, Access to Justice Evaluation Data and Analysis, Ministry of Justice, United Kingdom
- **Adrian Di Giovanni**, Senior Program Specialist, International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada, *remote*
- **Christopher Griffin**, Director of Empirical & Policy Research and Research Professor, James E. Rogers College of Law, Arizona University

## Session 8: Towards justice for all

14:30 – 15:30

There is growing knowledge that legal needs and justice problems not equally shared across different groups of people, with vulnerable communities often facing higher rates of problems and being generally less able to satisfactorily resolve them. This calls for service design and delivery strategies, which are targeted to specific communities, appropriate to their particular needs and capabilities and coordinated with other services essential for them.

This session will consist of two parallel breakout sessions focusing on implementing people-centred justice approaches for separate groups:

- Children and young people
- Indigenous, minority communities and people with disabilities

Specific attention will be paid to the gender dimensions in all discussions.

### Breakout Session A. Towards child-centred justice

Children and young people have been found to be particularly vulnerable to a range of legal and justice needs. Yet they often face unique barriers and challenges to effective access to justice – both due to the legal problems they face, but also as a result of questions of their legal and/or actual capacity. This session will focus on the meeting the challenges of implementing people-centred justice for children, exploring key pillars of child-centred justice, based on the preliminary draft of the *OECD Framework on Child-centred justice*.

#### **Questions for discussion:**

- **Tools:** What methodologies and tools can be used to understand child and young people needs and experiences with the justice systems?
- **Strategies:** What policy and practice strategies should countries consider as a mean to implementing people-centred justice for children and young people? What are the elements of child-centred justice?
- **Good practices:** What are the examples of good practices in responding to the needs of children and young people and child-friendly justice services/systems?

*Moderator:* **Jennifer Davidson**, Professor and Executive Director, Institute for Inspiring Children's Futures, Strathclyde University

#### *Speakers:*

- **Lidia Rabinovich**, Head of Child Representation, Legal Aid Unit, Ministry of Justice, Israel
- **Andrej Del Fabro**, Project Manager, Ministry of Justice, Slovenia
- **Ilze Bērziņa**, Project Manager, Ministry of Welfare, Latvia
- **Cédric Foussard**, Coordinator, Global Initiative on Justice with Children, Terre des hommes Foundation

### Breakout Session B. Indigenous and minority communities and people with disabilities

Indigenous peoples globally have generally been found to face challenges, often experiencing much poorer health, education, employment and life outcomes than other groups in society. In some countries, indigenous people are over-represented in the criminal justice systems and their children in care systems. Similarly, in other countries, ethnic and other minority communities often face discrimination, unequal treatment and over-representation in criminal justice systems. Finally, countries are increasingly undertaking efforts to ensure that their justice systems are accessible to groups facing different disabilities. This session will focus on specific impacts, lessons and strategies for these groups.

#### **Questions for discussion:**

- **What will 'success' look like?** What will 'people-centred justice' look like for Indigenous people (recognising differences between groups)? What additional strategies/resources/approaches will be required to implement successfully people-centred justice in countries in relation to indigenous groups?
- **Indigenous women:** What are the particular challenges experienced by Indigenous women in particular? What strategies have been shown to work in terms of empowering Indigenous women to achieve access to justice?

- **Minority communities:** The experience of many minority communities in the justice system is one of disadvantage, discrimination and poor outcomes. How can this reality be reversed? How to eliminate implicit and explicit biases from justice systems? What strategies are needed, and how can they be embedded on a society-wide implementation of people-centred justice?
- **People with disabilities:** How to ensure that justice systems are appropriate and responsive to the needs of people with different types of disabilities? What are the good practices and latest developments in this regard? What can be learned from other sectors?

*Moderator:* **Chloé Lelievre**, Head, Justice Unit, Public Governance Directorate, OECD

*Speakers:*

- **Damaris Vargas Vásquez**, Coordinator, Sub-committee for Access to Justice for persons with disabilities and indigenous people, Costa Rica, *remote*
- **Swati Mehta**, Program Director, Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, CIC-NYU
- **Lara Deramaix**, Policy and Programme Specialist, Rule of Law, Security and Human Right, UNDP, *remote*
- **Danielle Hirsch**, Interim Director, Court Services, National Center for State Courts, *remote*

Coffee break- 15:30 – 16:00

## Session 9: Responsive and effective justice systems for a changing world

*Thematic Focus: Role of justice in people-centred green transition*

16:00 – 17:00

The rise of global challenges, such as transboundary criminal networks (e.g. cybercrime, human trafficking, theft of intellectual property, money laundering), health, migration and climate and biodiversity crises calls for increasing role of justice institutions. It also adds complexity from the accessibility perspective and possibilities to protect and balance current and emerging rights. Indeed, increasingly, justice systems are experiencing a growing demand for transnational cases, e.g. several landmark cases have recently awarded victories on climate litigation. In this context, stronger guarantees for global commitments and greater capacities to respond to global challenges through the justice system require rethinking of required accessibility, organization and capacities at the local/national level. This session will explore the implications of global and transnational challenges for justice institutions, to ensure their responsiveness and capability, also in the context of the *OECD Reinforcing Democracy Initiative*.

A special focus in this section will be on the role of justice in *promoting people-centred green transition*. With the effects of global warming becoming evident around the world, environmental claims are increasingly common. Environmental justice has gone from a niche law discipline to a major policy concern globally. The fundamental right to a healthy environment can now be found in the constitutions of over 100 countries, and thousands of environmental treaties (multilateral and bilateral) exist among countries. To deal with the growing justice demand stemming from these legal provisions, countries adopting various approaches to strengthen justice system capabilities, from establishing environmental courts to securing greater specialisation in environmental disputes. Maintaining citizen trust in public institutions to deal with the climate emergency will also depend on

preserving access justice concerning environmental law, including understanding legal and justice needs and environmental justice pathways, enhancing legal capabilities and standing; exploring the value of ADR mechanisms.

#### Questions for discussion:

- **Good practices:** What are the country examples and approaches to respond to the justice demand on global and transboundary challenges, such as environmental and climate change issues (e.g., environmental courts, specialisation)? What are the challenges, opportunities and good practices?
- **Access to justice:** What are the considerations in accessing justice? How can justice systems have responsive and effective pathways for people to claim their rights and / address any transboundary disputes, including in relation to environment?
- **Right balance:** How to balance rights, interests and 'standing' issues?
- **User pathways:** How to clarify user pathways for transnational disputes or crimes (if the conflict or crime has been committed in another country, e.g. in the field of environmental law or terrorism)? How to develop integrated and seamless justice pathways, also for vulnerable groups?
- **Justice system capabilities:** What are the challenges, opportunities and implications for justice institutions of the growing number of multilateral agreements and the global impact of international challenges? What capabilities, skills, data and technologies are needed for justice institutions to respond effectively to global challenges, such as climate change?

*Moderator:* **Kartik Sharma**, Chief, Office of the Director General, Chief, Strategy and Policy Planning, International Development Law Organization (IDLO)

#### *Speakers:*

- **Claudine Konsbruck**, Government Councillor 1st class, Director, Government Delegate, Directorate for relations with the judicial administration and the legal professions, Ministry of Justice, Luxembourg
- **Brian Preston SC**, Chief Judge, Land and Environment Court in New South Wales Australia, *online recording*
- **Anna Von Harnier**, Policy Officer, General Criminal Law and Judicial Training Unit, Directorate General for Justice and Consumers, European Commission, *remote*
- **Jean-Pierre Gauci**, Senior Research Fellow in Public International Law and Director of Teaching and Training, British Institute of International and Comparative Law (BIICL), *remote*

#### Closing and next steps

17:00 – 17:20

Informal reception – 19:00

Participants are kindly invited to an informal reception at **B Bar Restaurant** (address: Doma laukums 2, Riga)