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# **Ministerial Roundtable on 'Advancing the Agenda for Sustainable Development 2030: Access to Justice - Global South'**

New Delhi, 27 November 2023, Monday

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## **Outcome Document**

On 27 November 2023, Ministers and representatives of the Ministries of Justice of the Global South nations from Africa, Asia and the Pacific met in New Delhi, India at a Roundtable titled **Ministerial Roundtable on 'Advancing the Agenda for Sustainable Development 2030: Access to Justice - Global South'**.

The Roundtable was organised on the sidelines of the **1<sup>st</sup> Regional Conference on Access to Legal Aid** organised by the National Legal Services Authority, India (NALSA) with the support of the Department of Justice, Government of India in collaboration with the International Legal Foundation (ILF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF). Department of Justice, NALSA and UNDP facilitated the Roundtable.

The Roundtable highlighted the need for stronger south-south collaborations in efforts to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It was reaffirmed that access to justice is a fundamental right and that access to inclusive/holistic legal aid services is a vital part of enabling access to this right and an indispensable pillar of peace, justice and strong institutions. Access to justice is essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which aim to eradicate poverty, promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

Delegates to the roundtable examined how people-centred approaches to justice would accelerate advancement of the 2030 Agenda, discussed the importance of legal aid and of establishing inclusive and accessible legal aid systems to ensure access to justice in all matters, and explored the linkages between access to justice and economic development.

Delegates discussed the role of Governments and Ministries of Justice in advancing SDG 16 and shared their vision, approaches, good practices, lessons, and future priorities in ensuring

effective access to justice services, national strategies, legal aid systems and other models of intervention, funding mechanisms, data, and innovations.

Delegates reaffirmed their commitment to the principles of rule of law, equal access to justice, and equal protection of laws for all. They recognised their responsibility to ensure that citizens have access to justice irrespective of their socio-economic conditions. They further acknowledged the justice challenges persisting in many countries of the Global South, including barriers such as poverty, discrimination, geographic remoteness and complex legal systems. They affirmed their commitment to take concrete action to address these challenges through increased cooperation and collaborations.

In conclusion, delegates discussed and agreed to prepare and adopt the “**New Delhi Statement on Advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Access to Justice in the Global South**”. It was further agreed that the Statement would be reviewed and then finally adopted at the next Ministerial Roundtable to be organised virtually during 2024 by the Government of India.

The draft of the statement was shared and discussed at the Roundtable. Delegates committed to share their inputs and suggestions towards its finalisation.

**Countries represented:**

*Azerbaijan, Botswana, Eswatini, Guinea, India, Kyrgyzstan, Mozambique, Nepal, Palau, Philippines, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Uzbekistan, and Zimbabwe.*