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WORLD JUSTICE FORUM 2022 · THE HAGUE AND ONLINE · 30 MAY TO 3 JUNE 2022

What happened, on one page

1,205 people from 116 countries met to work on three things: corruption, access to justice, and discrimination. Here is what the room agreed, what still has no owner, and what anyone can do next week.

1 What the room knew

- The rule of law is getting weaker in every region of the world. For four years in a row more countries have gone backwards than forwards, rich and poor alike.
- Most justice problems never reach a court. The formal system measures the cases it sees, and the cases it sees are the exception. In Kenya, 90% of disputes are settled outside it. Before the pandemic, 5.1 billion people had a justice need that was never met.
- The people worst affected are the ones missing from the data: LGBTQI+ communities, children with disabilities, minority groups. Where data on them exists, it records harm after it has happened.
- Corruption and discrimination feed each other, and both close down civic space. Only 3% of the world's population lives where civic freedoms can be freely used.
- Reform works when citizens demand it and leaders explain the pace honestly. Qatar's labour courts took years of pressure. The rule for any rights campaign: if it is not a ten-year strategy, it will not win.
- Technology helps only when it adapts to justice, not the other way round. The Netherlands' child benefits algorithm wrongly branded families as fraudsters and some people died.

2 What nobody owns

- **Informal justice.** It settles most disputes on earth and almost nobody collects data on it.
- **The money.** Demand for rule of law work went up; European governments moved the funding to the war in Ukraine; nothing has replaced it.
- **A shared definition of grand corruption.** Without one, there is no common basis to prosecute it or recover what was stolen.
- **Checking an algorithm before it harms people.** The Dutch scandal happened because nobody was responsible for asking.
- **Whistleblowers.** No international standard treats whistleblowing as a human right. Forty people from 20 countries drafted a declaration at the Forum because no one else had.
- **The gap between a signed statement and a done thing.** Nineteen governments adopted the Justice Appeal. The test is the UN SDG Summit in September 2023.

3 What can happen Tuesday

Parts 1 and 2 report what was said at the Forum. The actions below are ours, proposed from that evidence; they are not Forum recommendations unless marked.

- **Count what you do not see.** Add one question to any intake or survey: where did you take this problem before you came to us?
- **Start the spreadsheet.** Kenya's judiciary transformed its data from an Excel file. Pick one of the five things people want from justice (accessible, affordable, efficient, timely, responsive) and start measuring it.
- **Ask who is missing from your data,** and talk to them before the next policy is written, not after.
- **Put a person in the loop** of every automated decision that can take something away from someone.
- **Read the Final Statement** (the Forum's own recommendations). Pick one option under your theme. Give it an owner and a date.
- **If you fund this work,** fund it for ten years, not for one grant cycle.

Everything here is from the World Justice Project's Forum 2022 Outcome Report and Final Statement: worldjusticeproject.org

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