

Meetings on Universal Access to Justice

A forum discussion co-organized by the SDG Fund and the University of Navarra School of Law in collaboration with the General Council of Spanish Lawyers (CGAE)

CGAE Headquarters

Paseo de Recoletos, 1328004 Madrid

Tuesday, 10 October, 2017, 8:30-10:30 am

Concept Note

Overview:

On the second anniversary of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, the Sustainable Development Goals Fund ([SDG Fund](#)) and the University of Navarra School of Law, in collaboration with the General Council of Spanish Lawyers, are organizing a series of five meetings to discuss the universal access to justice. Four of the meetings will be held in Madrid and one in New York.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in Goal 16 - “Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies” and in its target 3 “promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all”, indicates the importance of providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. The main objective of these meetings is to create a space for an in-depth debate concerning the current challenges facing the full enforcement of the right to access to justice, assuming that this is one of the basic tenets of the rule of law. The debates aim to generate an intense exchange of ideas between key players and stakeholders in order to contribute to the recognition, protection and promotion of the right of access to justice at the national and international levels.

The second meeting will be dedicated to “**Access to Justice in the European Union**”, and it will focus on the following questions: What is the level of recognition of the right to access to justice in the European Union? What are the main obstacles to the right to access to justice in Europe? To what extent does the right to access to justice contributes to the development of other rights in Europe? How can civil society and the private sector contribute to provide effective information of the right of access to justice?

Objectives:

- To generate and disseminate knowledge about the main aspects of the right of access to justice.
- To create a discussion forum where policymakers, lawyers, officials from national and international institutions and academics can tackle and study this topic.
- To make a comparative analysis on the right of access to justice in its national and international dimensions.
- To study the recognition, protection and promotion of the right to access to justice in several of the regional human rights protection systems, with the aim of identifying best practices and disseminating ideas that may serve as a source of inspiration for practitioners and right holders.
- To identify new forms of collaboration to progressively guarantee equality in access to justice, as promoted by the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda.

Speaker:

Mr. Stéphane Leyenberger, Head of Independence and Efficiency of Justice Division. Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law. Council of Europe.

Target Audience:

Participants at the event will include policymakers, lawyers, business representatives, Permanent Representatives of UN member states, UN and government officials, representatives of civil society organizations, as well as academics international relations experts and media representatives.

Format:

Theatre-style, policy forum. 80 - 100 participants. Webcasting.