

Event:

SDG16: Accelerating Progress to Achieve Justice for Children & North America Advisory Meeting for the World Congress on Justice With Children



Aligned to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)

Thursday 13 July, 2023

14:00 GMT-4

Baker & McKenzie LLP

452 5th Ave, New York, NY 10018, United States

This event highlights the 'Justice for Children' programme of multilateral leadership and national action, launched at the UNODC Crime Commission in May 2023. It will build on governments' growing momentum leading to the SDG Summit in September 2023, and focus governments' attention in advance of the 2024 HLPF, where SDG 16 on Peace, Justice and strong institutions will be a Voluntary National Review (VNR) reporting Goal. In addition, this meeting will play a crucial role in promoting learning from child justice reforms to inform the upcoming [World Congress on Justice With Children](#) in Madrid 2025.¹ This event aims to not only discuss the importance of access to justice for children but also actively contribute to the implementation of the 4 levers of action outlined in *Pathfinders for Justice*² the "Justice for Children, Justice for All: Agenda for Action."³ By convening experts, decision makers, and stakeholders, the event will foster collaboration and exchange of ideas to drive tangible progress in securing child-centred justice for children worldwide.

¹ See Justice With Children website. <https://justicewithchildren.org/online-2021/>

² See Pathfinders for Justice Working Group on Justice for Children:
<https://www.justice.sdg16.plus/justiceforchildren>

³ Davidson, J.; Foussard, C.; Goudie, A.; Hope, K.; Shields, S. (2022). *Justice for Children: Agenda for Action*. Glasgow: University of Strathclyde.
<https://inspiringchildrensfutures.org/blog/justice-for-children-agenda-for-action>

I. Context

Children make up approximately one-third of the global population, highlighting their significant presence and the crucial role they play in shaping the future. However, despite the sustainable development agenda's commitment to inclusivity, there remains a significant disparity when it comes to addressing the needs and rights of children. In order to truly fulfil the global ambition of *leaving no one behind*, it is imperative that we measure, understand, and actively work towards meeting the specific needs and capacities of children. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) recognize the essential contribution of young people in advancing progress, both as stewards of tomorrow and agents of change. Nevertheless, they continue to face substantial obstacles that hinder their inclusion and political agency. Failing to prioritise children's well-being and rights undermines our collective efforts to achieve the SDGs.

The *mid-way point through the Agenda 2030 calls for bold and ambitious leadership* for children's justice to accelerate implementation of child-friendly justice systems. Recognizing this critical juncture, the Working Group on SDG16+ Justice for Children,⁴ operating under the Justice Action Coalition, and the [Global Initiative on Justice With Children](#) join forces. Through collaboration, these organisations embark on a path of innovation and knowledge exchange, aiming to implement and invest in child-friendly policies and initiatives that prioritise people-centred approaches. By focusing on the needs of children and young people driving necessary reforms, this collaborative effort seeks to accelerate the realisation of a just and inclusive society for all.

In the framework of the next World Congress on Justice With Children Madrid-2025, international organisations, Member States, academia, NGOs and children and young people will play a fundamental role in setting up collaborations, innovations, and solutions to support the effective realisation of SDG 16.2 and SDG 16.3, to achieve justice for children, for *all* children.

Hosted at Baker McKenzie's New York office, this 3-hour event organised by the Working Group on SDG16+ Justice for Children, The [Global Initiative on Justice With Children](#), and the Global pro bono practice of Baker McKenzie, is of utmost importance given the current challenges and gaps in addressing the rights and needs of children in the context of the SDGs. As the event aims to apply the SDGs at a national level, with a particular focus on North America, it provides a platform to promote innovative approaches and share best practices in ensuring child-friendly policies and initiatives. By adopting a child-centred approach and engaging children as active agents of change, the event seeks to accelerate the implementation of child-friendly justice systems.

⁴ The Working Group on Justice for Children is a member of the [Justice Action Coalition](#); supported by the [Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies](#); hosted at the [Institute for Inspiring Children's Futures at the University of Strathclyde](#); and includes [Terre des hommes](#) - with the [Global Initiative on Justice with Children](#) with Penal Reform International, Baker MacKenzie, Geneva Institute for Child Rights, International Association of Family and Youth Judges and Magistrates, the [World Congress on Justice with Children](#); the [Office of the Special Representative to the Secretary General on Violence against Children](#), the [Legal Empowerment Fund](#), [Defence for Children International](#), [Child Friendly Justice European Network](#).

II. Objectives

- Usher in a “new phase of accelerated progress to achieve justice for children”, acting as a high-level ‘stepping stone’ to raise the bar for countries’ ambitions, and grow momentum in anticipation of the SDG Summit Sep 2023.
- Drive a strategic, collaborative approach across governments, multilateral organisations, CSOs and young people, to achieving justice for children in the Agenda 2030, fostering a collective sense of responsibility by making access to justice a matter for everyone; driving a transformative intergenerational and multidisciplinary gathering to inform 2025 World Congress on Justice with Children.
- Shine a spotlight on national government leadership for action on children’s justice issues, profiling national government learning, commitments and ambitions for children’s justice. Exchange promising practices across regions and contexts, such as investment in non-custodial measures to ensure children's safe reintegration into families and communities. Include young people as stakeholders.
- Foster a collective sense of responsibility by making access to justice a matter for everyone. This will be achieved through the organisation of the 2025 world congress on justice with children in Madrid, which will serve as a transformative intergenerational and multidisciplinary gathering. The congress aims to mobilise diverse forces, bringing together stakeholders from various backgrounds and disciplines, all dedicated to championing child-centred justice.

III. Agenda

The content of this programme is based on the Justice for Children, Justice for All: Agenda for Action. The Agenda for Action is a comprehensive plan that aims to achieve SDG 16.3 for children by prioritising four strategic levers. It focuses on building new partnerships, including intergenerational networks, to foster collaboration and support. The agenda highlights the importance of smarter financing strategies that redirect investments towards children's inclusion and well-being, while also garnering political backing for preventive measures. Furthermore, it emphasises the use of evidence and data, such as disaggregated data and child-friendly methodologies, to guide child-centred reforms and drive meaningful change. Lastly, the agenda promotes the scaling up of justice innovations and stresses the need for appropriate safeguards and imaginative approaches when utilising digital justice tools in the context of children's rights.

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North America Advisory meeting for the World Congress on Justice With Children
Thursday 13 July, 2023**

Time	Event	Content (Speakers)
13:45-14:00	Coffee and refreshments - Jen for Canadian and Cedric for Mexican Kristen to welcome.	
14:00-14:15	Welcome Helen to open doors at 5 to.	<p>Prof. Jennifer Davidson - Executive Director, The Institute for Inspiring Children's Futures University of Strathclyde</p> <p>Mr. Cédric Foussard - Global Initiative on Justice With Children Coordinator, Terre des hommes</p> <p>Mr. Andrew Riccio - Partner, Baker & McKenzie</p> <p>Ms. Catherine Stillman - Partner, Baker & McKenzie</p>
14:15-15:10	High Level Round Table SDG16: Accelerating Progress to Achieve Justice for Children	<p>Co-Moderators :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prof. Jennifer Davidson - Executive Director, The Institute for Inspiring Children's Futures, University of Strathclyde ● Mr. Osish N. - Child Advisor, SDG16 Justice for Children Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● H.E. Ambassador Robert Rae - Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations ● H.E Ambassador Alicia Buenrostro Massieu - Alternate Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations ● Dr. Phiset Sa-ardyen - Executive Director, Thailand Institute of Justice, Thailand ● Ms. Grace Agcaoili - Justice for Children Global Lead, UNICEF ● Dr. Tatyana Teplova - Head of Policy Coherence on SDGs and Senior Justice Counsellor, Public Governance Directorate, OECD
15:10-15:20 hard	Break: set-up for Roundtable 2	

stop 320		
15:20-16:15	National Stakeholder Dialogue on Change: Integrating the 4 Strategic Levers for Change of the Agenda for Action. ⁵	<p>Moderator: Mr. Cédric Foussard - Global Initiative on Justice With Children Coordinator, Terre des hommes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lever 1: Building new types of partnerships, including intergenerational networks - Focus on inclusive intergenerational partnerships <p>Ms. Dawne Mitchell - Chief Attorney, The Legal Aid Society Juvenile Rights Practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lever 2: Developing strategies for smarter financing- Focus on the case to shift investment to children's inclusion and well-being, and the political support for prevention, to secure justice for children <p>Ms. Stephanie Persson - Senior Staff Attorney, Children's rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lever 3: Using evidence and data to steer child-centred reforms, Focus on disaggregated data, child friendly methodologies and child-centred views to drive change ● Lever 4: Scaling up justice innovations- Focus on both imagination and safeguards for digital justice tools with children <p>Ms. Amy Borrer - Senior Youth Policy Strategist, The Gault Center</p>
16:15 - 16:30	Conclusions	<p>Dr. Najat Maalla M'jid - United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children</p> <p>Mr. Osish N. - Child Advisor, SDG16 Justice for Children Project</p> <p>Mr. Cédric Foussard - Global Initiative on Justice With Children Coordinator, Terre des hommes</p> <p>Prof. Jennifer Davidson - Executive Director, The Institute for Inspiring Children's Futures, University</p>

⁵ Davidson, J.; Foussard, C.; Goudie, A.; Hope, K.; Shields, S. (2022). Justice for Children: Agenda for Action. Glasgow: University of Strathclyde.
<https://inspiringchildrensfutures.org/blog/justice-for-children-agenda-for-action>

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IV. Contact

Professor Jennifer Davidson

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supported by the Pathfinders for Justice
Executive Director, Institute for Inspiring Children's
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Mr. Cédric Foussard

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