Letter of Endorsement

Program on International Organizations, Law and Diplomacy,
Washington College of Law

September 12, 2004

Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development Secretariat
c/o The World Bank
Legal Vice-Presidency
1818 H Street N.W.
Washington D.C. 20433
Mail Stop MC6-607
USA

Dear Sir,

I am pleased to confirm that the Program on International Organizations, Law and Diplomacy (PIOLD) at the Washington College of Law endorses the Joint Declaration and Statement of Commitment on Supporting the Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development as set forth in Addendum I, and the Information Note. With this endorsement, we express our intent to advance those principles and commitments. We endeavour to promote the Joint Declaration and Statement of Commitment into our activities.

[name of the organization] is considering making the following contributions to support the Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development:

A financial contribution in the total amount to be budgeted and agreed by [name of organization.●] [Use this section only for financial partners as tentative proxy that is not legally binding until finalized through the signature of the Multidonor Trust Fund Administrative Agreement.]

In-kind contributions in the form of: [list only the types of contribution expected to be relevant]

(a) Sharing knowledge by contributing to the information communication technology platform with existing knowledge products (e.g. studies, databases, training material, etc.).
(b) Mobilizing its own staff for the pursuit of the objectives of the Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development,
(c) Promoting expert meetings, workshops, and/or open training to jointly build technical capacity and strengthen the understanding of global, regional and country legal issues;
(d) Providing facilities for workshops, conferences or training seminars.
(e) Providing updates in specific area of national legislation.
(f) Increasing their cooperation on global, regional and country issues, in concert with other interested parties, by developing a shared understanding of key legal development challenges and promoting complementarity in their studies and knowledge products.

We anticipate having a significant involvement in the undertaking of collaborative initiatives, in particular, in the following substantive areas:

- Gender in International Economic Development
- International Organizations

We have designated an Administrative Focal Point below with general responsibility for implementing the activities pursuant herewith.

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Attached is the logo to be posted on the Website.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature*

Name: Fernanda G. Nicola
Title: Director of PIOLD
* The letter must be signed by the highest executive in the organization
Addendum I

Joint Declaration and Statement of Commitment
Supporting the Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development
Washington, DC, 2012

We, the Partners of the Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development, declare

Noting that strong legal and judicial institutions are an important cornerstone of sustainable economic and social development, and in our ever increasingly interconnected world, there is a need in the international community for a permanent global knowledge exchange forum on law, justice and development;

Recognizing that current technological advances are providing new opportunities to connect experts and stakeholders around the world, making it easier to identify, co-generate, share and disseminate relevant knowledge and solutions, and making them available as public goods complementary to financial resources for development;

Aware that the Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development will help identify, discuss and produce innovative and customized legal solutions to global, regional or national development challenges;

Noting that the Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development seeks to promote a better understanding of the role of law and justice in the development process, through structured South-South and North-South dialogues of relevant stakeholders and a research agenda that will support knowledge co-generation, and to strengthen and better integrate legal and judicial institutions in the development process, through selected capacity building initiatives and an open repository of knowledge;

Convinced that the need in the international community for a permanent legal forum can be met by harnessing these new technologies; and that construction of an Information Communication Technology (ICT) web-based platform will allow the Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development to draw on Partners’ vast repository of law and development expertise to attract knowledge contributions from development partners and leaders;

Noting that the Partners of the Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development have expressed a desire that the institutions collaborate more closely;

HEREBY agree, within the context of the Partners’ respective responsibilities, capabilities, and priorities to participate and support the Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development.
1. Common Objectives

Consistent with their respective mandates, the Partners intend to collaborate in: (1) joint initiatives furthering the understanding and the promotion of legal and judicial reforms to sustainable development in the world; and (2) supporting the World Bank member countries’ efforts to create a “Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development” to co-generate legal solutions to development issues. To this end, the Partners intend to cooperate with each other to promote the establishment of a permanent forum on Law, Justice and Development through a global partnership, supported by: (i) an information communication technology platform that will facilitate the free access to, and dissemination of, relevant legal knowledge; (ii) in kind contributions (i.e. knowledge and logistics); and (ii) an adequate funding mechanism to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development.

2. Areas of Collaboration

The Partners anticipate focusing their collaboration on a number of specific substantive areas as indicatively set forth in the Information Note, consistent with their policies and procedures. Substantive areas will be identified and agreed through a consultation with Partners of the Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development.

3. Forms of Collaboration

The Partners anticipate that each Partner will contribute to the activities undertaken pursuant herewith, in one or more of the following ways:

(a) Sharing knowledge by contributing to the information communication technology platform by providing and updating knowledge products (e.g. studies, databases, training materials, etc.).
(b) Mobilizing its own staff for the pursuit of the objectives of the Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development.
(c) Promoting expert meetings, workshops, and/or open training to jointly build technical capacity and strengthen the understanding of global, regional and country legal issues.
(d) Providing facilities for workshops, conferences or training seminars.
(e) Providing translations of relevant documents into their native language for wider dissemination in their respective countries.
(f) Providing updates in specific area of national legislation.
(g) Engaging in and funding studies, research, and publications.
(h) Increasing their cooperation on global, regional and country issues, in concert with other interested parties, by developing a shared understanding of key legal development challenges and promoting complementarity in their studies and knowledge products.
(i) Providing support to relevant stakeholders.
(j) Providing such other means as the Partners may agree.
4. Source of Funding

Funding for any collaborative activities agreed upon will be subject to the funds and staff available to the Partners. Each Partner will cover its own costs, except in cases where dedicated funding is allocated to selected activities. In such cases, the terms of funding will be agreed by the relevant Partners before the commencement of activities and will be described in a separate document.

5. Implementation Arrangements

(a) Each Partner will designate an Administrative Focal Point in their Letter of Endorsement to facilitate communications. By written or e-mail communication, each Partner may designate different or additional persons as its Administrative Focal Point(s).

(b) Any work program developed by the Partners will seek to include the following information, as relevant: (i) a description of the major activities to be undertaken, including any follow-up activities; (ii) the organization and execution of the activities; (iii) a proposed budget; (iv) the names of person(s) or entities designated to perform the activities; (v) a timeline; and (vi) an agreement among the concerned Partners on the intellectual property rights, publication and use of the outputs, if different from the general principles expressed in paragraph 7 (Intellectual Property) below.

6. Governance

(a) During the inception period of the Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development, the governance will be provided by an Interim Steering Committee, composed of representatives of each of the founding Partners, including the World Bank.

(b) The Steering Committee will be supported by a Secretariat provided by the World Bank Legal Vice Presidency.

7. Information Sharing and Dissemination

The Partners will facilitate public access to information with respect to the collaborative activities contemplated herein. In this respect, the Partners also recognize the importance of intellectual property rights protecting the materials used for or resulting from the joint activities conducted pursuant to the Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development. The Partners will have all rights to use the materials belonging to or created by each Partner, subject to any third party rights and such other terms of use in accordance with the Partners’ respective policies.

8. Scope of Participation

(a) This Joint Declaration and Statement of Commitment does not constitute an agreement or commitment by any Partner to enter into, or provide support for, any specific activity or
project. Specific arrangements for individual activities and projects will be set forth in written document or work program to be jointly formulated by the Partners.

(b) The Partners may use reasonable efforts to seek additional participants who will collaborate on and contribute to the objectives and activities set forth in this Joint Declaration and Statement of Commitment.

(c) Nothing in this Joint Declaration and Statement of Commitment shall be construed as creating a joint venture, an agency relationship, or a legal partnership between the Partners.

Final Resolve

We, the Partners of the Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development, conscious of our commitments as articulated in the forgoing, are resolved to work together towards promoting a better understanding of the role of law and justice in economic advancement, and strengthening the integration of legal and judicial institutions in the development process.
Addendum II

Information Note
(April 30, 2014)

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**Rationale**

There is substantial global consensus, backed by robust empirical evidence, that "strong legal and judicial institutions are an important cornerstone of sustainable economic and social development." The acknowledged importance of law in development, however, has never been accompanied by sustained international collaboration of the type and magnitude needed to fully leverage the immense potential contribution of this agenda to development. There are, scattered across the globe, centers of legal excellence whose advances, while significant, are not sufficiently and readily available to law and development scholars, experts and practitioners. Those most in need are unable to access easily the rich array of existing international research, policy and practice products.

The purpose of the Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development (GFLJD) is to address such constraints – by providing a mechanism for continual and efficient knowledge exchange and co-generation among all stakeholders all over the world, supported by an advanced technological platform.

Current technological advances provide for new and more efficient tools and opportunities to connect experts and stakeholders around the world. They make it easier to identify and co-generate relevant knowledge products and solutions and to make them available, as public goods, to the global community. The World Bank's Legal Vice Presidency believes that the need for a permanent legal forum can be met by harnessing new technologies to create a common, permanent, global and comprehensive Information and Communication Technology (ICT) web-based platform, while continuing to reach out to people who have no internet access. The development, implementation and administration of the permanent legal forum will both draw on the Bank's vast repository of law and development knowledge, and leverage its global convening power to attract contributions from different development leaders, judiciaries, practitioners, and institutions, as well as academia and civil society organizations.

**Objectives**

The GFLJD aims at facilitating the identification, discussion, production and/or sharing of innovative and customized legal and institutional tools to address global, regional or national development challenges. It seeks to: (1) promote a better understanding of the role of law and justice in the development process, through structured South-South and North-South dialogues amongst relevant stakeholders and a research agenda that will facilitate and support the co-generation of knowledge; (2) strengthen and better integrate legal and judicial institutions in the

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1 “Successful industrial upgrading in an economy also requires new types of financial, legal, and other “soft” (or intangible) and “hard” (or tangible) infrastructure to facilitate production and market transactions and allow the economy to reach its production possibility frontier.” The Growth Report and New Structural Economics, by Justin Yifu Lin and Célestin Monga—The World Bank, June 2010.
development process, by carrying out relevant capacity building initiatives; and (3) provide access to an open repository of knowledge. The GFLJD will set measurable, sustainable goals for itself in these areas, and evaluate its progress.

**Structure and Focus**

The GFLJD consists of two mutually-complementary pillars: (1) a permanent forum; and (2) an ICT web-based platform: the Collaboration for Development (C4D). The Forum builds on existing informal networks and partnerships in specific thematic areas, strengthened and formalized through Letters of Endorsement.

The GFLJD focuses on three broad groups involved in the legal dimensions of international development: (1) a core group comprising World Bank Group units; (2) a group comprising International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and other international and regional organizations; and (3) a group comprising national stakeholders, such as governments, judiciaries, academia, think-tanks, Bar Associations and civil society organizations.

**Permanent Forum**

The GFLJD’s permanent forum pillar is designed to capture, co-generate, exchange and disseminate innovative legal solutions for development. It is intended to be both a South-South and North-South collaboration mechanism. It will adopt an “Open Data, Open Knowledge, Open Solutions” philosophy, leveraging the work and expertise of the World Bank and other partners in respect of the legal dimensions of development challenges and will be governed, inter alia, in accordance with the following basic principles:

The activities of the GFLJD will be multidisciplinary in nature, addressing economic, legal and technical dimensions of targeted issues. Depending on the nature of the topic and the expressed needs of stakeholders, activities will focus as appropriate on global, regional and country-specific legal, developmental, and institutional issues.

**Process:** The identification as well as prioritization of themes and issues is ensured through a participatory process involving broad and regular consultation with partners. Co-generation of knowledge and legal outputs/solutions will be based on a collaborative process among partners, in accordance with jointly devised and internationally accepted methodologies.

**Knowledge Production:** The GFLJD will facilitate the co-generation of innovative legal
outputs/solutions to development issues through studies and research (including action research\(^2\)), production of guidelines, good practices, models or standards, and through the implementation of a variety of capacity building programs.

**Knowledge Dissemination:** Knowledge disseminated by the GFLJD will be freely accessible via an Open Access Publishing modality, with authorship duly attributed. All information will be shared online - free to access (at no cost) and free to use (no restrictions on re-use other than attribution). The available information will also be made available in alternative formats, for users that have low or no access to internet.

**Expected Outcomes:** The GFLJD’s outcomes will take the form of: (i) enhanced, innovative and customized legal solutions for law and development challenges; (ii) better integration of law and justice considerations in the process of development and the design of development interventions; (iii) increased sharing of legal solutions among development practitioners around the world, and (iv) enhanced collaboration among academic and research institutions. Outcomes will be measurable against clearly defined aims.

**Organization:** The forum is organized thematically. Partners form and lead Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) based on their expertise, comparative strengths and areas of focus. Each TWG proposes its own agenda, group composition and operating guidelines.

**Instruments:** Each TWG collaborates through blogs, discussion fora, multi-media collaborative problem-solving, and professional networking. Each TWG will benefit from sub-platforms, with smart-web enabled tools for knowledge creation and exchange, will also be used.

**List of Thematic Working Groups:** Partners launched the following five TWGs:

- Justice and Rule of Law Reform
- Law and the Economy
- Environmental & Natural Resources Law
- Governance and Anti-Corruption
- Empowerment and Equity for Diverse Communities

\(^2\) Action research, in this context, is deemed to refer to systematic form of inquiry that is collective, collaborative, self-reflective, critical and undertaken by the participants of the inquiry (McCutcheon, G. & Jung, B.,1990).
The provided list of TWGs has been agreed through consultation among partners with special attention to developing countries’ needs. The topics for research and activities implementation, to be agreed on by partners, will be structured and included in annual work programs.

**Long-term Sustainability and Partners’ Contributions:** The sustainability of the GFLJD will be ensured through a combination of (1) “in-kind contributions” from intellectual partners; and (2) “financial contributions” from financial partners, sponsors and supporters. In order to facilitate the participation of financial partners from developing countries, the minimal threshold for financial contribution has been set at US$250,000. The GFLJD is expected to further leverage, through the establishment of a Multidonor Trust Fund (MDTF), about $50 million over a period of ten years, of which about $20 million to finance pilot projects in developing countries.³

The commitment/pledge to in-kind contributions by intellectual partners will facilitate the planning of the agenda (designed through a broad consultation process). The in-kind contribution may be in the form of:

- Sharing knowledge by contributing to the information communication technology platform with a variety of existing knowledge products (e.g. studies, databases, training material);
- Mobilizing the intellectual partners’ own staff in pursuit of the objectives of the partnership, and paying for related out-of-pocket expenses;
- Promoting expert meetings, workshops, and/or open training to jointly build technical capacity and strengthen the understanding of global, regional and country legal issues;
- Providing physical space and other facilities for workshops, conferences or training seminars;
- Providing translations of relevant documents in different local languages for wider dissemination;
- Providing updates in specific areas of national legislation, case law and practice;
- Engaging and funding studies/research and publications;
- Increasing cooperation on global, regional and country issues, in concert with other interested parties, by developing a shared understanding of key legal development challenges and promoting complementarities and knowledge products;
- Providing support to relevant stakeholders; and
- Providing such other contributions as may be agreed from time to time.

The resources provided by financial partners, sponsors and other supporters aim at ensuring the long-term sustainability of the GFLJD, and may be channeled through the dedicated MDTF⁴.

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³ To be carried out by eligible institutions in accordance with guidelines and criteria agreed by the Steering Committee.
⁴ Details on the MDTF to be decided with financial partners.
Activities
The GFLJD, through TWGs of partners, will focus on the following legal knowledge activities:

- Original research through legal and policy analysis
- Developing Precedents and guidance
  - Sample agreements, clauses
  - Operational manuals
  - Guidance notes, toolkits, good practices notes, checklists,
- Collecting data such as
  - Reference material
  - Studies and literature
  - Collection of laws, commentaries, comparisons, jurisprudence
  - Collection/drafting of policies
  - Institutional analysis
- Contacts
  - Experts, peer reviewers
- Training material & capacity building
- Other activities to be decided by the Steering Committee and Thematic Working Groups.

ICT Knowledge Platform
The GFLJD will be supported by a robust, dynamic, and interactive Information and Communication Technology (ICT) platform: the Collaboration for Development (C4D). Among other things, C4D will: (i) facilitate internal and external communication, host relevant knowledge (databases, research, documents, etc.) and provide easy and free access to knowledge products relevant to policy makers, development practitioners and the general public; and (ii) ensure synchronous and asynchronous interaction, top-down and bottom-up mechanisms of knowledge sharing and distribution, and built-in flexibility and accessibility to adapt to multiple user agents.

Relying on the use of state-of-the-art software and hardware, the open knowledge exchange platform will, among other functions, offer the following:

**Repository:** The platform will host an open, comprehensive, and searchable repository and database, capable of storing multimedia formats. The repository will combine bottom-up

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5 The GFLJD will not rely on the internet-based knowledge platform alone to spread awareness and provide tools. Many people do not have internet access. The GFLJD will endeavor to reach these people through alternative means.
(knowledge pull)\(^6\) and top-down (knowledge push)\(^7\) approaches to knowledge sharing.\(^8\)

User Reviews and Grading of Evidence and Knowledge: The GFLJD platform will be regularly updated to incorporate reviews of knowledge products by allowing users to rate knowledge products and provide feedback, through comments to these same knowledge products, on their usability, efficacy, impact, and effectiveness. Users will be able to assess the quality of the knowledge products based on their rating and on the comments provided by other judicial professionals and legal practitioners. This will help promoting the user-focused and bottom-up implementation of the GFLJD, enabling practitioners, policymakers and other institutions to implement new interventions, strategies, and practices based on the best available information. The smart web-enabled cloud computing tools of the GFLJD platform will further facilitate support to collaborative knowledge and document creation, management, and sharing efforts within various TWGs formulated by the GFLJD management. The CoP space provided in the platform will operate as a separate fully-functioning sub-platform with links to other CoPs.

Education and Training Opportunities: The use of the platform will complemented by the organization of webinars, video-conferencing, and other real-time synchronous educational technology features, that will facilitate the development of a “LJD (Law, Justice and Development) University” for legal students and professionals worldwide. The LJD University will offer multiple levels of continuing education courses, trainings, and lectures and seminars in real-time and through archived materials, on C4D, for individuals with diverse ICT infrastructural resources. The LJD University will also support mentoring of law students and early career legal practitioners by using tested strategies such as videos to share best practices stories and challenges, live video support for mentor-mentee pairs, and other formats for interactions.

Collaboration and Interaction Among Members: In addition to CoPs, the GFLJD platform will provide multiple tools for users and members to network and deliberate on issues including blogs, discussion forums, and professional networking tools.

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\(^6\) Knowledge Pull is knowledge that flows from the selection activity to other knowledge manipulation activities and is essentially triggered by an individual's 'Knowledge Seek' Request.

\(^7\) Knowledge Push is knowledge flow that gets triggered automatically without an explicit request from any knowledge seeker.

\(^8\) Knowledge push will include sharing the existing World Bank Legal Vice Presidency’s knowledge products as well as ongoing dissemination of selected publications and resources from relevant international law, policy and practice sources. Knowledge pull will include users sharing their informational sources, experiences, and anecdotes to impact and inform other knowledge creators.
Partners’ Benefits
As GFLJD connects pockets of more readily shared knowledge, partners participating in the knowledge sharing, research, or dissemination components of GFLJD will benefit from Cross Global Knowledge Translation, i.e. they will have continuous opportunity to contribute to, and play a key role in the sharing of knowledge and evaluation of shared program outcomes. Furthermore, the GFLJD and its knowledge exchange platform benefits will include, among others, the following:

- Access to a broad network of formal and informal networks of collaboration (World Bank Group, other IFIs and international organizations at global and regional levels, judiciaries, academia, think-tanks, private sector [through Bar Associations] and CSOs).
- A wealth of knowledge contained within the database compiled using knowledge push strategies. These involve disseminating knowledge products developed and identified by the platform founding partners, as well as bottom-up and knowledge pull approaches to encourage the active participation of knowledge users in sharing their knowledge and experiences and identifying key materials pertinent to the field.
- Enhanced ability to communicate (users are able to access, conduct, learn, and share within culturally and linguistically different frameworks).
- An open system to facilitate reviews and rating of knowledge products (users themselves will obtain aggregated ratings and feedback for usability, efficacy, impact, and effectiveness of shared knowledge products).
- Continual educational courses for professionals and students (based on current and state-of-the-art knowledge).
- Database search tools providing users with relevant and methodologically rigorous information (this results in enhanced benefits to users across research, policy and practice fields).
- Robust international collaborations and exchanges through platform social tools and programs, enhancement of cross-cultural and cross-national awareness as well as the cultural and linguistic competence of users.
- Researchers and practitioners from every region of the world to be able to learn from the experience and research of international colleagues.
- Menus of alternative solutions that will provide the user with a tool for making informed decisions.

Governance Structure
Steering Committee (SC): The SC shall be chaired by the World Bank Legal-Vice Presidency, the SC shall be the decision-making body, and shall be composed of representatives of both financial and intellectual partners based on the following criteria: (i) one representative for each financial partner who has contributed over $250,000; and (ii) two representatives for each TWG (one of
which from the South). The SC will meet at least once a year and shall be responsible for deciding topics/activities for inclusion in the work programs, providing implementation oversight and establishing guidelines for the programming cycle and reporting methods.

**Partners General Assembly (PGA):** The PGA is an annual meeting of representatives from all partners, will discuss all relevant partnership matters, and make recommendation for consideration by the SC.

**Advisory Committee (AC):** The Advisory Committee (AC) is a consultative body of Experts and Ambassadors which purpose is to provide (1) advice, recommendations, key information and materials to the SC on current and potential new or emerging issues at national, regional and global levels, (2) support to TWGs’ activities and, as the AC Ambassadors are concerned, (3) provide assistance in GFLJD development, deployment and impact.

**Secretariat:** The Secretariat is a technical and administrative supporting body of the GFLJD. The activities funded through the MDTF will be coordinated by the Secretariat. The Secretariat will carry out this function under the general supervision of the SC. It will, inter alia, be responsible for approving grants (e.g. for pilot projects), conducting procurement, hiring of staff required for GFLJD implementation, and coordinating monitoring and evaluation of activities.

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