

What is the mission of the United Nations Development Programme?

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with over 160 country offices, is the main development branch of the United Nations system tackling problems affecting the human rights, economic wellbeing, and health of people around the world. UNDP works to help countries build and share solutions to development challenges through its five Practice Areas:

- Democratic Governance
- Poverty Reduction
- Crisis Prevention and Recovery
- Energy and Environment
- HIV/AIDS

Work within the UNDP's Democratic Governance Practice Area is conducted among several Thematic Areas.

- Parliamentary Development
- Electoral Systems and Processes
- Justice and Human Rights
- E-governance and Access to Information
- Decentralization and Local Governance
- Public Administration and Anti-Corruption



UNDP/Comoros staff during a constitutional law and decentralization project which was supported by two ILRC volunteers.



ILRC volunteers along with UNDP/Nepal staff celebrate the successful completion of a judicial training mission on intellectual property law.

What is the International Legal Resource Center?

The International Legal Resource Center (ILRC) was created in 1999 through a joint effort by the ABA Section of International Law and UNDP to enhance access to worldwide expertise for technical assistance and other legal development projects. The ABA, with an international membership of over 400,000 and a deep commitment to the rule of law, is the world's largest voluntary professional organization. In the seven years since its founding, the ILRC has complemented the UNDP's efforts in each of its practice areas with the following services:

- Identifying legal experts for short and long term in-country assignments
- Compiling assessments of domestic legislation
- Conducting legal research and analysis based on international standards

Viet Nam – Commercial Law

“UNDP Hanoi has worked with the ILRC for a number of years, and values highly the working relationship that has developed.”

Ms. Do Thi Nguyet Nga
United Nations Development Programme, Viet Nam

Some country offices, such as UNDP/Viet Nam, have consistently worked with the ILRC on multiple projects during the course of a year. In fact, a substantial number of the 90 UNDP country offices that have cooperated with the ILRC have been repeat beneficiaries of its services. The advantage of ILRC services, especially the recommendation of experts, is that they are free of charge to the country offices.



UNDP offices which the ILRC has supported since 2000

In order to quickly respond to UNDP requests, the ILRC maintains a network of individuals from around the world with the specific skills needed for technical legal assistance. Experts include attorneys, judges, law professors, court administrators, and other legal professionals in different stages of their careers. In addition to in-country missions, opportunities to volunteer are available through desktop legislative assessments and periodic research projects.

Experts interested in working with the ILRC can register on our webpage at <http://www.abanet.org/intlaw/intlproj/ilrc/registration.html>.

Nepal – Intellectual Property Training

“The training programme concluded successfully with the valuable support of the ILRC experts. We are indeed grateful to the ILRC staff for their cooperation.”

Nabin Chhetri
United Nations Development Programme, Nepal

Viet Nam – Criminal Code Training

"It was an honor for me to have participated in the workshops and I found the experience both professionally and personally rewarding. I appreciated the competence and professionalism of the staff of ABA/UNDP in both Washington and Hanoi.”

Judge Russell Canan
Washington, D.C.

Serbia – Justice Sector Reform

“I encourage all attorneys to volunteer their valuable time and service towards international technical projects. I left Serbia feeling renewed after gaining new perspectives regarding challenging court reform initiatives.”

Thomas N. Langhorne, Esq.
Richmond, Virginia

Union of the Comoros – Decentralization

“Both personally and professionally this assignment was a rewarding one and I strongly encourage other volunteers to make the time and take the plunge into the international arena. These assignments provide experiences which will never be forgotten!”

Patricia Waring-Ripley
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

ILRC at a Glance (as of March 2007)

Number of Registered Experts: 1305

Average Years of Experience: 17.5
(80% of experts with more than five years)

Countries Represented in Roster: 91

Number of Primary Languages: 76

Percentage of Non-US Experts: 43.4%

Number of Countries Utilizing Services in 2007: 15

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International Legal Resource Center

