International Legal Resource Center
Introduction

The International Legal Resource Center (ILRC) was established in December 1999, based upon the common commitment of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and American Bar Association (ABA) to advocate for democratic governance and the rule of law on a global scale. For over fifteen years, the ILRC has assisted UNDP as well as several other United Nations (UN) entities and multinational organizations that work in developing countries with legal issues beyond democratic governance. Respect for the rule of law is an essential component of all development initiatives and a prerequisite for the creation of sustainable environments and overall poverty reduction.

Housed within the ABA Section of International Law (the Section), the ILRC identifies experts for requests relating to technical legal assistance projects, knowledge management and advisory services worldwide. The ILRC also conducts assessments of draft and current legislation gauges its compliance with international standards where appropriate and provides legal research and substantive advice to governments on policy formulation. The ILRC continues to expand its range of capabilities and is flexible in responding to the changing needs of UNDP, other UN entities, multinational organizations and their local partners.

Through its committed staff, experienced committee members, and diverse database of experts, the ILRC seeks to enhance our international capacity to deliver the highest quality assistance to those most in need.

The ABA is one of the world’s largest voluntary professional organizations, with nearly 400,000 member and more than 3,500 entities. It is committed to doing what only a national association of attorneys can do: serving our members, improving the legal profession, eliminating bias and enhancing diversity, and advancing the rule of law throughout the United States and around the world. For more information, please visit: www.americanbar.org.

The ABA Section of International Law is the leader in the development of policy in the international arena, the promotion of the rule of law and the education of international law practitioners. The Section focuses on a full range of international legal issues and is involved in a wide variety of substantive legal activities. The Section has more than 20,000 members in over 100 countries. 16% of its members are non-U.S. qualified lawyers and another 20% of members are U.S. qualified lawyers practicing abroad.

The ABA Section of International Law’s purposes are: to promote interest, activity, and research in international law and to further its development; increase knowledge among members of the legal profession and the general public; to promote professional relationships with lawyers similarly engaged in foreign countries; and to implement Goal IV of the Association – “To advance the rule of law in the world.” For more information, please visit: www.americanbar.org/intlaw.
Years in Review

A Message from ILRC Co-Chairs, Michael E. Burke and Timothy L. Dickinson

The ILRC is now in its seventeenth year of operation, working side-by-side with UNDP. Throughout the rich history of our partnership, the ILRC has assisted the UNDP with democratic governance projects and enhancement of the rule of law throughout the world.

Our core services continue to be: identification of legal experts, legal research, legislative assessments, and other activities as requested by UNDP. In cooperation with UNDP, the ILRC is providing support to governments integrating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and accelerating progress on poverty reduction, gender equality, climate action and other SDG areas. As we look to the future, we are ready to take the next steps to further enhance cooperation with UNDP, and expand our work with additional members of the UN family.

With our database now standing at over 2,000 experts, the ILRC provides a tremendous resource of legal expertise. Our volunteers hail from 114 countries, speak a collective of 129 languages and practice in virtually all areas of the law.

For example, we have brought experts together to provide legislative assessments aimed to assist government officials, NGOs and stakeholders in developing countries; commented on developing environmental legal framework in Cambodia; supported Sierra Leone’s Constitutional Review Commission in an effort to revise the country’s 1991 Constitution; and, conducted a comparative review of best practices in civil registration systems at the request of UNDP Tajikistan; along with many other significant projects which are further highlighted in the body of this report.

We have also worked with other members of the UN family, including UN Women and UN Office on Drugs and Crime, and have also undertaken assistance for the World Bank. In particular, our experts provided assessment of the humanitarian system at the First World Humanitarian Forum that was initiated by UN Secretary General.

Please join us in reviewing this annual report of our recent projects and highlights. We hope that this may inspire those interested in our work to participate. We are extremely grateful to our colleagues at UNDP for their tireless work, along with our incredible ILRC experts who are responsible for making this partnership viable and successful. We especially want to thank Khalil Ali, who has served as Program Associate with the ILRC over the past two years, for all his hard work helping to bring these projects to fruition.

We welcome comments or questions and hope that you will join us in addressing governance issues and supporting the rule of law around the globe.

Michael E. Burke
Timothy L. Dickinson
ILRC Co-Chairs

A Message from the United Nations Development Programme

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) partners with people at all levels of society to help build nations that can withstand crisis, and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. Funded entirely through voluntary contributions, UNDP manages an annual budget of approximately $5 billion and works in nearly 170 countries. UNDP also works to ensure greater UN coherence in peacebuilding and development programming at the country level.

UNDP supports its national partners to strengthen the rule of law, including in contexts where crisis and fragility have impeded the ability of institutions to meet people’s needs. Since 2008, UNDP’s Global Programme on Strengthening the Rule of Law and Human Rights for Sustaining Peace and Fostering Development has supported countries in their efforts to increase justice, security, and respect for human rights.

The ILRC has proved to be a valuable partner for UNDP in delivering quality and timely rule of law assistance. Over the past year, the ILRC has supported UNDP programming with legal expertise and analysis in countries such as Sierra Leone, Somalia, and Tajikistan.

A critical component of the UNDP-ILRC partnership is the UNDP Washington Representation Office (WRO), which acts as a liaison with the legislative and executive branches of the US government, think tanks, non-governmental organizations, and the academic, diplomatic, and media communities.

UNDP looks forward to increasing opportunities for collaboration with the ILRC over the years to come and commends the organization for their efforts to promote democratic governance and the rule of law around the world.

Mr. Patrick Keuleers
Chief of Profession
Governance and Peacebuilding Cluster
Bureau for Policy and Programme Support
United Nations Development Programme

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2Available at: http://www.us.undp.org/content/washington/en/home/operations/about_undp.html

The ILRC has proved to be a valuable partner for UNDP in delivering quality and timely rule of law assistance.”

—Mr. Patrick Keuleers
Focus Areas

UNDP, the ILRC’s main client, works to help countries build and share solutions to development challenges as it continues its work to support the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), or Global Goals, as they help shape global sustainable development for the next 15 years. UNDP is working to strengthen new frameworks for development, disaster risk reduction and climate change.

UNDP focuses on helping countries build and share solutions in three main areas:

• Sustainable development
• Democratic governance and peacebuilding
• Climate and disaster resilience

In all of UNDP’s activities, they encourage the protection of human rights and the empowerment of women, minorities and the poorest and most vulnerable.

UNDP ensures inclusive and effective democratic governance by advocating, advising, fostering impartial spaces for dialogue, achieving consensus and building institutions.

UNDP helps governance institutions in countries bring constitutional reforms, organize credible elections, strengthen parliaments, and address policy and institutional options for peace, risk-reduction and development through reconciliation, empowerment and inclusion.

Strengthening the rule of law and promoting human rights are cornerstones of UNDP’s work to achieve sustainable development and eradicate extreme poverty. Through rule of law and human rights assistance, UNDP contributes to building peace and democratic governance across the full range of development contexts. UNDP also facilitates broader UN rule of law efforts through the work of the Global Focal Point for Police, Justice and Corrections.

Key areas of UNDP’s rule of law and human rights work include:

• Improving access to justice and remedies, and helping people enforce their rights;
• Assisting governments to establish capable justice systems, including the rapid restoration of justice services and dispute resolution mechanisms following crisis of conflict (targeting, particular, previously marginalized communities);
• Increasing community security and reducing armed violence, including through curbing the proliferation of small arms and light weapons;
• Addressing sexual and gender-based violence and increasing women’s participation and leadership in justice and security institutions, particularly in peacebuilding and recovery contexts;
• Supporting the promotion and protection of human rights, including strengthening the work of National Human Rights Institutions, supporting engagement with the international human rights machinery and promoting the application of the human rights-based approach to development programming and national planning processes; and
• Supporting transitional justice to promote redress for past violence and human rights violations and to enable societies to recover from the legacy of violence.

The ILRC is designed to provide technical assistance to UNDP country offices, UNDP regional service centres (RSC), other international entities and their local partners in a wide variety of areas, including, but not limited to:

• Reforming legal institutions and systems;
• Establishing new access to justice mechanisms;
• Building constitutional frameworks;
• Encouraging compliance with international standards and regulations;
• Supporting comprehensive analyses on draft or current legislation;
• Improving parliaments efficiency and strategic planning;
• Restructuring public sector regulations and processes;
• Strengthening anti-corruption measures;
• Sustaining decentralization measures and strengthening local institutions;
• Developing independent lawyer associations;
• Conducting legal education and judicial trainings;
• Providing legal services and advice to indigent and marginalized populations; and
• Evaluating UNDP projects and assisting with work plan development.

By engaging in the above legal reform efforts, ILRC experts and staff help further the work of UNDP and other entities and directly affect change in developing countries. Over the years, ILRC expertise has contributed to incremental progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and we hope to continue to do so with the new SDGs.
Core Services

IDENTIFICATION AND RECOMMENDATION OF LEGAL EXPERTS

In response to requests from UNDP country offices and RSCs as well as other international entities, the ILRC identifies and recommends experts to serve in developing countries as short or long-term legal advisors on virtually any issue. Additionally, the ability of the ILRC to draw upon pro bono contributions from experts helps reduce the cost of development projects. The ILRC provides substantive back-up support to legal experts to enhance their work in the field.

LEGAL RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

The ILRC conducts research and provides legal information and comments on law-related matters to UNDP country offices and their local partners. The requests are submitted directly to the ILRC or through their knowledge networks. The ILRC’s resources are also available to others within the UN system and the international development arena.

COORDINATION AND OVERSIGHT OF LEGISLATIVE ASSESSMENTS

In response to field requests, the ILRC coordinates multifaceted assessments of draft and current domestic legislation gauging its compliance with international standards where appropriate.

OTHER SERVICES

The ILRC will provide individually tailored programs and services in response to the changing needs of UNDP, other UN entities, multilateral organizations and their partners.

HOW THE ILRC WORKS

UNDP OR OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

1. TECHNICAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE REQUEST
   TOR* or Legal Query

2. ILRC STAFF
   ILRC Steering and Advisory Committees, ILRC Expert Database, ABA Entities and Legal Related NGOs Worldwide and Networks

3. SERVICES
   Experts, Research, Assessments and Other

HOW THE ILRC WORKS

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

QUALITY

The ILRC is committed to providing high-quality technical assistance to all legal reform projects. Operating from a database of over 2,000 legal experts and international development professionals, the ILRC provides a wide array of substantive support ranging from core rule of law principles and access to justice issues to business law fundamentals. With experts averaging 20.5 years of experience, the ILRC brings a wealth of know-how to every UNDP project. Junior lawyers, early in their careers, are equally important to the continued progress of the ILRC. They provide solid contributions by conducting legal research and supporting ad hoc activities on short notice.

COST EFFECTIVENESS

The ILRC delivers tremendous benefits in a cost effective manner. Entities recruiting experts who volunteer their time through the ILRC are solely responsible for covering business related expenses. The recruitment process, legal research and legislative assessments are provided at no cost. Special requests have also been accommodated at no additional expenses.

TIMELINESS

The ILRC provides quick turn-around responses to recruitment, research requests and other knowledge management products. Requests for experts are answered in a one to two-week period, while general research, e-discussions and assessments take anywhere from one to six weeks to complete. However, the timeline for assessments vary to account for the lag between correspondence with remote experts, the country office and their local partners.

FLEXIBILITY

The ILRC accesses a network of experts whose time commitments complement the needs of international development projects. Short-term assignments fit well with ILRC professionals who have full-time careers; however, longer in-country postings also appeal to certain ILRC experts.

DIVERSITY

In addition to its database, which includes highly experienced multilingual legal experts and international development professionals, the ILRC benefits from its relationship with the Section and its partnerships with regional bar associations and the greater ABA. With over 20,000 members divided into 60 regional and special interest committees within twelve divisions, as well as task forces and working groups. The Section is the leader in the development of policy in the international arena. The ILRC has also drawn on this lifelong partnership and its affiliation with the greater ABA, as well as international and national bar associations.
Project Profile

Over the past decade and a half, the ILRC’s experience has steadily grown in the number, type and scope of services it provides. Beginning in 2000, when we received just fifteen requests from UNDP for technical legal services, the ILRC has now aided over 350 UNDP projects in at least 100 countries, in areas encompassing democratic governance and rule of law. Through the identification and recommendation of experts, provision of legal information, legislative assessments and other specialized services, the ILRC has built a reputation for responsiveness and adherence to the changing needs of field staff working in developing countries.

In addition to a significant increase in the total number of requests handled per year, the ILRC has seen an increase in requests for research and distribution of legal information. Requests for legal resources and legislative assessments and research have grown to make up more than half of all projects. To date, the ILRC has facilitated twenty-seven legislative assessments. This is likely due to UNDP’s much-enhanced knowledge management system. Additional efforts have been made to inform UNDP offices and other entities about the potential benefits of receiving free legislative drafting advice.

Trends can also be seen in the geographic scope of ILRC services over the past decade. While the ILRC has responded to requests from over a hundred countries, Cambodia, Sierra Leone, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan are countries that have received the ILRC’s assistance repeatedly in the past two years. Growth in projects can be attributed to UNDP’s growing portfolio of projects in these countries and as well as improved and continued relationships with UNDP country staff and the ILRC’s additional collaborations with UN Women, UNODC and the World Bank Group. Assistance with knowledge sharing to UNDP/Headquarters, UN Women and country offices has also increased significantly over the past three years. Additionally, the ILRC has actively participated in e-discussions, desktop research and other ad hoc requests.

A large portion of ILRC programming support over the past two years focused on data protection laws, cybercrime legislation, climate change and environmental law, legal aid, constitutional reform and other related rule of law issues. In order to achieve long-term and sustainable results, emphasis has been placed on capacity building, implementation and enforcement as well as monitoring and evaluation within the scope of work in projects.

Expert Database

The ILRC is continually growing and diversifying its pool of experts. We extend invitations to legal practitioners and international development specialists from all over the world to lend their expertise to UNDP supported programs and other legal reform initiatives. Today, our database contains over 2,000 members who practice in common law, civil law and mixed jurisdictions and who are well versed in international development issues. We invite all lawyers and other development professionals interested in worldwide technical legal assistance to register with the ILRC today! Simply email intro@americanbar.org for additional information.

THE ILRC EXPERT DATABASE AT A GLANCE*

- 2,119 registered experts
- 48.5% are non-US experts
- 37.6% of the experts are female
- 78.3% of experts have more than 10 years of experience

* Please note that the above statistics are approximated and not all the registered experts provide their complete personal data.

The ILRC also draws upon the members of the Section, the greater ABA as well as other national, regional and international bar associations, and cooperates with NGOs working on legal reform issues.

ILRC CRITERIA FOR SELECTING AND RECOMMENDING LEGAL EXPERTS

- Experience matching the terms of reference
- Knowledge of the law and developments in relevant fields of expertise
- Knowledge of international development issues
- Experience in developing countries
- Familiarity with host country’s history and culture, as well as political and legal systems
- Language, communication and pedagogic skills
- Record of pro bono service
## Project Activities Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNDP COUNTRY/RSC</th>
<th>FORM OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED</th>
<th>SUBSTANTIVE LEGAL FIELD</th>
<th>CORRESPONDING UNDP PROGRAM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan (2014)</td>
<td>Identification of Legal Expert</td>
<td>Rule of Law</td>
<td>Formulation of policy strategy to support street vendors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia (2014)</td>
<td>Coordination of Legislative Assessment</td>
<td>Cyber Law</td>
<td>Reviewing Cybercrime legislation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia (2016)</td>
<td>Provision of Legal Research</td>
<td>Environmental Law</td>
<td>Developing an environmental legal framework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grenada (2015)</td>
<td>Coordination of Legislative Assessment</td>
<td>Election Law</td>
<td>Analyzing a draft referendum law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq (2014)</td>
<td>Coordination of Legislative Assessment</td>
<td>Public Procurement</td>
<td>Analysis of draft law on public procurement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamaica (2014)</td>
<td>Coordination of Legislative Assessment</td>
<td>Access to Justice</td>
<td>Analysis of anti-discrimination legislation proposal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maldives (2016)</td>
<td>Provision of Legal Research</td>
<td>Legal Aid</td>
<td>Provision of pro bono legal assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maldives (2016)</td>
<td>Identification of Legal Expert</td>
<td>Legal Aid</td>
<td>Consultant for Community-Based Paralegals Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar (2015)</td>
<td>Coordination of Legislative Assessment</td>
<td>Investment Law</td>
<td>Analysis of draft Law on Investment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sierra Leone (2014)</td>
<td>Coordination of Legislative Assessment</td>
<td>Rule of Law</td>
<td>Analysis of Criminal Procedure Bill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sierra Leone (2015)</td>
<td>Coordination of Legislative Assessment</td>
<td>Rule of Law</td>
<td>Analysis of Sierra Leone 1964 Police Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sierra Leone (2016)</td>
<td>Provision of Legal Research</td>
<td>Constitutional Reform</td>
<td>Support to the Constitutional Review Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanzania (2016)</td>
<td>Provision of Legal Research</td>
<td>Judicial Reform</td>
<td>Improving the case management system of Zanzibar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tajikistan (2016)</td>
<td>Provision of Legal Research</td>
<td>Civil Registration Law</td>
<td>Support to civil registration reform in Tajikistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tajikistan (2016)</td>
<td>Coordination of Legislative Assessment</td>
<td>Judicial Reform</td>
<td>Improving the implementation of judicial acts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tajikistan (2016)</td>
<td>Coordination of Legislative Assessment</td>
<td>Family Law</td>
<td>Support to civil registration reform in Tajikistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Coordination of Legislative Assessment</td>
<td>Civil Registration Law</td>
<td>Support to civil registration reform in Tajikistan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uzbekistan (2014)</td>
<td>Coordination of Legislative Assessment</td>
<td>Rule of Law</td>
<td>Review of draft Law on Transparency</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2015-2016 the UNDP Sub-Regional Office for Barbados and the OECS provided support to Grenada under the project, “Support to Referendum on Constitutional Reform in Grenada”. An integral part of the support was in the provision of technical assistance, where requested, in various aspects of the constitutional reform process. The American Bar Association prepared a valuable report providing feedback and recommendations towards the drafting of a new referendum law to govern the 2016 Referendum in Grenada. Given that this year’s referendum is the first of its kind in the history of the country, the ABA’s contribution undoubtedly informed the drafting and development of the amendments made to the recently approved national referendum legislation in preparation for this historic event.”

—Juliette Maughan, Project Consultant, UNDP Barbados
## Project Activities Overview

### Requests 2014–2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uzbekistan (2014)</td>
<td>Coordination of Legislative Assessment</td>
<td>Rule of Law</td>
<td>Review of Law on Parliamentary Control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uzbekistan (2015)</td>
<td>Coordination of Legislative Assessment</td>
<td>Administrative Law</td>
<td>Analysis of Draft Law on Social Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uzbekistan (2015)</td>
<td>Provision of Legal Research</td>
<td>Rule of law</td>
<td>Analyze concept note on decentralization measures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uzbekistan (2016)</td>
<td>Identification of Legal Expert</td>
<td>Judicial Reform</td>
<td>Improving the enforcement of court decisions</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### UNDP HEADQUARTERS/REGIONAL OFFICE AND UN ENTITY HEADQUARTERS

| UNDP/APRC* (2014) | Provision of Legal Research | Rule of Law | Capacity building for producing state reports |
| UNDP/HQ* (2014) | Provision of Legal Research | Gender Equity | Implications of extractive industry on gender equity |
| UNDP/HQ (2014) | Provision of Legal Research | Rule of Law | Analyze penal code reform and implementation |
| UN Women (2014) | Provision of Legal Research | Gender Equity | Incorporating gender-based procurement provisions |

### OTHER COLLABORATIONS

**ABA**
- ABA Justice Defenders: Identification of Legal Experts, Human Rights; Access to Justice
- ABA Rule of Law Initiative: Identification of Legal Experts, Human Rights; Access to Justice
- ABA Section on International Law: Identification of Legal Experts, Legal Education Training and Capacity Building

**WORLD BANK GROUP**
- Benchmarking Public Procurement: Identification of Legal Experts, Public Procurement, Contract Law
- Doing Business: Identification of Legal Experts, Commercial Law, Contract Law; Employment Law, Accounting Law

**OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP**
- Open Government Partnership: Coordination of Legislative Assessment, Records and Management Policy

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The joint “Rule of Law Partnership in Uzbekistan” project of the Supreme Court of Uzbekistan, USAID and UNDP initiated elaboration of analytical paper “Application of international treaties in domestic courts” in 2015. The paper prepared by ABA/ILRC team of experts Richard H. Langan II, Teng Meng, Miguel Gonzales-Marcos, covers an overview of experience of 4 countries such as China, the USA, Mexico and Germany on implementation of norms of international treaties by courts. Report has been submitted to consideration of Supreme Court of Uzbekistan. It is anticipated that report will serve as a knowledge base when the Project will start elaboration of draft internal regulation of Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan on usage of provisions of international conventions by judges in their decisions. Elaboration of the internal regulation will be discussed with national partners under the leadership of the Supreme Court.

—Azizkhon Bakhadirov, Program Analyst on Rule of Law Good Governance Unit, UNDP Uzbekistan

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*Asia-Pacific Regional Centre (APRC)*
*Regional Centre for Europe and Central Asia (CIS)*
*Headquarters (HQ)*
*United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*
2014–2016 Project Highlights

AFGHANISTAN 2014

Legal Empowerment of the Poor and Business Rights for Street Vendors

Following continuous engagement in supporting Afghanistan’s justice sector since 2002, UNDP/AFGHANISTAN’s sector support entered a new phase in January 2013. The Justice and Human Rights in Afghanistan (JHRA) project was designed to support the achievement of the priorities and benchmarks on human rights, rule of law and justice. The first phase of programmatic interventions was undertaken by using human rights based approach that simultaneously strengthened citizens’ capacity to claim their right and enhanced the capacity of justice delivery system actors to deliver justice in compliance with the rule of law and human rights standards. JHRA Phase II was aimed to leverage on the work undertaken in Phase I and to deepen the interventions at the international and provincial levels and attempt to work across the justice sector, involving the rule of law service providers.

The project also supported a component on legal empowerment of the poor (LEP) with a particular focus on economic, social and cultural rights. More specifically, the project recruited a LEP consultant who supported the implementation of the LEP plus strategy aiming at creating a conductive and enabling environment for one of the lowest levels of the informal economy, namely street vendors. LEP plus strategy was launched in collaboration with other UNDP Practice Areas in Afghanistan as well as other relevant stakeholders. The proposed strategy and framework aimed at creating a conducive and enabling environment with a focus on pro-poor socio-economic and legal empowerment for sustainable development which would enable poor and enterprising people of Afghanistan’s informal economy to use their own skills, natural resources and capabilities to earn a decent and sustainable income. The LEP plus strategy targeted various vulnerable groups in the informal economy to expand and rationalize opportunities and resources to make aware of their basic human rights including economic rights.

BELARUS 2015

Personal Data Protection Laws

Belarus is currently undergoing a period of rapid development of information and communication technologies, encompassing both the public and private sectors. Use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in public administration and private sector requires an adequate policy framework to ensure effective and efficient regulation. Belarus legislation regulates many aspects of ICT use in the country, including those on personal data, yet some gaps and legal inconsistencies persist. UNDP/Belarus therefore approached the ILRC in order to conduct research on international best legislative and regulatory practices and standards in personal data protection laws.

The ILRC engaged four experts to analyze and identify best practices in personal data protection laws in the United States, Hong Kong, Australia, and Canada. UNDP/Belarus used this research in order to guide the Belarusian Parliament in developing the country’s first personal data protection law.

CAMBODIA 2014

Analyzing Cambodia’s Climate Change Legislation

At the request of UNDP/Cambodia, an ILRC expert provided a review of laws, policies and strategies related to climate change in Cambodia. The report aimed to assess and make recommendations on potential changes to strengthen the current legal framework and support the implementation of the Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan (CCCS). In preparing this report, a stocktaking process was undertaken, via stakeholder interviews and a desktop review. Stakeholders that were interviewed in Phnom Penh included government officials and staff of the Department of Climate Change, the Cambodia Climate Alliance, and the UNDP involved with the development of the CCCS, and representatives from relevant line ministries, civil society, multilateral agencies and donors, and the private sector. The review was informed and framed by an examination of Cambodia’s obligations and opportunities as signatory of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and associated Kyoto Protocol. The experts reviewed significant decisions relevant for Cambodia in terms of obligations under the UNFCCC, as well as existing and future finance mechanisms, namely the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund.

CAMBODIA 2014

Reviewing Cambodia’s Cybercrime Law

The ILRC provided analysis on the draft Cybercrime Law in Cambodia. The experts provided recommendations on how to develop a comprehensive national legislative framework against cybercrime that complies with the country’s existing international obligations. The report included compiled comparative law analysis regarding freedom of expression in terms of cybercrime laws and possible surveillance issues that could be used to target human rights activists and NGOs. The experts analyzed international and regional human rights standards applicable to the issues of freedom of expression and right to privacy.
CAMBODIA 2016

Developing an Environmental Legal Framework
The ILRC provided technical inputs and advice on developing a new comprehensive Environmental Code of Cambodia. The new Code is intended to create a unifying legal framework for all matters pertaining to environmental protection and natural resources conservation in Cambodia.

GRENADA 2015

Analysis of Grenada’s Referendum Act
UNDP/Barbados and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), in collaboration with the Parliamentary Reform Advisory Committee, the Parliament of Grenada, the Office of the Supervisor of Elections, and other UN agencies and civil society organizations worked together to support a constitutional referendum process in Grenada in spring 2016. The Constitution of Grenada reflects outdated regulations and as such, the current Prime Minister promised a constitutional reform effort as part of his agenda. The current Constitution of Grenada contains several provisions related to referendum; however there are many additional areas that require a legislative basis. It had also been determined that the current Referendum Act is insufficient to administer the referendum.

UNDP/Barbados and the OECS approached the ILRC to conduct a legislative assessment of Grenada’s Referendum Act in order to ensure that the constitutional reform process is participatory, inclusive, transparent, and responsive to broad-based public input. Three ILRC experts conducted a desk-review of Grenada’s Referendum Act, providing comments and improvements to the legislation.

IRAQ 2014

Reviewing the Draft Law on Public Procurement
The ILRC engaged experts to provide recommendations on the draft 2014 Iraq Public Procurement and Contracting Law. The report contained recommendations on revisions to the language of the bill, comments regarding specific provisions and their legal implications, as well as proposals for additional complementary laws to enact alongside the Procurement Law.

JAMAICA 2014

Analysis of Anti-Discrimination Legislation
UNDP/Jamaica through its HIV and the Law project continues to build capacity for the reform of HIV-related laws and policies in Jamaica. One area identified as a priority gap by national stakeholders during consultations was the absence of broad-based anti-discrimination measures.

UNDP/Jamaica requested that the ILRC conduct a review of an anti-discrimination proposal that demonstrates how anti-discrimination measures can benefit the rights of populations vulnerable to HIV, as well as other key groups such as the disabled, poor, women and children.

MALDIVES 2016

Best Practices for Providing Pro Bono Legal Services
The ILRC recruited two experts to assist in conducting research on international best practices and successful models of formal mechanisms (public or public-private partnerships) for providing pro bono legal services to vulnerable groups for a “National Pro Bono Conference” that was held in the Maldives in May 2016. The research provided guidance for stakeholders in the Maldives to discuss debate and build consensus on the most suitable mechanism for a pro-bono initiative to strengthen legal aid services for vulnerable groups, including victims of sexual and gender-based violence.

MYANMAR 2015

Draft Law on Investment
ILRC experts provided comments, recommendations, and suggested language for Myanmar’s draft Law on Investment.

SIERRA LEONE 2014

Review of Draft Criminal Procedure Act
UNDP/Sierra Leone and the United Kingdom’s Department for International Development (DFID-UK) were supporting civil society organizations in Sierra Leone in their effort to review a draft Criminal Procedure Bill. An initial civil society review of the Bill raised concerns over a broad range of issues, including limited guidance to judicial discretion in making decisions on bail and sentencing, limited procedural requirements relating to sentencing, limited emphasis on case management and encouragement for criminal justice actors to advance cases rapidly, amendments to committal hearings, and the use the Criminal Procedure Bill to reinforce or extend police powers of stop, search and arrest.

The ILRC engaged twenty-four experts to review the Criminal Procedure Bill against international best practices, identify gaps and internal inconsistencies in the Bill, and provide comments and recommendations on improving the overall scope of the Bill.

SIERRA LEONE 2014

Review of 1964 Police Act
In 2014, the Government of Sierra Leone, led by the Ministry of Internal Affairs along with the Sierra Leone Law Reform Commission, Sierra Leone Police, Office of National Security, and others began to undertake a review of the Sierra Leone 1964 Police Act. Since its adoption, there had been no reviews or revisions to the Police Act and it was thus determined by the Government of Sierra Leone that the Act should be revised to comport with global policing standards. It was recognized that the 1964 Police Act did not incorporate reforms that had occurred in Sierra Leone since 2002, such as the new Independent Police Complaints Board. It was also determined that the Act neglected a number of key issues, including both external and internal accountability; the relations between the Police and other state institutions including the Ministry of Internal Affairs; and the duties, rights, and mission of the Police.

UNDP/Sierra Leone requested that the ILRC provide assistance with reviewing the 1964 Police Act as well as the provisions of the Constitution of Sierra Leone that pertained to policing. The ILRC recruited eight experts to provide an analysis of the Police Act against international best practices and suggest recommendations to improve the overall scope of the Act.
SIERRA LEONE 2015

Analysis of 1991 Constitution

Following the second re-election of President Koroma, Sierra Leone’s President Koroma pledged to undertake the long-awaited review of the country’s 1991 Constitution, as envisaged under the Lone Peace Agreement and recommended by the Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). The Constitutional Review Commission (CRC), launched in July 2013 with UNDP support, has carried out a series of activities, including civic education, public consultations and workshops on thematic issues. Throughout 2014, the UNDP-led constitutional review project assisted the CRC to implement country-wide stakeholder consultations with women, youth, local government bodies, paramount chiefs, civil society organizations and consultations at the district and community level.

At the request of UNDP/Sierra Leone, ILRC experts provided comments and recommendations on Sierra Leone’s 1991 Constitution regarding specific provisions and their legal implications and recommendations as to additional language that should be included in the Bill. The report assisted in the constitutional review process by reinforcing the CRC’s recommendations, bringing the Constitution in line with Sierra Leone’s international legal obligations and satisfying the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s 1994 report.

SIERRA LEONE 2016

Support to the Constitutional Review Committee

UNDP/Sierra Leone approached the ILRC in order to review recommendations put forth by Sierra Leone’s Constitutional Review Commission (CRC) in an effort to revise the country’s 1991 Constitution. The experts reviewed new proposed chapters and major amendments in the existing 1991 Constitution related to human rights and gender issues, including: local government and decentralization, citizenship, land, natural resources and the environment, information, communications, and the media, national development planning commission, and national security.

SOMALIA 2015

Gender in Procurement

In Somalia, women are largely marginalized and underrepresented in all sectors of the economy. While UNDP/Somalia addresses gender equality issues through various programmatic activities, the procurement unit sought to become more actively engaged in promoting gender equity in the procurement process. UNDP/Somalia had conducted statistical analysis and found that most companies that provide services to UNDP Somalia were headed by men.

UNDP/Somalia requested that the ILRC conduct research into best practices and establishing legal frameworks to promote gender equity in public procurement, increase women’s participation in the procurement process, provide incentives to women-owned businesses, and establish a more gender-responsive procurement process. The ILRC recruited four experts to conduct a comparative analysis of international public procurement and identify best practices; provide recommendations on making the public procurement more gender-responsive; and identify policies that can be implemented by UNDP/Somalia to promote gender equity in the procurement process.

TAJIKISTAN 2016

Best Practices in Civil Registration Reforms

UNDP/Tajikistan initiated the “Support to Civil Registration Reform in Tajikistan” project in order to reform the civil registry system of Tajikistan to ensure that it provides affordable services and vital statistical data.

As part of this reform effort, ILRC experts conducted a comparative review of legislative frameworks regulating the Civil Registration systems in Moldova and Russia in order to assist Tajikistan in harmonizing national legislation on civil registration with international best practices.

TAJIKISTAN 2016

Analyzing Amendments to the Family Code

An ILRC expert provided comments, recommendations, and suggested language regarding various provisions in the Family Code of the Republic of Tajikistan against international best practices. Tajikistan’s Family Code regulates issues such as marriage, rights of parents and children, alimony obligations, and spouses’ rights and duties. The analysis of Tajikistan’s Family Code assisted UNDP’s “Support to Civil Registration Reform in Tajikistan” project which seeks to reform Tajikistan’s civil registration system.
TIMOR-LESTE 2014

Human Resources Assessment on Justice Sector

UNDP has supported the justice sector in Timor-Leste since 2003, and its Justice System Programme (JSP) focused on capacity development and increasing access to justice. However, effective mechanisms for conflict resolution and the protection of rights, including punishment of crimes and compensation for victims remained limited and dependent on international actors to function.

In order to decrease reliance on international advisers and to enable strategic human resources planning, the ILRC provided a human rights expert who developed a human resources plan for the justice sector.

TAJIKISTAN 2016

Civil Status Acts

An ILRC expert provided comments, recommendations, and suggested language on the State Registration of the Civil Status Acts of the Republic of Tajikistan. The Civil Status Acts covers issues such as state registration of death, marriage, divorce, and adoption. The analysis of the Civil Status Acts assisted UNDP’s “Support to Civil Registration Reform in Tajikistan” project which seeks to reform Tajikistan civil registration system.

TAJIKISTAN 2016

Implementation of Judicial Acts

UNDP/Tajikistan initiated a project to improve the enforcement of court decisions. The ILRC engaged two experts to analyze and provide recommendations on improving legislation in Tajikistan regarding the enforcement of judicial acts.

TANZANIA 2016

Improving Case Management System

UNDP/Tanzania approached the ILRC to assess Tanzania’s case management system against international best practices, assist with preliminary quality assurance, and provide recommendations for improving the country’s case management system.

Along with support from the EU, UNDP supported implementation of a Legal Sector Reform Program in Zanzibar. An important component of the project was support of the development of a Case Management System, which is planned to be initially implemented at the Zanzibar High Court and then subsequently rolled out across the Zanzibar justice system. The World Bank recently approved a large loan to Tanzania for Justice Service Delivery, which will have a significant component of Case Management in Tanzania Mainland. Therefore, quality assurance at this stage was of crucial importance in order to decide on the next steps and ensure that UNDP, EU and World Bank partners were confident in the system.

TIMOR-LESTE 2014

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UZBEKISTAN 2014

Review of Draft Law on Transparency

Developing a law transparency of activities of state authorities and government agencies was indicated in the Concept Note of President of Uzbekistan in his speech to the Uzbek Parliament in November 2010. In early 2013, the Government of Uzbekistan decided to conduct a legal experiment by implementing a draft Law on Transparency in the Samarkand and Bukhara region for the duration of a one-year period. In December 2013, the results of the legal experiment was assessed and incorporated into the draft law and submitted to the Parliament of Uzbekistan.

UNDP/Uzbekistan approached the ILRC to conduct a review of the draft Law on Transparency against international best practices. Eleven ILRC experts provided an international and comparative overview of Laws and Transparency and provided recommendations for improving the draft Law against international best practices.

UZBEKISTAN 2014

Review of Law on Parliamentary Control

The ILRC conducted an analysis of Uzbekistan’s law on parliamentary control. The report compiled the comments, questions, and recommendations of legal experts regarding the role of the Parliament in preventing abuse, providing accountability and public transparency, and overseeing Government expenditures and action.

UZBEKISTAN 2015

Review of Draft Law on Public Oversight

The freedoms of expression, association, and the press are the touchstones of a democratic society and essential in ensuring public participation in government and a vibrant civil society. These freedoms are enshrined in Uzbekistan’s Constitution and legally binding international treaties and customary international law. Provisions of the Constitution of Uzbekistan state that the citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan have the right to participate both in society and state administration via self-government, referendums and democratic forming of state organs were recently amended by the following wording: “as well as via development and improvement of public oversight over activities of state organs.” Therefore, the Parliament of Uzbekistan developed a draft Law on Public Oversight in order to create a legal mechanism for control over the activities of government agencies and officials by civil society institutions.

UNDP, in its support to the “Enhancement of Lawmaking, Rulemaking and Regulatory Impact Assessment Project,” approached the ILRC to conduct a review of the draft Law on Public Oversight. The ILRC recruited six experts in order to provide comments and recommendations on the draft law and assess the draft law’s compliance with international standards and the Constitution of Uzbekistan. The experts recommended that the law be organized around three main objectives: participation and comment; information and opinion; and accountability and redress. The experts also recommended that the draft law provide sufficient citation to provisions of the Constitution or existing legislation.
UZBEKISTAN 2015

Application of International Treaties in Domestic Courts
The Rule of Law Partnership in Uzbekistan is a joint project of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and UNDP. The overarching goal of the project is to strengthen public access to and trust in Uzbekistan’s civil court system. The project provides assistance and support in the implementation of the current systemic and institutional reforms aimed at furthering the democratization and liberalization of the judicial and legal system.

As part of this reform effort, UNDP/Uzbekistan approached the ILRC to analyze the application of various international treaties in domestic courts, specifically in civil courts and cases, in order to harmonize national legislation with international treaties. The ILRC engaged three experts to analyze the application of various international treaties in civil courts in China, the United States, Mexico, and Germany.

UZBEKISTAN 2015

Analysis of Draft Law on Social Services
The Government of Uzbekistan ensures social protection of persons with disabilities (PwDs) and elderly people through social allowance (pensions, allowances, one-time payments), provision of technical rehabilitation means and social services. The Uzbekistan’s Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population is the main state institution responsible for policy making with regard to labor, employment, and social protection. UNDP launched a new project with the aim of institutional reform of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection to improve quality of social service delivery for persons with disabilities and lonely elderly people in Uzbekistan. At the policy level, the project works on reviewing, updating and improving existing legislation and drafting new legislative acts to cover identified gaps in social protection of PwD and elderly people.

The ILRC recruited experts to support UNDP/Uzbekistan in reviewing a draft law on Social Services for Elderly, Persons with Disabilities and other Vulnerable Groups. The ILRC recruited five experts to review the draft law for its conformity with the ratified international human rights instruments and foreign laws regulating social work, social services, rights of the elderly, children, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups. The experts also provided comments to improve the overall scope, content, and provisions contained in the Articles of the draft law.

UZBEKISTAN 2015

Examining Best Practices on Self-executing Laws
UNDP/Uzbekistan approached the ILRC to suggest guidelines for best practices in designing and enacting self-executing laws by parliament. The ILRC experts reviewed primary legislation, use of discretionary power by enforcing agencies, and oversight mechanisms. The ILRC also provided recommendations on codification and consolidation of legislation, along with guidelines on effective and efficient direct legislation by the parliament of Uzbekistan.
UNDP REGIONAL CENTER FOR EUROPE AND CIS 2014

Sustainable Hotline for HIV-related Services

The ILRC prepared a report in response to a query from the UNDP Regional Center for Europe and CIS on experiences establishing “sustainable and institutionalized” hotlines for HIV-related services. The report examined issues including: examples of government –managed hotlines and their operations; examples of non-profit managed hotlines; examples of non-HIV related hotlines (domestic violence, suicide, and child abuse); and recommendations for the establishment of hotlines for HIV-related services.

UNDP/HEADQUARTERS 2014

Gender and Extractive Industries

Historically, women have represented a fraction of the labor force and management positions in the extractive industries. This underrepresentation in the industry is the consequence of several factors which can be successfully addressed individually, thereby creating an environment which would become more diverse.

The ILRC responded to a query by UNDP/HQ regarding the direct implications the extractive industry has on gender equality. ILRC experts produced a report that addressed the extractive industries implication on gender equality, sexual violence, and impacts on livelihoods, conflicts and widening inequalities in pay.

UNDP/HEADQUARTERS 2015

Global Study on Legal Aid

The Global Study on Legal Aid (GSLA) project gathers data on the availability and accessibility of legal aid services to better form the policy and programming arms on developing comprehensive legal aid systems that are accessible, effective, sustainable, and credible. The GSLA is dedicated to mapping legal aid legislation, policies, systems, and practices to help better understand how legal aid is delivered worldwide.

UNDp’s Rule of Law, Justice, Security, and Human Rights Team approached the ILRC to research and map the cost of legal aid delivery in various countries. The ILRC recruited ten experts to map the cost of legal aid in Brazil, China, Indonesia, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and South Africa. The experts analyzed the cost of legal aid delivery in these countries as a percentage of the justice budget and in comparison with the costs of justice expenditures on courts, police, and prosecution. The experts also analyzed the differences in the cost of legal aid delivery in these countries.

UNDP/HEADQUARTERS 2014

New Penal Code Implementation

Penal code reform implementation is a complex process requiring a constant level of support from key players and stakeholders throughout the criminal legal system. Responding to a query from UNDP/HQ, four ILRC experts developed a report on best practices in penal code implementation and methodologies that may avoid challenges encountered by other nations in their implementation process.

UZBEKISTAN 2015

Analysis of Law on Local Governance Concept Note

The current edition of Uzbekistan’s Law on Local Government was enacted in 1993 and established a legal framework that defines the basic tasks, powers, rights and responsibilities, and organization of the activities of national and local government bodies. Uzbekistan saw a need for the development of a new edition of the Law for several reasons, including changes in the organizational and legislative framework of national and local government bodies and the lack of staffing positions, sources of funding, material and technical support, and oversight of local governments. The Local Governance Support Program/Phase-2 (LGSP-2), a joint project between UNDP and the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan, developed a concept note to guide the adoption of a new version of the Law on Local Government in Uzbekistan. The main objective for developing this Law in a new edition is to ensure the gradual redistribution of state powers from the national government to local governments.

UNDp/Uzbekistan approached the ILRC to conduct a review of the concept note developed by LGSP-2. The ILRC recruited three experts to assess and compare the concept note with international best practices in decentralization, accountability and transparency of local authorities, anti-corruption and integrity of local officials, budget and fiscal powers, local public services delivery, inter-agency coordination, planning of economic and social development, as well as enabling public participation at the local level.

UZBEKISTAN 2016

Analysis of Laws on Direct Action

UNDp/Uzbekistan’s “Support to the Enhancement of Lawmaking, Rulemaking and Regulatory Impact Assessment Project” promotes strengthening national capacity in the modernization of institutional framework of lawmaking and rulemaking, improvement of the organization of public decision-making, implementation of evidence-based public policies and improvement of the regulatory framework and transparency. For this purpose, it is essential to ensure the implementation and enhancement of methodology for legislative acts’ codification and drafting laws of direct action.

UNDp/Uzbekistan approached the ILRC to recruit an international consultant to conduct an in-depth review of international best practices of the codification of legislative acts and drafting of laws of direct action and to develop recommendations for the consolidation of legal acts. The ILRC expert conducted an in-depth review and developed recommendations on the codification of legislative acts and the drafting of laws of direct action.

UNDp/ASIA-PACIFIC 2014

Supporting Capacity Assessment in Afghanistan

The ILRC prepared a report in response to UNDP/Asia-Pacific’s query related to its support of the Justice and Human Rights in Afghanistan Project’s capacity assessment of the Directorate of Human Rights and Women’s International Affairs within the Afghanistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The report focused on the challenges of developing quality state reports within the UN Human Rights Mechanism. The query included the following components: engaging partners and establishing mechanisms that ensure multi-stakeholder participation; knowledge and information management; managing and equipping human resources with detailed framework on how a report should be compiled.
UN Women / Headquarters 2014

Advising on Gender-based Public Procurement Provisions

The ILRC prepared a report in response to a query by UN Women regarding incorporation of gender-based public procurement provisions into the Iraqi government’s Public Procurement Policy (PPP). Specifically, ILRC experts provided examples of PPPs that incorporate incentives for women in government procurement activity, best practices and challenges faced in connection with the implementation of such gender-responsive procurement provisions. The report particularly analyzed how PPPs can effectively deliver economic incentives to women in business.

UNODC 2014

Study Tour for Senior Counter-Terrorism Policy Makers, National Security Officials, Prosecutors and Judges from Central Asia

On May 20, 2015, a delegation of judges, national security officials, and senior counter-terrorism policy makers from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan gathered at the ABA’s Washington, DC office to hear from legal practitioners and researchers. Three legal experts, Ms. Brittany Benowitz, Ms. Sara Elizabeth Dill, and Mr. David Laufman, provided an overview of the topical legal issues related to terrorism and counterterrorism: the relationship between international fair trial standards and counterterrorism prosecutions; procedural and evidentiary issues that govern federal terrorism prosecutions; and legal issues related to counterterrorism techniques used by the U.S. government, such as no-fly lists, immigration bars, and foreign asset control. Judge John Tunheim also provided special remarks on his experiences with regional counterterrorism methods in Asia. Mr. William Braniff, Executive Director of the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START), which houses the world’s largest open-source Global Terrorism Database, ended the day by providing an overview of trends in terrorism within Central Asia.

Legislative Assessments

Facilitating legislative assessments is a long-standing tradition for the ILRC. Since its inception in 1999, the ILRC has presented UNDP and its local partners with this cost-effective service. This streamlined process is conducted virtually and provides comprehensive analyses and line-by-line commentary on draft or current legislation from developing countries.

The Process

Given its expansive database of legal and international development professionals, the ILRC is able to assemble a group of experts on almost any legislative topic. Following a preliminary briefing and guidance from ILRC staff, the team thoroughly analyzes a draft or current law identified for review. The experts, who offer their services pro bono, are directed to gauge their comments through a legal and development lens. Thus, they provide top-notch advice that is not only legally sound, but is also current, practical and applicable in developing countries. These comments are compiled into a comprehensive report that is forwarded to UNDP and stakeholders for review. The stakeholder feedback and the experts’ revisions are incorporated into a final draft. One or several of the expert commentators may travel in-country in order to expand on the report and build local capacity through legislative drafting workshops. Travel is subject to approval by UNDP or other partner organizations that are responsible for covering all travel-related costs.

Benefits and Long-Term Outcomes

Over the years, the ILRC has conducted several legislative assessments that address a wide range of legal issues. Details of these assessments can be found in the pages to follow. ILRC legislative assessments serve as comprehensive resources and can be used to:

- Improve the legislative drafting skills of government officials, NGOs and stakeholders in developing countries.
- Encourage increased collaboration between local partners, NGOs and governments.
- Promote adherence to and ratification of international and regional standards, where applicable.
- Identify areas which are problematic or have been omitted (including identifying internal inconsistencies).
- Provide comparative analyses on best practices from different countries.
Other Collaborations

**AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION**

**Center for Human Rights Justice Defenders Program**

The ILRC also provides support to the entities within the ABA that need the assistance of international experts. The ABA Justice Defenders program provides pro bono legal assistance to human rights advocates working in difficult environments and vulnerable circumstances. In 2013, the program requested an attorney to observe hearings in a Venezuelan trial and experts for a workshop in India to discuss litigation strategies and share best practices concerning the investigation and prosecution of atrocities. The Justice Defenders program continues to seek assistance from the ILRC on an as-needed basis. For more information, please visit: www.americanbar.org/groups/human_rights/justice_defenders.html.

**Section of International Law**

**Training and Capacity Building of the University of Makeni**

The ABA Section of International Law, supported legal education programs at the University of Makeni. The purpose of the project was to leverage the ABA’s experience and expertise to further enable the University of Makeni’s training capacity for paralegals, lawyers, judges and other legal personnel in Sierra Leone.

The project was aimed at providing the international expertise needed to develop the curriculum and teaching methods of the Law Department of the University of Makeni in accordance with international standards. The department previously relied upon a traditional law curriculum, modelled upon those of Britain in the 1970s and had a heavy reliance on lecture and very little opportunity for students to take optional modules. The project allowed to update the curriculum to include both elective law courses, such as employment law and maritime law, as well as to actively work to upgrade the teaching skills of lecturers to include the use of multimedia, interactive learning, and the integration of new research and thinking into well-established syllabi.

**YEAR UNDP OFFICE ASSESSMENT**

- **2015 UNDP/Myanmar** Analysis of Investment Law
- **2015 UNDP/Barbados** Analysis of Grenada Referendum Act
- **2015 UNDP/Uzbekistan** Analysis of Draft Law on Social Services
- **2014 UNDP/Sierra Leone** Review of Criminal Procedures Bill
- **2014 UNDP/Sierra Leone** Review of 1964 Police Act
- **2014 UNDP/Jamaica** Review of Anti-Discrimination Legislation
- **2014 UNDP/Uzbekistan** Analysis of Draft Law on Transparency
- **2014 UNDP/Uzbekistan** Analysis of Draft Law on Public Oversight

We were retained in coordination with the ABA-UNDP International Resource Center to examine best practices for legal services to support the island nation of the Maldives. We provided a case study on the country of Thailand, where we identified successes and gaps in their legal assistance programs’ structure and the vulnerable communities’ access to legal assistance. This report was used at the Maldives first National Pro Bono Conference, which focused on improving access to justice for victims of sexual and gender-based violence. The great coordination of ABA-UNDP International Resource Center made this project a success and hopefully the final report brought assistance to the people of Maldives and the vulnerable communities that are in need.”

—UNDP Maldives, Best Practices in Providing Pro Bono Legal Services, Tom Mullikin (Managing Partner) and Chelsea Bacher (Associate)
The African Mining Legislation Atlas (AMLA) is a project initiated by the World Bank Group and carried out in partnership with a number of regional and international organizations and institutions. With the goal of addressing information asymmetry in Africa’s mining sector, the project provides free access to the continent’s mining legislation on the AMLA platform and will produce a Guiding Template.

In 2015, the ILRC assisted the AMLA Project by identifying legal experts who could fill specific topic gaps in the production of the Guiding Template and provide essential commentary on legislative options. The Guiding Template will be an easy to read annotated document that outlines an array of non-prescriptive legislative options for the drafting of a comprehensive mining law. Designed to provide African countries with a starting point for drafting a context-specific mining law, the Guiding Template is based on a list of the most common topics appearing in all 53 available African mining laws with the addition of relevant topics garnered from the legislation of other leading mineral producing nations outside of Africa. For each of the topics identified, the document will outline context, sources, application, legislative language, and jurisprudence where available: Resource Research/Non-Commercial Activities; Transparency/Confidentiality; Regulating Bodies; Cadastral System/Registration; License Acquisition Procedures and Timelines; Small-scale Exploitation; Artisanal Mining; Land; Forestry/Timber; Beneficiation/Commercialization Labor; Occupational Health and Safety; Dispute Resolution; Prohibition Against Expropriation; Force Majeure; and Treatment of Minerals/Materials not under License.

“ILRC’s support enabled the AMLA Project to quickly and efficiently fill gaps in knowledge, reducing the time and resources that would have been needed to locate adequate expertise.”

—Beverly Mbu, Legal Consultant, African Mining Legislative Atlas

The Section was invited by the Doing Business project at the World Bank Group (WBG) and IFC to contribute to both the 2015 and 2016 editions of the global Doing Business report. Doing Business researches business laws and regulations in over 185 countries. The results of the research are presented in an annual report, considered one of the most high-profile publications produced by the WBG (over five million site visits per year). The reports sought experts in eight legal areas: starting a business (corporate law); employing workers (employment law); registering property (real estate law); getting credit (collateral law); protecting investors (corporate law); enforcing contracts (commercial litigation); resolving insolvency (bankruptcy); and paying taxes (tax and accounting law). The 2015 report focused on “Going Beyond Efficiency,” and included a notable expansion of several indicator sets and a change in the calculation of rankings. The 2016 report focused on “Measuring Regulatory Quality and Efficiency,” and continued a two-year process of introducing improvements in 8 of 10 indicator sets—to complement the emphasis on the efficiency of regulation with a greater focus on its quality.

Doing Business relies on pro-bono contributions of legal professionals to update the data annually; accordingly, Doing Business looked to expand their network of legal contributors by reaching out to Section and ILRC members to participate in research surveys for this project. Participation enables contributors to utilize their firm’s expertise to improve business regulations in their own economy and worldwide. In general, contributions to Doing Business have made an impact—over 380 business regulation reforms were inspired by the project since 2004. Contributors and their firms are acknowledged in the report and on the Doing Business website. Additionally, contributors have expressed that completing the surveys each year keeps their professional skills sharp as it requires them to keep up-to-date on changing regulations. Doing Business also serves as a knowledge resource for academics, journalists, private sector and others interested in the business climate of each country. Over 70 Section and ILRC members expressed interest to provide contributions for the 2016 report edition.

“On behalf of United Nations Development Program in Sierra Leone and Constitutional Review Project team, I would like to thank the ABA/International Legal Resource Center for the invaluable support provided to the Sierra Leone Constitutional Review process. Indeed, ILRC provided invaluable expert analysis and recommendations of the 1991 Constitution of Sierra Leone proved instrumental for the CRC members and experts in Sierra Leone. Analysis and comments formed an integral part of the CRC’s work taking into account international best practices, modern-day constitutionalism, and language simplification in an understandable legal context.”

—Sanaullah Baloch, Chief Technical Adviser, UNDP Sierra Leone, Analysis of 1991 Constitution
Open Government Partnership

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) is a multilateral initiative that seeks to secure commitments from governments to promote transparency, empower citizens, fight corruption, and utilize new technologies in order to strengthen governance. The Open Government Partnership formally launched in September 20, 2011, when the eight founding governments (Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, Norway, the Philippines, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and the United States) endorsed the Open Government Declaration. Since 2011, OGP has welcomed the commitment of an additional 61 governments. In order to become a member of OGP, participating countries must endorse a high-level Open Government Declaration, deliver a country action plan, and commit to independent reporting on their progress going forward.

In 2015, the ILRC provided assistance to Sierra Leone and Liberia Open Government Initiatives. The ILRC experts provided legal review of Open Data license terms to assist the Governments of Sierra Leone and Liberia in developing the countries’ Open Data policy and licensing terms.

World Humanitarian Summit

The First World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) invited the ILRC experts to contribute their analysis on relevant humanitarian issues, in anticipation of the summit that took place in May 2016 in Istanbul. The WHS was initiated by UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon in order to reform the humanitarian system. The summit was organized around five key commitments: preventing and ending conflict; respecting the rules of war; leaving no one behind on the sustainable development agenda; working differently to end need, and investing in humanity. The ILRC provided assessment on such issues as the role of women in the post-conflict process; gender centrality; access to justice for persons with disabilities; provision of humanitarian aid; and supporting the youth in the conflict regions.

—Asha Shidane, procurement associate, UNDP Somalia
2016 Annual Report

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