

Supporting the Capacity of Special Political Missions and Resident Coordinators to Promote the Rule of Law and Strengthen National Justice and Corrections Institutions

- **Brief description of the project**

- Objective of the project

The project aims at strengthening the capacity of Special Political Missions (SPMs) and Resident Coordinators Offices (RCOs) to promote the rule of law and reinforce justice and corrections institutions at the national and regional level.

While SPMs and RCOs are often called upon by national authorities and regional organizations to address rule of law deficits and demands that are critical to peace and stability, they often lack the expertise or the capacity to provide timely and effective responses.

This project will allow the DPO Justice and Corrections Service (JCS) to expand its current support to SPMs and RCOs by enhancing its capacity to develop strategic guidance and to make available expertise, capacities and resources to which JCS has access or is managing, in particular: the provision of specialized expertise on justice, corrections and related rule of law areas; the capacity to provide rapid field support through the deployment of the Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity (based in Brindisi, Italy); and the ability to inform and mobilize Member States on rule of law issues.

In addition, the project will enhance JCS capacity to mobilize the United Nations rule of law system through the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law (GFP) – an inter-agency coordination mechanism co-managed by JCS that brings together DPO, UNDP, EOSG, OHCHR, UNODC, UNHCR and UN Women as well as a number of other United Nations rule of law entities – by creating incentives to address SPMs and RCOs rule of law demands through integrated joint programming.

In this regard, JCS will rely on lessons learned from past experience on the impact of limited, but flexible, seed funding to kick-start integrated UN rule of law responses in the field. Through the GFP, JCS will thus further strengthen the assistance to SPMs and RCOs, including by providing seed funding to incentive the initial development of joint UN strategies/guidance/projects in support of national rule of law needs.

Priority areas of support would target national and regional efforts to:

- (1) Enhance criminal accountability efforts. Addressing serious crimes that fuel conflict remains a priority of the United Nations as it has proven to be an effective prevention tool by combatting impunity, weakening criminal networks, holding security forces accountable, and deterring the reoccurrence of violence. The support would target crimes under international law, transnational organized crimes, terrorist crimes, natural resources trafficking and crimes against UN personnel. In parallel, the support would address detention issues, with the aim to ensure the safe, secure, and humane detention of those deprived of liberty, and to prevent violent extremism and radicalization.
- (2) Address critical rule of law deficits affecting governance. Building trust in judicial remedies, defusing grievances, and preventing threats to judicial independence is essential to sustaining peace and maintaining social cohesion. The project will support SPMs and RCOs in the identification and implementation of measures to enhance judicial governance, and strengthen the independence and accountability of the judiciary, including through legal, judicial and policy reforms.

- (3) Enhance greater participation and representation of women, and gender-responsiveness in rule of law institutions. In line with Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, the project will actively promote the participation of women from judicial national institutions to enhance their specialized skills and their contribution to peace and security efforts. In addition, assessments carried out will take a gender perspective when identifying needs and areas of support. This project will also seek to support the development of prosecutorial strategies that prioritize crimes of conflict-related violence.

Overall, the project will aim at providing specific support to UN regional offices in their engagement to address transnational challenges (e.g., promoting judicial cooperation and legal mutual assistance to tackle transnational organized crime) and to promote regional responses and support to national rule of law and governance deficits (e.g.: supporting intergovernmental initiatives and the capacity of legal professional networks, such as Bar Associations). In so doing, the project will seek further integration across relevant United Nations rule of law entities through the GFP, including by using seed funding to incentivize joint programming.

- **Expected outcomes, outputs and proposed activities**

Outcomes	Outputs	Proposed Activities
Enhanced capacity of SPMs and RCOs to support national and regional efforts to address crimes fueling conflicts and instability	<p>Prosecutorial strategies inform national efforts to prioritize the crimes most detrimental to peace and stability</p> <p>National criminal justice institutions have increased capacities to investigate and prosecute crimes fueling conflicts and do cooperate with justice and law enforcement services of other states at the regional and international level</p>	<p>Provide guidance and advice on the development of national and regional prosecutorial strategies</p> <p>Deploy expertise to assist the investigation and prosecution of priority cases</p> <p>Promote exchanges of lessons learned on the safe, secure and humane detention of prisoners and to address violent extremism in prison</p> <p>Support integrated capacity building initiatives</p>
Enhanced capacity of SPMs and RCOs to address rule of law deficits affecting governance, including with regard to women's participation	UN political strategies and engagement, as well as Common Country Analysis (CCA), Cooperation Frameworks (CF) and programmes/projects are addressing critical rule of law deficits	<p>Support to the design of political strategies, Common Country Analysis, Cooperation Frameworks and programmes / projects through mapping and analysis of the capacity of national and regional institutions to address critical rule of law deficits</p> <p>Support the design and implementation of measures to increase the participation and representation of women in rule of law institutions</p>
Strengthened coordination and integration of UN responses in the provision of rule of law support to SPMs and RCOs	The Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law is resourced and equipped to further promote strategic and programmatic integration and coordination	<p>Respond to requests for support and rule of law expertise from SPMs and RCOs</p> <p>Facilitate the identification and articulation of joint rule of law strategies</p>

		Support the design and funding of joint rule of law projects and activities
		Provide seed funding to incentivize integration across the UN rule of law entities and engagement of other donors

- **Implementation timeline**

An initial period of 12 months.

- **Explain how the project will further the implementation of the A4P+ priorities.**

Support provided through this project reflects the priorities of the A4P Declaration of Shared Commitments. In particular, the project seeks to contribute to the core element of enhancing political solutions by supporting the engagement of senior UN officials on rule of law deficits critically affecting governance and political stability, as well as to enhance partnership, collaboration and planning through the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law.

- **How have gender aspects been included in the design and implementation of the project? How does it help the Department implement its women, peace and security and gender parity commitments?**

The project will promote the pillars of the WPS agenda, by increasing awareness of the role of women in the implementation of the agenda, promoting measures to increase the participation, representation of women in national judiciaries, and advocating for gender responsive rule of law institutions. The project also supports accountability for serious crimes, including Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), as a way to enhance equal access to protection and justice.

- **Brief explanation of any risks that the implementation of the project may face and how to mitigate them.**

The project's successful implementation may be affected in case of a serious deterioration of the security situation in the beneficiary countries. JCS will monitor the situation on the ground, together with the relevant counterparts in DPPA, to assess potential threats, and adjust timelines and methodology for the implementation of activities. In case of continued limitations due to the COVID-19 crisis, a number of activities will be conducted virtually.

- **Proposed budget**

Item	Brief Description	Total Amount
Programmatic funds	Seed funding for joint rule responses/programming	\$200,000
Travel costs	Deployments in support of SPMs and RCOs	\$30,000
Staffing costs	Project management officer: one staff at P4 level	\$270,000
Programme Support Costs (13%)		\$65,000
	Total:	\$565,000