



NOVEMBER 16-19 | WASHINGTON DC

## LAW, JUSTICE AND DEVELOPMENT WEEK 2015

CONCEPT NOTE:  
Governance and the Law

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November 16-19, 2015

World Bank Headquarters, Washington D.C.

### Background

1. Each year, Law, Justice and Development (LJD) week brings together partners of the Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development (GFLJD), staff and senior officials from international financial institutions, international development practitioners, government officials, lawyers, judges, scholars and representatives from civil society. As in previous years, LJD Week 2015 will be organized by the Legal Departments of the World Bank Group. LJD Week 2015 will take place from Monday November 16 through Thursday November 19, 2015, at the World Bank in Washington, DC (LJD Week 2015).

### Theme: Governance and the Law

2. LJD Week 2015 aims at exploring the role of Governance and the Law in the social and economic advancement of nations, with a focus on the value of law in producing sustainable development outcomes, in expressing justice, and in serving as a catalyst for justice from different perspectives, e.g., justice as fairness, as reasonableness, and as freedom from want and opportunity.

3. LJD Week 2015 will seek to identify, debate and explore three dimensions of Governance and the Law:

- (a) ***the formulation of law***: how societal values and beliefs are translated into formal and informal norms, including constitutions and laws; the relative importance of inclusion and perceived fairness in the formulation process; why institutional mimicry is so prevalent; how legal pluralism, South-South constitutional and legal borrowing, and supranational rules (including international law and norms) can contribute to the development process;
- (b) ***the content and articulation of the law***: how the content and drafting of the law impact their effectiveness, effective governance, and the avoidance of social conflict; how the content of laws can be deconstructed to identify their moral content; the value of unrealistic norms; the usefulness of aspirational laws (e.g., laws that reflect the principles of participation, the rule of law, accountability, and regulatory independence), including their role in generating momentum for change; the merits and effectiveness of formal vs. informal norms; and
- (c) ***the application, interpretation and implementation of the law***: what institutions, structures, processes and other mechanisms do to ensure the law is effectively interpreted, applied, implemented and respected; the impact of regulatory entities on the interpretation and implementation of the law; the impact of transparency and accountability mechanisms on governance; the impact of “implementation gaps” between law and reality and, in particular, the impact of persistent implementation gaps on the legitimacy and trustworthiness of the state; the

role of informal norms and dispute resolution mechanisms and their interaction with the formal legal system.

## Program

4. A notional schedule for LJD Week 2015 is provided in the Appendix. It includes two days for the Governance and the Law theme, followed by a day focused on the Middle East and North of Africa region (MNA Day), and one day with the General Counsels' Roundtable and parallel events related to the World Bank Group (WBG) and International Financial Institutions (IFIs).

5. *MNA Day.* Each year, LJD Week takes an in-depth look at legal, economic and social developments in a particular country or region. In the past five years, the regional day has focused on Brazil, China, India, Africa, and Europe. This year, LJD Week will focus on the Middle East and North Africa (MNA) region. Possible themes to be discussed on MNA Day include:

- Fragile and Conflict States / Reconstruction and Conflict resolution / Security
- Forced Displacement and Property Disputes
- Extractives / Energy / Oil
- Addressing Climate Change in the Middle East and North Africa
- Water and Sanitation
- Governance and Anti-Corruption
- Rule of Law / Capacity Building
- Empowering Women / Gender
- Development of Human Rights in the Middle East and North Africa
- Employment: Child Labor / Women in the Workforce
- Millennial Development Goals / Sustainable Development Goals in MNA
- Middle Income Agenda

6. Possible WBG partners may include the Global Practices, the MNA Region and the IMF.

7. External Partners to MNA Day may include:

- Qatar Foundation
- The Arab Investment and Export Credit Guarantee Corporation
- The OPEC Fund for International Development
- The Islamic Development Bank
- The Abu Dhabi Fund for Development
- The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development
- Arab Gulf Program for United Nations Development Organizations
- The Arab Monetary Fund
- The Saudi Fund
- The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development
- Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa

8. *The General Counsels' Roundtable and parallel events for the World Bank Group and International Financial Institutions.* This day includes the annual General Counsels' Roundtable, bringing together the heads of the legal departments of over 20 IFIs in an interactive format to discuss issues of common interest. The General Counsels' Roundtable consists of a closed session, totaling half a day of discussions. This day is also dedicated to exclusive sessions for lawyers working in the WBG, in parallel to sessions aimed at bringing together members of different IFIs to discuss issues relevant to their organizations and work. Possible themes for the WBG sessions may include operational issues, institutional dynamics, the role of the new Global Practice Groups, and inter-institutional collaboration under one WBG.

## Notional Schedule

	Monday November 16	Tuesday November 17	Wednesday November 18	Thursday November 19
Date/Time	Governance and the Law	Governance and the Law	MENA Day	General Counsels' Roundtable and World Bank Group (WBG), International Financial Institutions (IFI) Day
9:00	Registration and Coffee	Panel Discussions	TBD	General Counsels Roundtable (Closed Session)
11:00	Opening Remarks/ Keynote Speaker	Panel Discussions	TBD	TBD
12:45	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
2:00	Panel Discussions	Panel Discussions	TBD	WBG/IFI Sessions
4:00	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break
4:15 5:45	Panel Discussions	Panel Discussions	TBD	WBG/IFI Sessions
6:00 8:00	Reception (TBD)	Reception (TBD)	Reception (TBD)	Reception (TBD)