



JUSTICE AT THE CENTER OF THE GLOBAL AGENDA

The Premise

Over the past two decades, the global community has moved towards **establishing shared priorities** to advance human development. In the process of creating goals like advancing healthy societies, increasing equitable access to education, and unlocking economic empowerment, other critical dimensions of development emerged. Consideration for the ways in which some lenses apply across development outcomes, like gender, climate, and conflict, has demonstrated the essential, interconnected nature of today's greatest challenges—and **now is the time to apply justice as a cross-cutting lens.**

Justice is an essential tool to **strengthening trust in government and the state:** one that emphasizes peoples' needs, facilitates trust, and unlocks a new era of possibility in our collective effort to move the world forward.



By embracing people-centered justice, we can reduce inequality and exclusion, reduce all forms of violence, revive the social contract and rebuild trust. This will enable us to more effectively uphold human rights, combat racism, discrimination and other forms of structural injustice and to better meet demands from the next generation."

[Reimagining Social Contracts: A Call to Put People at the Center of Justice](#)





The Possibility

To close the global justice gap, countries as well as multilateral and non-governmental organizations must **prioritize people-centered justice in the global agenda**. Putting justice directly on the agenda at critical moments of assessment of the SDGs presents opportunities to **accelerate people-centered justice**.

Countries need support to **adopt, fund, and implement** people-centered justice policies. Finally, **using justice as a tool to address issues across the development agenda** will help ensure that justice is not siloed or sidelined: prioritizing justice prioritizes development.

The Progress

World leaders made a bold statement when they officially placed justice as a central element of the development agenda through **Sustainable Development Goal 16**. When advancing justice became a global goal, it unlocked a new era of progress. Champions and advocates have come together to create a roadmap to delivering equal access to justice for all.

In 2018, Pathfinders formed the **Task Force on Justice**—a multi-stakeholder group of countries and organizations aiming to facilitate knowledge-sharing around the state of global justice.

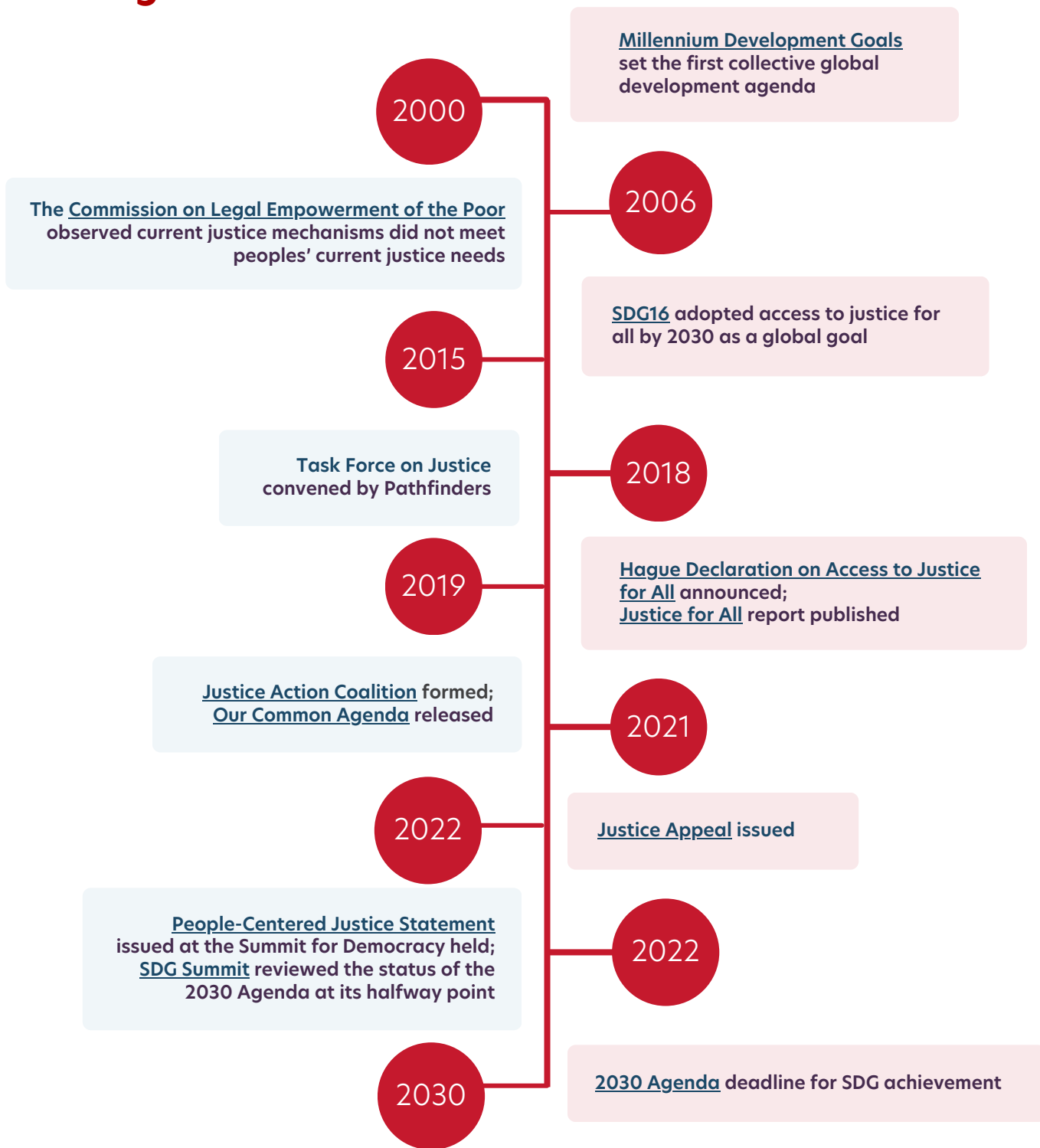
In 2019, the **Hague Declaration on Access to Justice** for All became a clarion cry for countries to commit to the principles of people-centered justice—which over sixty nations have already signed.

Also in 2019, the landmark **Justice for All** report illuminated the world's justice gap and presented a new, people-centered approach that can help to close it.

In 2021, countries and partners came together to form the **Justice Action Coalition** to accelerate action on people-centered justice by bolstering political support, empowering data and evidence, and sharing best practices on what works.

In 2022, the Justice Action Coalition issued the 2023 **Justice Appeal**, calling on countries around the world to usher in a new era of people-centered justice for communities worldwide in order to provide equal access to justice for all.

Progress Timeline



Additional Resources

- [Making Access to Justice for All a Reality: Appraising Progress on the Promise of SDG16](#)
- [Justice Action Coalition Joint Action Plan](#)
- [Reimagining Social Contracts: A call to put people at the center of justice](#)
- [Our Common Agenda: A Quick Scan](#)
- [Mid-way through the 2030 Agenda: Translating Ambitions into Actions through People-Centered Justice](#)
- [Business Leaders for Justice Coalition: Justice Imperative Principles](#)
- [Measuring the Justice Gap](#)
- [Justice for All Report](#)