



Kingdom of the Netherlands



# “Judicial independence, people centered justice and the daunting challenge of achieving SDG16”

**Discussion of the report presented to the 77<sup>th</sup> UNGA by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers**

***Thursday, October 13, 2022, 4:30pm to 6:15pm,  
followed by a Cocktail Reception (6:15 pm to 7:00 pm)***

**Venue:** The Office of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung  
**220 E 42nd St, New York, NY 10017**  
(The News Building)

The Office of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung to the United Nations in New York, The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations, the Justice Leaders and The Hague Institute for Innovation of Law have the pleasure to invite you to an in-person panel discussion to reflect on the challenges and outlook for judicial independence in the context of the 2030 Agenda particularly in relation to Sustainable Development Goal 16: “Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies”.

On October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers, Mr. Diego García-Sayán will present his annual report to the United Nations General Assembly in New York. As he concludes his mandate as UN Special Rapporteur this fall, he examines the contributions of his previous reports to the achievement of the targets of

Sustainable Development Goal 16 and identifies the outstanding challenges and tasks for States in the area of justice.

These challenges can be grouped into three main areas: the influence of authoritarianism on judicial independence and the role of lawyers; the challenges posed by corruption for the justice system; and access to justice for all.

In response to the report of the UN Special Rapporteur, the Director of the Hague Institute for International Law, Sam Muller, will present the findings of a recent study undertaken by HiiL on access to justice as a key prerogative for just and peaceful societies (SDG16)

**Join us in this relevant debate with legal experts, practitioners, and government representatives!**

# Program Outline

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## **Welcome remarks (5 minutes):**

### **Sara Offermans**

Head of Development, Humanitarian Affairs and Human Rights  
Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the United Nations

## **Introductory remarks: (5 minutes)**

### **Andrea E. Ostheimer**

Representative of Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung to the United Nations, New York Office

## **Speakers: (15 minutes each)**

- **Diego García-Sayán**  
UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers
- **Swathi Mehta**  
Pathfinders for Justice
- **Sam Muller**  
Founding Director of The Hague Institute for Innovation of Law (HiiL)

## **Discussion and Questions (20 minutes)**

## **Closing Remarks: (20 minutes)**

- **Diego Garcia-Sayán**  
UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers

**Organisation:** Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, New York Office

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations

The Justice Leaders

The Hague Institute for Innovation of Law

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(The News Building)**

In person

**Registration:**

**Please kindly confirm your attendance to  
the following e-mail address  
[Kas-newyork@kas.de](mailto:Kas-newyork@kas.de)**