

Law, Justice & Development Week 2015
Talking Points for Anne-Marie Leroy
Opening Session
Monday, November 16, 2015

Mr. Mahmoud Mohieldin,

Honorable Lady Justice Njoki S. Ndung'u,

My fellow General Counsels,

Partners in the Global Forum for Law, Justice and Development,

Ladies and gentlemen:

On behalf also of the General Counsels of MIGA, ICSID, and the IFC, it gives me great pleasure to welcome all of you to Washington DC, to the World Bank, and to our sixth Law, Justice and Development Week.

We are delighted to again be hosting this exciting Week. We have more than **100 sessions** lined up for you, with more than **1300 participants** registered to attend this week's event, and **over 200 of you will be participating as speakers** in the various sessions. The World Bank Group and its partners in the Global Forum for Law, Justice and Development are well represented, and so are government officials, non-governmental organizations, and legal scholars.

Over 30 of the sessions this week have been organized by our **Global Forum Partners**. Their year-round involvement lays the foundation for the sessions this week, and their Thematic Working Group and Community of Practice meetings

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during this week will ensure that the coming year's collaborations are productive and substantive.

We would like to thank our **financial sponsors** for their significant contributions, which have enabled us to make this week a reality in the face of significant constraints on resources:

- Our biggest sponsors this year include:
 - VALE
 - The MITRE Corporation
 - The World Bank's MENA Region

And we also received contributions from:

- GIZ
- Cordaid
- LexisNexis
- Corporacion Andina de Formento ("CAF")
- The Kuwait Fund of Arab Economic Development,
- The International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance
(International IDEA)

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Monday, November 16, 2015

- We are also grateful for the continued support of our long-time partner, the **George Washington University Law School**, which is sponsoring the reception this evening in the World Bank's Atrium, ,
- We are grateful also for our continued collaboration with the **American Bar Association**. We note with appreciation that the ABA is sponsoring this year's reception in collaboration with American University Washington College of Law on Tuesday at the World Bank's Atrium.

Last but very definitely not least, I want to express my special thanks to all the over 50 LEG staff, as well as Bank staff from other units, that have worked so tirelessly over months to put this event together. I don't have to tell you the amount of work that goes into a week-long event of these dimensions. And all this they have done over and above their normal daily duties.

We have a very rich program again this year. Today and tomorrow, we will be 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.

We will be focusing particularly on three dimensions of this theme:

First, the **formulation of law**: how societal values and beliefs are translated into formal and informal norms, including constitutions and laws;

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Second, 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; and

Third, 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.

Of course, we know that these dimensions are intimately interconnected—so I would encourage you attend sessions from all of these streams.

As in previous years, **Wednesday will have a regional focus**. This year we will be exploring law-related development challenges and opportunities in the Middle East and North Africa Region. Our MENA Day will include vivid discussions about numerous current topics such as the Middle East refugee crisis, constitutional reform in the Region, Islamic Finance, the development impact of international investment agreements and more. Experts and practitioners from the region are joining us to share their first-hand experiences and insights on these interesting topics. And we are honored to have Ms. Leila Zerrougi, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict, as our a key note speaker for that day

And then **on Thursday, we will be focusing on legal issues relating to the World Bank and other international financing institutions**. This year, IFI Day will focus on topical and timely issues relevant to the organization and work of IFIs. The sessions feature an impressive array of speakers from a variety of IFIs, academia and the

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Monday, November 16, 2015

public and private sectors. The discussions will consider issues relating to, among others, privileges and immunities, human rights, anti-corruption, fragility and conflict, procurement, and the establishment of new development institutions.

All in all, we have an extremely rich and extensive program for you this year. So, without further ado, I'd like to give the floor to the Bank's Corporate Secretary and the President's Special Envoy, **Mahmoud Mohieldin**, who will speak about on the role of rule of law, justice and good governance in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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For after Mahmoud's speech:

Thank you Mahmoud.

Now we will turn to **Lady Justice Njoki S. Ndung'u**, who will speak about her storied career, in particular her important contributions to the Kenya constitutional making process and the legislative process.