

**Statement of the United States of America**  
**On the Occasion of**  
**The 67<sup>th</sup> Session UN General Assembly's Rule of Law High Level Meeting**  
**September 24, 2012**

**Strengthening the rule of law at the international level**

Support for the United Nations:

- The United States intends to support the UN Principles and Guidelines on Access to Legal Aid and Criminal Justice Systems during the 67<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly.
- The United States intends to continue its efforts to nominate civilian advisors in the areas of police, justice and corrections reform to UN missions over the next two years to support UN initiatives in the rule of law sector in conflict and post-conflict situations.
- The United States, through its International Police Peacekeeping Operations Support Program, intends to support the UN efforts to bolster the number of qualified female applicants to serve in UN missions as individual peacekeeping officers.
- The United States intends to continue to support the counternarcotics and anti-crime activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), particularly its role as champion of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols, the UN Convention against Corruption and the drug control framework. The United States intends to support UNODC technical assistance and capacity building efforts to promote treaty implementation. In 2013, the United States expects to continue funding UNODC projects that strengthen criminal justice infrastructure through upgrading essential legislation, providing justice sector training, improving judicial cooperation, and providing on-site operational support to law enforcement, prosecution and judicial services.
- The United States intends to continue to help ensure accountability for those responsible for the most serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, and work to deter further violations. In particular, the United States intends to work to ensure that the international tribunals have the resources, personnel, and evidence they need to effectuate their mandates. The United States intends to continue to strongly support the application of targeted sanctions to help combat the threats posed by such violations to international peace and security.
- In 2013, the United States plans to support the UN-led capacity-building initiative focused on working with interested countries in the Middle East and North Africa region to develop new or strengthen existing prison rehabilitation and reintegration programs focused on violent extremist offenders. The UN plans to use the good practices contained in the Rome Memorandum to shape these capacity-building efforts.

- In 2013, the United States intends to support the development and implementation of a UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force human rights training and capacity-building program that will provide law enforcement officials in the Middle East and North Africa region, as well as in other regions, with concrete technical assistance on a range of human rights-related issues linked to preventing and countering terrorism.

### **Strengthening the rule of law at the national level**

#### Women's access to justice:

- In 2013, the United States intends to support improving women's access to justice by working to reduce domestic violence homicides in up to 12 jurisdictions with the goal of evaluating interventions and identifying best practices that can be replicated in other jurisdictions across the country.
- By 2013, the United States intends to support a national sexual assault forensic medical examination telemedicine center, which will initially provide services to four pilot sites, and begin a process evaluation of the center, with a goal to increase women's ability to get quality evidence collection following a sexual assault, improve health care for women in such cases, and increase successful prosecutions.
- The United States intends to assess family court structures and processes in cases involving allegations of domestic violence with the goal of identifying best practices that can be replicated in jurisdictions across the country.
- The United States intends to work with United States police agencies to develop model performance measures, internal guidelines, and quality assurance mechanisms that police agencies can use to improve the overall response to sexual assault crimes and implement the new definition of rape in the Uniform Crime Report.

#### Access to legal aid:

- 2013 is the 50th anniversary of the United States Supreme Court decision in *Gideon v. Wainwright*, which guaranteed the right to counsel for indigent defendants in criminal cases. The United States intends to mark this anniversary by elevating awareness of the importance of access to counsel and increasing the availability of qualified attorneys for those who need them. In 2013, the United States intends to sponsor and participate in public events celebrating the history and significance of the *Gideon* decision and highlighting the importance of prosecutors and defense attorneys working together to promote a fairer justice system.
- In 2013, the United States intends to strengthen safety-net programs for low-income and vulnerable Americans by strategically incorporating civil legal assistance.

- In 2013, the United States intends to improve training opportunities for United States civil legal aid lawyers.

### **Strengthening the nexus between national and international levels**

Support to implementing the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) good practices documents:

- In 2013, the United States, in cooperation with relevant regional organizations where appropriate, intends to work to deliver regional training and assistance programs designed to foster adoption and implementation of the criminal justice sector good practices contained in the GCTF's Rabat Memorandum, and good practices contained in the GCTF's Rome Memorandum on the rehabilitation and reintegration of extremist violent offenders, the with a particular focus on the Middle East, North Africa and Asian regions.

Enhancement of regional cooperation:

- In 2013, the United States intends to conduct training workshops to promote regional cooperation among Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand in the investigation and prosecution of terrorism and terrorist financing cases.
- In 2013, the United States intends to support the Intergovernmental Authority on Development's Security Sector Program's prosecutorial training workshops, focused on the implementation of the Rabat good practices in East Africa.

Addressing transnational threats

- The United States intends to support development of a public diplomacy campaign to raise awareness of the harm caused by wildlife poaching and trafficking to conservation efforts, rule of law, governance, and economic development.

Ensuring accountability

- The United States intends to look for ways to strengthen the United States' ability to prosecute atrocity crimes and to prevent our country from becoming a safe haven for abusers.

### **Strengthening support to Member States**

Multi-country support:

- The United States intends to implement the United States Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence Globally, a three-year strategy released in August 2012, including advocating for and supporting development and implementation of laws and policies in other countries to monitor, prevent, and respond to gender-based violence and supporting capacity-building of and outreach to the criminal justice sector.

- The United States intends to continue implementation of the United States National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, which aims to empower women to act as equal partners in preventing conflict and building peace in countries threatened and affected by war, violence and insecurity. With a focus on protection, the United States intends to support the development of effective accountability and transitional justice mechanisms that address crimes committed against women and girls. The United States intends to continue promoting Women, Peace and Security in our bilateral and multilateral relationships by leveraging new and existing resources to advance the outcomes, actions and commitments contained in the National Action Plan. That includes multi-country efforts to support women's advocacy and capacity building against violent extremism.
- The United States intends to continue to support rule of law capacity building initiatives to support transitional justice. The United States, together with our partners, intends to continue to support initiatives in states including the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Cote D'Ivoire and elsewhere to bolster capacities to investigate and prosecute atrocity crimes and to build justice systems that can deliver fair, impartial justice.
- The United States intends to continue to build its institutional capabilities as contemplated by its Presidential Study Directive 10 to help the United States engage early and effectively to help prevent mass atrocities.
- The United States intends to continue supporting the deployment of police, justice and corrections advisors, bilaterally and through the UN, to assist Member States to improve rule of law.
- The United States intends to support an assessment in the Great Lakes region of Africa, to conclude by June 2013, to evaluate judicial training needs and the viability of establishing a regional Judicial Training Institute (JTI) that would strengthen the rule of law in the DRC, Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, and the Central African Republic. The assessment will take into account the views and objectives of government, non-government, local and international judicial experts.
- The United States intends to support efforts by the Abu Dhabi-based International Center of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism to advance a curriculum and pilot trainings on community-policing good practices to counter violent extremism and strengthen rule of law.
- The United States intends to support local law enforcement, capacity-building efforts to engage with at-risk communities and encourage community resilience to violent extremism.
- In 2013, the United States intends to continue support for establishment of the International Institute on Justice and the Rule of Law in Tunisia. The Institute will be designed to serve as an international center dedicated to providing human rights-based

counterterrorism training to police, prosecutors, judges and other criminal justice officials, as well as other relevant stakeholders, with a particular focus on countries in the Middle East and North Africa region.

- In 2013, the United States intends to support the Institute for Security Studies (located in Pretoria)-led counterterrorism training of judges, police, and prosecutors in East and West Africa, focused on enhancing the capacity of countries in these regions to effectively and appropriately detect, investigate, and prosecute terrorist acts domestically, including through enhanced regional and international law enforcement and criminal justice cooperation.
- In 2013, the United States intends to support UN-led training workshops to strengthen the capacity of countries in South Asia to ensure the protection of victims of terrorism and other witnesses in terrorism trials.
- In 2013, the United States intends to support UN-led training workshops to strengthen the capacity of Ministry of Justice central authorities from various countries to engage in international cooperation in criminal matters related to terrorism.
- In 2013, the United States intends to support training for members of the Indonesian and Malaysian judiciary on how to strengthen judicial security in terrorism and other high risk trials.
- In 2013, a United States Legal Advisor intends to support a Legal Advisor to work at the United States Mission to the African Union to support the training of AU member criminal justice officials on how to implement the recently adopted, rule of law-based AU model law on countering terrorism at the national level.
- In 2013, the United States intends to continue to train law enforcement officials in the Sahel region on ways to prevent kidnapping for ransom and to deny terrorists the benefits of hostage taking.
- The United States intends to continue providing support for Yemeni and Somali officials to focus on the transnational threat posed by al-Shabaab and al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula. This effort will include senior Yemeni law enforcement, justice sector, and security officials who will participate with their Somali counterparts.
- In 2013, United States intends to support a project to build counterterrorism investigative capacity among the members of the East African Community (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda).
- In 2013, the United States intends to conduct training to strengthen anti-money laundering/counterterrorist finance capacities in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Jordan, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Yemen.

#### Afghanistan:

- The United States intends to work with the formal justice sectors to support legal education and curriculum reform, raise the prominence of women within the judiciary, and increase citizen's knowledge of legal rights and accessing the courts. The United States also intends to work with local authorities and community-based traditional dispute resolution (TDR) mechanisms to formalize interactions between the two to ensure TDR practices adhere to Afghan law and human rights standards.
- The United States intends to increase its support for Afghan women's shelters through 2013.
- The United States intends to invest funding by 2014 in Afghan civil society to increase transparency in justice and government services on the local level.

#### Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

- In 2013, the United States intends to continue support to strengthen the justice sector in the DRC both at the central and targeted local areas. In part, this support will work to increase access to justice for vulnerable populations, including support for mobile courts, legal assistance and other activities to increase accessibility of justice, with women as a core target group. This support will include activities to improve the gender balance in the judiciary and the Council of Magistrates.

#### Indonesia:

- In 2013, the United States intends to conduct a training program for senior Indonesian judges that will offer instruction on how to try terrorism cases using a rule of law and human rights-based approach.

#### Iraq:

- In 2013, United States intends to continue to work in Iraq to improve the practical knowledge of vulnerable and disadvantaged Iraqis of their responsibilities, rights and remedies under Iraqi law; increase the competence and availability of legal professionals and civil society, better preparing them to serve vulnerable populations; and improve government processes and procedures, facilitating access of vulnerable populations to government services and legal remedies. The United States intends to continue to support Iraqi NGOs that provide legal assistance to women, helping them in navigate legal procedures in order to access government benefits and to represent them in the formal justice system. The female beneficiaries will include victims of domestic violence; women with unregistered marriages; widows; poor, illiterate, or divorced women; and internally displaced persons and returnees.

#### Jordan:

- In 2013 the United States intends to support programs that work with Jordan's Judicial Institute to empower and train newly-appointed female judges, in addition to supporting female students at the Judicial Diploma Program. The training will include mentoring by senior female judges to build technical capacity and ensure their integration into the

judicial system. The legal education/human rights program will focus on training female law students and female professionals to encourage them to enter the legal field.

Kenya:

- Kenya's new Constitution guarantees women's land rights as well as recognizes the role of traditional dispute resolution mechanisms in implementing the Constitution. In 2013, the United States intends to support a pilot program intended to serve as a model for improving rural women's access to justice on land issues, while building processes to bridge the gap between state/formal and customary/informal justice systems. The effort aims to shift attitudes regarding women's land rights and thereby improve community practice towards women's access and rights to land as well as empower women to participate in the local governance decision-making processes.

Liberia:

- The United States intends to continue support to develop and expand activities of community legal advisors to empower rural and marginalized communities to enforce and protect their rights while providing tangible options for justice, and strengthen dispute resolution capacity of indigenous leaders, including women and youth.

Malaysia:

- In 2013, the United States intends to continue its work with Government of Malaysia to develop a rule of law-based counterterrorism legal framework that will replace its recently repealed Internal Security Act, and to oversee training of Malaysian counterterrorism prosecutors.

Tunisia:

- In 2013, the United States intends to help provide funding to UN-led counterterrorism-focused training of judges and prosecutors.

Uganda:

- The United States intends to support efforts to mitigate land conflicts, prevent emerging conflict and promote reconciliation processes. These efforts aim to build the institutional capacity to resolve potential conflict triggers and build on peace gains in northern Uganda. These efforts will give particular focus on interventions to address gender imbalances for sustainable peace by working with traditional and cultural institutions to ensure that support for traditional and informal mechanisms of resolving land disputes and conflict complies with existing laws, coordinates with other judicial processes and promotes gender equality.
- The United States intends to support the Ugandan Police Force Community Policing Outreach program, which is designed to help Uganda build teams organized by policing regions that will travel year-round to conduct Community Policing Forums in every district of Uganda on an annual basis.

*High-level meeting on the rule of law at the national and international levels*

**Pledge registration form**

The United States of the America hereby pledges (max. 10 lines):

See attached

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(Note: Pledge should include specific dates)

Proposed implementation steps (in 2013 or if later, please specify - \_\_\_\_):

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**Pledging State:**

Contact information for responsible official(s):

Full name: Steven Hill

Title/organization: Deputy Legal Adviser, US Mission to the United Nations

Email: hills@state.gov

Date: September 24, 2012

Place: New York

Signature: .....  .....

Additional contact information for person/service/institution in charge of follow-up:

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**Return Information:**

Please submit this Pledge registration form to the Rule of Law Unit (email: [rule-of-law@un.org](mailto:rule-of-law@un.org) or fax: +1-212-963-2030).