

## 2023 IHRP Summer Fellowship

### *Final Report*

International Development Law Organization

Sam Misner, JD/MGA 2025

This summer I completed a fellowship with the International Development Law Organization (IDLO). I worked as a research intern in the Research and Learning Department in the Hague office.



*Myself (3<sup>rd</sup> person) and some of my colleagues in the Hague office*

IDLO is the only global intergovernmental organization exclusively devoted to promoting the rule of law to advance peace and sustainable development. The IDLO works to enable governments and empower people to reform laws, and strengthen institutions to promote peace, justice, sustainable development, and economic opportunity. Its programs, research and policy advocacy cover the spectrum of rule of law from peace and institution building to social development and economic recovery in countries emerging from conflict. IDLO was granted observer status at the United Nations General Assembly in 2002 and has experience working in more than 90 countries around the world with various legal systems. IDLO empowers people and communities to claim their rights and provides governments with the know-how to realize them.

I applied to the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) to build my knowledge and understanding of current trends in international development and international human rights law, and analyze legal issues related to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. I

acquired experience in and understanding of research processes, methods, and technical writing in support of international development programming, institutional learning and policy influencing. This fellowship allowed me to learn from experienced lawyers in the field and build my professional network in the international development and law sector.

Living in the Hague and working at an intergovernmental organization uniquely positioned me to meet and network with many lawyers working in international human rights law. I had the opportunity to attend events at organizations such as the International Criminal Court (ICC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and Barefoot Law. These opportunities have given me tremendous exposure to a wide range of organizations.

### *Summer Internship Deliverables*

My two main priorities were supporting the production of two knowledge products that will be published in 2023; a country brief on the Transformation of the Kenyan Judiciary and a policy brief on a people-centred approach to pre-trial detention.

The main aim of the country brief on the Transformation of the Kenyan Judiciary was to draw insights from IDLO's work with the Kenya Judiciary to inform both national and international policymakers and practitioners interested in the dynamics and impact of building well-functioning justice systems, as well as understanding the effects of reforms to Kenya's Judiciary in terms of democratic consolidation and sustaining peace. My work included: writing a 30-page memo on the Justice-democracy-stability nexus to understand the role of the judiciary in democratization and sustaining peace; synthesizing IDLOs Kenya project documents; conducting interviews with key internal informants from the IDLOs Kenya country office and external informants working within the Kenyan judiciary to help develop the report; co-drafting the 60 page first draft of the country brief; editing the report based on internal feedback, including from my manager, director, gender team and Kenya country office; and creating a communications package to assist in the dissemination of the report.

The policy brief on a people-centred approach to pre-trial detention aims to identify legal and institutional policy changes within the formal justice sector that reduce pre-trial detention, and a range of complementary interventions, both state and non-state-based, that contribute to the achievement of that aim. The issue is solution-oriented and adopts a preventive focus, advocating for a measurable and sustainable reduction of pre-trial detention in the long-term. The main output of this research is an issue brief including a special feature section on pre-trial detention of youth. During the summer, I conducted over 20 internal and external interviews with professionals with experience and expertise in pre-trial detention to assist in developing the policy brief. I co-drafted the first 60-page draft and incorporated initial internal feedback. I also organized a consultation with experts on pre-trial detention of juveniles and young adults to help inform the special feature section scheduled at the end of August.

Other ad hoc tasks I have worked on throughout my internship include:

- Organized and facilitated a consultation on customary and informal pathways to transitional justice. 23 top experts in the field of customary and informal justice from around the world participated (15 in person and 8 online). Approximately 45 people were in the in-person audience, including a delegation of 20 African Supreme Court Justices. (Please see pictures on the following page)
- Edited a policy brief on food systems transformations and created a 2-page highlight of the report published on IDLOs website and social media pages.
- IDLO partnered with UN Women and national partners to produce legal assessment reports on eliminating discriminatory laws (EDL) in four countries: Kenya, The Philippines, Mali, and Sierra Leone. I co-drafted the first draft of a policy-relevant synthesis report consolidating insights and recommendations from these country-level exercises.
- I edited the content, supported the design work and designed social media posts for an issue brief on IDLOs Pandemic Preparedness and Response Project.
- I have partaken in meetings for the Justice for women and girls cross-cluster, the anti-corruption and criminal justice cluster, and the Customary and Informal Justice cross-cluster.

Events I have participated in throughout my internship include:

- A 2-day Expert Group Meeting on Advancing Rule of Law Solutions to Achieve Feminist Climate Action (June)
- HagueTalks with UNEP ED Inger Andersen and Mert Kumru: Planetary Crisis – Can we Fight Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss and Pollution? (June)
- Launch World Youth Climate Justice Handbook (June)
- Expert Group Meeting on Women's Participation and Leadership in CIJ (June)
- Presentation from Robert Okello, Europe Lead at Barefoot Law
- HagueTalks, Hague Project Peace and Justice - Can Rule of Law Sustain Democracy and Peace?
- Hague Talks, UN Women & UNDP: Why having more women judges benefits all of society
- 5th Asia-Pacific Forum of the International Criminal Court
- IGC event on Gender and AI with Embassy of Switzerland and Cyprus
- Consultation on Customary and Informal Justice (CIJ) and SDG16+: Youth leadership and participation in CIJ systems
- Presentation from Samuel Emonet, Executive Director from Justice Rapid Response



*Photo from the Consultation on Customary and Informal Pathways to Transitional Justice I organized*



*Photo from the Consultation on Customary and Informal Pathways to Transitional Justice I organized*





*Myself and some of my colleagues at my farewell lunch*



*One of the HagueTalk Events I attended during Hague Justice week in June*



*A windmill in Kinderdijk*



*Tulips in Keukenhof Tulip Gardens*