JUDICIAL STRATEGIC PLAN (2018-2022)

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TOWARDS IMPROVING JUSTICE FOR ALL

Judicial Strategic Plan (2018-2022)

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE UNION

During the past three years there have been significant changes in the Court's judicial functions and administrative arrangements as provided by the **Judicial Strategic Plan (2015-2017)**. Pursuant to our previous Plan, we identified the core strategic action areas and set out the initiatives and actions for each year. In late 2017, the Supreme Court of the Union built upon the foundations of the previous Plan so as to meet the emerging needs of the people resulting in the new **Judicial Strategic Plan (2018-2022)** with the theme *"Towards Improving Justice for All"*. Accompanying this new Strategic Plan is our **Strategic Action Plan for 2018** which details actions that will be implemented during its initial year.

We are honored and pleased to present to the people of Myanmar this Five-Year Judicial Strategic Plan (2018-2022). This document will guide the work and activities of the Myanmar Judiciary over the course of the next five years and it will set forth a framework to enhance the public trust and confidence in the Judiciary by improving services, accessibility and accountability.

Myanmar is blessed with a rich diversity of energetic people in addition to a land holding abundant natural resources. We have a Constitution that guarantees every person the rights of equality, liberty, and justice. These rights, essential for an effective democratic system, are preserved by adherence to the rule of law and the courts must serve as a guardian of these cherished rights.

We remain steadfast in our committment to providing excellent service, more efficient operations, and more effective use of judicial resources in the years ahead. As set forth in the new Law on Legal Aid, we will guide and support a system that provides all people in need with quality legal assistance. Moreover, the Judiciary and its professional staff will continue to assist court users with courteous service in a safe and secure environment. Courts will engage with

the public and the media, providing important and essential information on court activities. We will continue to develop our Judiciary into a trusted and independent pillar of the Government, administering the business of the courts with fairness, efficiency, and transparency. Our judges and court staff will continue to be trained to attain the highest standards of ethics and professionalism and they will be held to those standards. Finally, our courts will manage the cases brought before them using the most effective and modern techniques of data collection, organization, and efficient case management.

Our new plan is the result of many months of deliberation and consultation by the Strategic Planning Team in collaboration with all departments of the Supreme Court of the Union, High Courts of the Regions and States and our international partner institutions. We especially acknowledge and thank the USAID Promoting the Rule of Law Project (PRLP) for their support and efforts in working with the Planning Team as well as all of the stakeholders and Civil Society Organizations who contributed. They all deserve special gratitude and appreciation for their helpful and constructive efforts.

The Hon. Htun Htun Oo Chief Justice of the Union Supreme Court of the Union Republic of the Union of Myanmar

January 11, 2018 Nay Pyi Taw



Consultation Meeting with Stakeholders and CSOs

The Five-Year Judicial Strategic Plan (2018-2022) is the second strategic plan for the Myanmar Judiciary following the successful implementation of the preceding Three-Year Judicial Strategic Plan (2015-2017). Our new Strategic Plan builds on the experience and successes of the previous Plan which has provided a foundation for development and strength of Myanmar Judiciary.

With the guidance of the Chief Justice of the Union, the Planning Team for the Judicial Strategic Plan (2018-2022) was formed on 1 January 2017. Soon thereafter, the drafting process for the Strategic Plan was started with the support and assistance of USAID through its Promoting Rule of Law Project (PRLP).

During the initial stage, the Planning Team conducted an internal assessment which involved a review of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats experienced during the course of the implementation of the previous plan. This assessment was conducted with support provided by the UNDP through its international consultants. For data and statistical analysis, the Team evaluated the workload of the cases and the experiences of the different levels of courts in 2015 and 2016 as well as taking into account the assessments conducted on the performance of eight Pilot Courts during 2017.

The participation of the various stakeholders in the justice sector in developing the five-year strategy was essential. This culminated in a consultation meeting on 21 June 2017 with the representatives of various Government agencies and relevant Civil Society Organizations and received valuable recommendations. Valuable technical support was also provided by our other key international partners such as experts from Denmark-Myanmar Programme on Rule of Law and Human Rights and International IDEA.

The Five-Year Plan is organized into strategic areas and objectives which have been set forth to highlight and emphasize the right of equality, liberty and justice for the people of Myanmar as well as to reflect and integrate the principles enshrined in the Fundamental Rights of the Citizens guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Beijing Statement of Principles of the Independence of the Judiciary, and the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct.

BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

The strategic initiatives are set forth in the Five-Year Strategic Plan and the related actions reflected in the Year One Action Plan (2018) are primarily derived from the work plans of the various departments, working committees, working groups and working teams of the Supreme Court of the Union and also incorporate feedback from the Region and State High Courts.

Regarding the planning for implementation of the Five-Year Plan, the Office of the Union Supreme Court conducted a coordination meeting with our international development partners on 30 November 2017 which was followed by a meeting on 10 December 2017 with the Heads of the Judicial Office from Regions and States.

In this Strategic Plan, the core strategic areas of Public Access, Public Awareness, Judicial Independence and Administrative Capacity, Professionalism, Accountability and Integrity of the Judiciary and Efficient Case Management and Court Specializations are organized and integrated with their related objectives and initiatives prioritized to realize our goal of moving steadily **"Towards Improving Justice for All."**



Consultation Meeting with Stakeholders and CSOs

OVERVIEW OF THE JUDICIAL STRATEGIC PLAN (2018-2022)

The Judicial Strategic Plan (2018-2022) defines the vision, mission and values of the Myanmar Judiciary for its reform process. The plan reflects the vision as its goal, its mission as the way to achieve the goal, and its values as guidance on how to carry forth judicial administration.

Vision

- To provide the highest quality of justice for all
- To promote public trust and confidence in the courts and effective rule of law

Mission

- To promote the rule of law and to foster regional peace and tranquility
- To enhance reliability and public trust in the judicial system
- To adjudicate cases fairly and efficiently in accordance with the law
- To upgrade the integrity of the court

Values

- Equality and Fairness
- Judicial Independence and Integrity
- Accessibility
- Efficiency and Timeliness

Strategic Action Areas

To achieve the vision, mission, and values of the judiciary, five Strategic Action Areas (SAA) are organized as follows:

- SAA 1: Facilitate and Expand Public Access to Court Services
- SAA 2: Promote Public Awareness
- SAA 3: Enhance Judicial Independence and Administrative Capacity
- SAA 4: Promote and Ensure the Professionalism, Accountability and Integrity of the Judiciary
- SAA 5: Promote Efficient Case Management and Court Specializations

Strategic Priorities

To achieve each of these five strategic action areas, the Five-Year Strategic Plan has identified a total of 16 Strategic Objectives and 39 Strategic Initiatives that will be implemented over the next five years.

The Five-Year Strategic Plan includes a set of strategic initiatives with outcome measures. For the implementation of the strategic initiatives, the priority ranks are set on the basis of immediate needs, continuing activities of the preceding 2017 action plan, and available resources.

- Priority Rank 1: Critical initiatives for immediate action in 2018
- Priority Rank 2: High priority initiatives for implementation in 2019 or 2020 as resources
 permit
- Priority Rank 3: Medium-term priority initiatives for implementation in 2021 or 2022 as resources permit



Consultation Meeting with Stakeholders and CSOs

Strategic Action Area 1 Facilitate and Expand Public Access to Court Services

Every person in Myanmar is entitled to justice. The Judiciary of Myanmar is committed to providing equal access, ensuring fairness, and upholding the rule of law for everyone. Our judges and court staff take pride in providing all people with the help and information they need to resolve their cases in the best way possible. A new Law on Legal Aid is now in effect and the Supreme Court of the Union will provide the impetus and leadership to see that this new groundbreaking law is fully implemented. We will ensure that all persons accused of crime, no matter their circumstances, are provided with quality legal representation.

Myanmar Courts strive to provide a safe and user-friendly environment in which all persons are able to have equal access to judicial services and to obtain the information from the courts that they require. Courthouses at all levels are being modernized and improved to serve as beacons of integrity and symbols of the key role that courts have in protecting citizens' rights and fostering the rule of law.

Strategic Objective 1.1: Establish effective Legal Aid system Priority Rank 1:

• Provide support to Union Legal Aid Board to manage and direct an effective nationwide Legal Aid system

Strategic Objective 1.2: Improve court users accessibility Priority Rank 1:

- Establish modern public information counters and intake centers in courts
- Develop automated case information system for the public

Strategic Objective 1.3: Ensure all people with business before the court are treated with courtesy, responsiveness and respect

Priority Rank 1:

• Continue training on customer service for judges and court staff

Strategic Objective 1.4: Build new courthouses and renovate existing courthouses to improve access to court services

Priority Rank 1:

- Develop basic standards of design for improving access to court services
- Modernize court facilities to assure adequate and safe access to court

Strategic Action Area 2 Promote Public Awareness

Preserving and enforcing the rule of law is a cornerstone to democracy and one of the most important responsibilities of the Judiciary. Our goal is to strengthen the public trust and confidence in our courts. We will improve our engagement with the public with open and transparent communications, public education, and court-community awareness programs. We will work with the media and the public by providing information services at all court levels. We will be proactive in communicating to the public our steps in achieving improvements in case processing and in promoting access to justice to all. Likewise, the Judiciary welcomes inquiries from the public and will provide timely and appropriate responses. **Strategic Objective 2.1:** Improve communication with the media and the public

Priority Rank 1:

- Train judges on media relations skills
- Improve public information services at courts
- Expand public information program

Strategic Objective 2.2: Enhance community-based program for court information

Priority Rank 1:

- Conduct public outreach programs
- Conduct public awareness programs on the Code of Judicial Ethics
- Provide court information to community in local languages

Strategic Action Area 3 Enhance Judicial Independence and Administrative Capacity

The importance of an independent, well-funded and wellfunctioning Judiciary to a thriving democracy cannot be overstated. The Judiciary must work closely with the Union's Executive and Legislative branches to ensure justice for all people in Myanmar and to secure the resources to fulfill the responsibilities of the Judiciary. The Judiciary must allocate and administer the resources provided to it by the Executive and Legislative branches of Government in the most efficient and responsible manner possible so as to realize the goals set forth in this strategic plan. Strong and effective administration in utilizing its financial and human resources is crucial for the Judiciary in maintaining and demonstrating its independence and in building public trust and confidence. **Strategic Objective 3.1:** Build and develop the Judiciary as a strong, trusted and independent institution

Priority Rank 1:

- Conduct assessment on current status of judicial independence
- Strengthen relationship with other branches of Government and CSOs to promote a fully functioning and independent Judiciary
- Strengthen relationship with international judicial institutions
- Draft bills, rules and procedures related to judicial sector and provide recommendations to other sectors as appropriate

Strategic Objective 3.2: Propose, advocate for, and administer the court budget in a transparent and responsible manner

Priority Rank 1:

- Review processes for integrated strategic planning and establishing budget priorities
- Enhance capacity of court personnel to administer the court budget

Strategic Objective 3.3: Enhance effective administrative capacities for the Judiciary

Priority Rank 1:

- Implement Five-Year IT Plan under the IT Master Plan for the entire Judiciary
- Develop and implement Automated Case Management System (ACMS)
- Continue trainings for court personnel on administrative and IT capacity

Priority Rank 2:

• Develop staffing guidelines for efficient allocation of human resources

Strategic Action Area 4 Promote and Ensure Professionalism, Accountability, and Integrity of the Judiciary

The Myanmar Judiciary is committed to delivering the highest level of judicial quality and integrity to all who appear in court. The Supreme Court of the Union will implement the newly adopted Code of Judicial Ethics and appropriate enforcement mechanisms to assure that the decisions and action of the courts adhere to the appropriate law. We will provide to the judges the necessary training and support to properly adjudicate the cases before them to include all laws, procedures, administrative rules, and policies, all while incorporating the prevailing ethical and professional standards. We will provide a secure and safe working environment for our judges and court staff as they carry out their important daily tasks serving the public. With the appropriate funding we will establish a new Judicial Training Center as well as legal research libraries and access to up-to-date on-line research capacities. With a professional and accountable judiciary that follows the law and renders decisions fairly and free of undue influences, the Judiciary will deservedly earn the trust and respect of all people in Myanmar.

Strategic Objective 4.1: Promote the ethical and professional advancement of judges and court staff

Priority Rank 1:

- Support the ethical advancement of judges and court staff
- Support the professional advancement of judges and court staff

Strategic Objective 4.2: Continue strengthening judicial and professional skills and abilities of court personnel

Priority Rank 1:

- Improve legal research capacity including upgrading judicial libraries
- Conduct data collection and analysis to support improving judicial performance and accountability
- Provide specific training to enhance judicial and professional skills for judges
- Continue training court staff to enhance efficiency and public satisfaction

Priority Rank 2:

Enhance the quality of judicial education

Strategic Objective 4.3: Ensure the safety and security of the courts

Priority Rank 1:

- Assess the current situation regarding court safety and security and provide recommendations
- Improve safety and security for courts
- Provide adequate staff housing

Strategic Objective 4.4: Establish new judicial training facility

Priority Rank 2:

• Develop a long range plan for design, financing and construction of the facility

Priority Rank 3:

 Implement the plan of judicial training facility

Strategic Action Area 5 Promote Efficient Case Management and Court Specializations

The public deserves a court system that works to resolve cases in a fair, just, timely, and efficient manner in accordance with the law. The courts throughout Myanmar are adopting new tested methods of case management based upon the recent experience of Pilot Court Program. Efficient case flow management techniques aided by a modern automated case management system minimize the burden on victims, witnesses, attorneys, and the court staff. With these modern case management processes, wasted time caused by postponements will be significantly reduced. To deal with disputes caused by a rapidly growing and modernizing economy, the Judiciary in Myanmar will also identify and develop specialized divisions and chambers in the courts as well as adopting new case resolution procedures utilizing modern and effective international standards of adjudication.

Strategic Objective 5.1: Implement a national Case Management Program (CMP) for courts

Priority Rank 1:

- Develop a three-year phased approach to implement the designed national CMP for courts
- Develop training program on CMP

Strategic Objective 5.2: Establish areas for court specializations

Priority Rank 1:

• Specify and implement court specialization areas

Priority Rank 3:

 Improve substantive justice for vulnerable groups

Strategic Objective 5.3: Establish efficient and effective court dispute resolution systems

Priority Rank 1:

 Develop Court-led mediation system in courts



Judicial Strategic Planning Team with USAID-PRLP

KEY PERFORMANCE TARGETS

The attached table provides the Performance Targets which identify three time ranges for the Five-Year Strategic Plan (2018-2022). The time frames for target generally coincide with priority rankings for strategic initiatives of PR 1 (2018), PR 2 (2019-2020), and PR 3 (2021-2022).

The Performance Targets for the 2018-2022 Strategic Plan would apply to all courts as opposed to the 2015-2017 Strategic Plan that essentially focused on pilot court performance. The **Pilot Court Program** which has been initiated under the previous strategic plan was completed in 2017 and pilot court case management best practices will be expanded to all courts as the national **Case Management Program** (CMP) over a three-year phased in period.

Performance targets for 2019-2020 are set at higher levels as courts implement pilot court best practices. The 2021-2022 performance targets are intended as model overall performance standards.

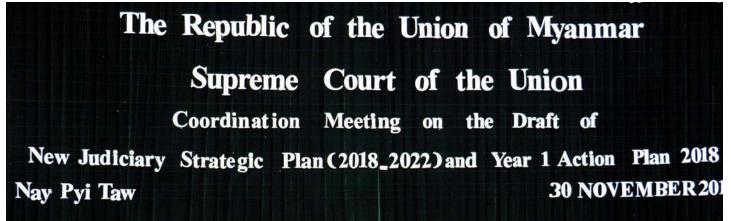
Key Performance Measure	Baseline Data Source	Measure	Baseline	Performance Target 2018	Performance Target 2019-20	Performance Target 2021-22
Calendar Clearance (Number of cases disposed divided by number of	National Clearance Rates ¹	Criminal Clearance Rate	98%	99%	100%	100%
cases added)		Civil Clearance Rate	96%	98%	100%	100%
		Total Clearance Rate	97%	99%	100%	100%
Age of Pending Caseload (Number of cases pending over time standard divided by total pending)	National Age of Pending Cases ²	Percent of Criminal cases pending over 12 months	7%	6%	5%	5%
		Percent of Civil cases pending over 36 months ³	5%	3%	2%	2%
Court User Satisfaction (Percent of Users satisfied with services and efficiency of the court)	Pilot Courts (Q-10 Survey- 2017)⁴	Court User Satisfaction (Q-10 Survey)	72%	75%	77%	80%
Postponement Rate (Number of hearings postponed divided by	Pilot Courts (2017)	Criminal Postponement Rate	31%	25%	20%	20%
hearings scheduled)		Civil Postponement Rate	26%	25%	20%	20%
Average Number of Hearing Scheduled Per Case (Total number of hearings held from case filing to	Pilot Courts (2017)	Criminal Cases	8.5	8	8	8
disposition)		Civil Cases	21.5	18	14	12

¹ Source: Supreme Court 2016 Annual Report (June 2017); Aggregate of District and Township Courts clearance data

² Source: Supreme Court 2016 Annual Report (June 2017); Aggregate of District and Township Courts age of pending case data

³ Note: Time standard for "backlog" cases are defined as "Civil cases pending over 36 months" and "Criminal cases pending over 12 months" in the Annual Report (2016). The Case Management Plan sets new differentiated time standards based on case complexity. The definition of backlog in the CMP plan for standard civil cases is 18 months and complex civil cases 24 months.

⁴ Pilot Courts data source: Users Satisfaction survey (Q-10) in eight (8) pilot courts (July 2017); Closed case surveys calculate average postponement and number of hearings rates (July 2017)





Coordination Meeting with International Partners

IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN

Achieving the objectives set forth in the Strategic Plan can only be accomplished through effective implementation.

Implementation will be under the leadership of the Chief Justice of the Union and the **Executive Committee of the Supreme Court of the Union**, which is comprised of all Justices and high-ranking officers of the Supreme Court of the Union. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice, the Executive Committee will adopt reform policies as well as provide overall supervision and oversight of the implementation process of the Strategic Plan.

At the Union level, the **Strategic Plan Implementation Committee**, led by a Justice of the Supreme Court of the Union, will carry out intensive monitoring and evaluation of the Strategic Plan implementation and oversee the management activities. The Committee will submit regular reports to the Chief Justice of the Union on the progress of the activities of the plan and will also provide annually the action plan for each year. At the Region and State level, implementation and management will be the responsibility of the respective **Regional or State Management Body** led by the Chief Judge of the respective High Court. The Body will submit regular reports to the **Strategic Plan Implementation Committee** on the progress of the activities of the plan in each respective region and will also provide the action plan.

Especially, the success of the Strategic Plan, as ambitious and challenging as it is, will be based upon the commitment and diligence of the judges, judicial officers, and court staff towards the goal of achieving the highest quality of justice possible and preserving the well-deserved excellent reputation of our courts.

Area 1: Facilitate and Expand Public Access to Court Services

STRATEGIC ACTION AREAS/ STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	PRIORITY	TIME- LINE	RESPONSIBLE PERSONS	OUTCOME MEASURES
Strategic Objective 1.1 Establish effective Legal Aid system	1.1.1 Provide support to Union Legal Aid Board to manage and direct an effective nationwide Legal Aid system	PR-1	2018	ULAB + LAWG+LPDP+ IPs+ PRLP+ MJ	Timely completion
Strategic Objective 1.2 Improve court users	1.2.1 Establish modern public information counters and intake centers in courts	PR-1	2018	BLDP+ HCs+ IPs + PRLP	Number of established + Court user satisfaction
accessibility	1.2.2 Develop automated Case Information System (CIS) for the public	PR-1	2018	BLDP+ IT&PRDP+ IPs	Timely completion
Strategic Objective 1.3 Ensure all people with business before the court are treated with courtesy, responsiveness and respect	1.3.1 Continue training on customer service for judges and court staff	PR-1	2018	CMC+ TDP + HCs + DCs+ TCs+ IPs	Number of trained + Participants' evaluation + Court user satisfaction
Strategic Objective 1.4 Build new courthouses and	1.4.1 Develop basic standards of design for improving access to court services	PR-1	2018	BLDP+PRLP	Timely completion
renovate existing courthouses to improve access to court services	1.4.2 Modernize court facilities to assure adequate and safe access to court	PR-1	2018	BLDP+IT&PRDP+ HCs+ DCs+ UNICEFWG+ IPs + UNICEF	Number of provided

Area 2: Promote Public Awareness

STRATEGIC ACTION AREAS/ STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	PRIORITY	TIME- LINE	RESPONSIBLE PERSONS	OUTCOME MEASURES
Strategic Objective 2.1 Improve communication	2.1.1 Train judges on media relations skills	PR-1	2018	TDP + IT&PRDP + HCs + <mark>IPs + PRLP</mark>	Number of trained + Pre/post training tests
with the media and the public	2.1.2 Improve public information services at courts	PR-1	2018	IT&PRDP + All Courts	Public satisfaction + Number of engagements
	2.1.3 Expand public information program	PR-1	2018	IT&PRDP + LPDP + CART + UNICEFWG + ASEAN Js + IPs + UNICEF + FCA + UNDP	Level of progress + Timely completion
Strategic Objective 2.2 Enhance community-based programs for court information	2.2.1 Conduct public outreach programs	PR-1	2018	ADP + IT&PRDP + CRC + All courts + IPs + PRLP + UNODC + MJ	Number of programs
	2.2.2 Conduct public awareness programs on Code of Judicial Ethics for Myanmar Judges	PR-1	2018	JERC + ECWG + DPWG + All courts + IPs + DP	Number of activities
	2.2.3 Provide court information to community in local languages	PR-1	2018	IT&PRDP + HCs + IPs +MJ	Number distributed

Area 3: Enhance Judicial Independence and Administrative Capacity

STRATEGIC ACTION AREAS/ STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	PRIORITY	TIME- LINE	RESPONSIBLE PERSONS	OUTCOME MEASURES
Strategic Objective 3.1 Build and develop the Judiciary as a strong,	3.1.1 Conduct assessment on current status of judicial independence	PR-1	2018	IR&RDP + DPWG + IPs + DP + IDEA	Timely completion
trusted and independent institution	3.1.2 Strengthen relationship with other branches of Government and CSOs to promote a fully functioning and independent Judiciary	PR-1	2018	USC + Gov't stakeholders + CSOs + IPs + IDEA + UNICEF	Number of engagements + Perception of stakeholders + Outcomes of workshop
	3.1.3 Strengthen relationship with international judicial institutions	PR-1	2018	USC + IJIs + IPs + ADB	Result of engagements
	3.1.4 Draft bills, rules and procedures related to judicial sector and provide recommendations to other sectors as appropriate	PR-1	2018	LPDP+ IR&RDP + WG I + ILDC + ILWG + IPs + ADB + JICA	Number of bills and amendments reviewed +Timely completion
Strategic Objective 3.2 Propose, advocate for and administer the court budget in a transparent and responsible manner	3.2.1 Review processes for integrated strategic planning and establishing budget priorities	PR-1	2018	SPIC + BLDP + IPs + PRLP	Strategic planning linked to budget priorities+ Timely budget request with narrative+ Level of approval of the proposed budget
	3.2.2 Enhance capacity of court personnel to administer the court budget	PR-1	2018	BLDP + HCs+ IPs + PRLP	Solutions to problems+ Number of trained

Area 3: Enhance Judicial Independence and Administrative Capacity

STRATEGIC ACTION AREAS/ STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	PRIORITY	TIME- LINE	RESPONSIBLE PERSONS	OUTCOME MEASURES
Strategic Objective 3.3 Enhance effective administrative capacities for the Judiciary	3.3.1 Implement Five-Year IT Plan under the IT Master Plan for the entire Judiciary	PR-1	2018	IT&PRDP + All courts + <mark>IPs</mark>	Timely completion
	3.3.2 Develop and implement Automated Case Management System (ACMS)	PR-1	2018	IT&PRDP + CrJDP + CJDP + WDP + All courts + IPs + PRLP + UNDP	Timely completion
	3.3.3 Continue trainings for court personnel on administrative and IT capacity	PR-1	2018	USC all departments + All courts + IPs + PRLP + UNDP	Number of trained
	3.3.4 Develop staffing guidelines for efficient allocation of human resources	PR-2	2019- 2020	ADP + IPs	Timely completion

Area 4: Promote and Ensure the Professionalism, Accountability and Integrity of the Judiciary

STRATEGIC ACTION AREAS/ STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	PRIORITY	TIME- LINE	RESPONSIBLE PERSONS	OUTCOME MEASURES
Strategic Objective 4.1 Promote the ethical and professional advancement of judges and court staff	4.1.1 Support the ethical advancement of judges and court staff	PR-1	2018	JERC + CRC + ADP +TDP + ECWG + UNODCWG + IPs + DP + UNODC	Timely completion + Outcomes of discussion
	4.1.2 Support the professional advancement of judges and court staff	PR-1	2018	TDP + ADP + PDWG + IPs + PRLP	Timely completion
Strategic Objective 4.2 Continue strengthening judicial and professional skills and abilities of	4.2.1 Improve legal research capacity including upgrading judicial libraries	PR-1	2018	IR&RDP + IT&PRDP + DPWG + + IPs + DP	Number of research works + Improvement of libraries
court personnel	4.2.2 Conduct data collection and analysis to support improving judicial performance and accountability	PR-1	2018	IR&RDP + IT&PRDP + CART + UNICEFWG + IPs + UNICEF + FCA + UNDP	Number of reports

Area 4: Promote and Ensure the Professionalism, Accountability and Integrity of the Judiciary

STRATEGIC ACTION AREAS/ STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	PRIORITY	TIME- LINE	RESPONSIBLE PERSONS	OUTCOME MEASURES
Strategic Objective 4.2 Continue strengthening judicial and professional skills and abilities of court personnel	4.2.3 Provide specific training to enhance judicial and professional skills for judges	CrJDP + CJDP+ WG III + WG V+		Timely completion + Number of judges trained + Participants' evaluation	
	4.2.4 Continue training court staff to enhance efficiency and public satisfaction	PR-1	2018	TDP+ ADP+ CrJDP + CJDP+ HCs + DCs + IPs	Timely completion + Number of trainings
	4.2.5 Enhance the quality of judicial education	PR-2	2019- 2020	TDP + IPs	Assessment of trainers and trainees
Strategic Objective 4.3 Ensure the safety and security of the courts	4.3.1 Assess the current situation regarding court safety and security and provide recommendations	PR-1	2018	IR&RDP +ADP + BLDP + <mark>IPs</mark>	Timely completion
security of the courts	4.3.2 Improve safety and security for courts	PR-1	2018	USC + HCs + Justice sector stakeholders + IPs + PRLP + UNDP	Steps taken
	4.3.3 Provide adequate staff housing	PR-1	2018	BLDP + HCs	Number of units provided

Area 4: Promote and Ensure the Professionalism, Accountability and Integrity of the Judiciary

STRATEGIC ACTION AREAS/ STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	PRIORITY	TIME- LINE	RESPONSIBLE PERSONS	OUTCOME MEASURES
Strategic Objective 4.4 Establish new judicial training facility	4.4.1 Develop a long range plan for design, financing and construction of the facility	PR-2	2019- 2020	TDP + BLDP + IPs	Timely completion
	4.4.2 Implement the plan for judicial training facility	PR-3	2021- 2022	USC + IPs	Timely completion

Area 5: Promote Efficient Case Management and Court Specializations

STRATEGIC ACTION AREAS/ STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	PRIORITY	TIME- LINE	RESPONSIBLE PERSONS	OUTCOME MEASURES
Strategic Objective 5.1 Implement a national Case Management Program (CMP) for courts	5.1.1. Develop a three-year phased approach to implement the designed national CMP for courts	PR-1	2018	SPIC+ CMC + LPDP + IT&PRDP + All courts+ IPs + PRLP	Completion of national CMP implementation
	5.1.2 Develop training program on CMP for judges and court staff	PR-1	2018	TDP + CMC + HCs + IPs + PRLP	
Strategic Objective 5.2 Establish areas for court specializations	5.2.1 Specify and implement court specialization areas	PR-1	2018	IR&RDP + LPDP + CrJDP + CJDP + WGs + IPs + JICA + ADB + PRLP	Number of specified areas and level of implementation
	5.2.2 Improve substantive justice for vulnerable groups	PR-3	2021- 2022	USC + IPs	Number of special programs
Strategic Objective 5.3 Establish efficient and effective Court Dispute Resolution (CDR) systems	5.3.1 Develop Court-led mediation system in courts	PR-1	2018	WG IV + IPs + JICA	Level of implementation

Strategic Action Area 1: Facilitate and Expand Public Access to Court Services

Strategic Objectives	Strategic Initiatives	Actions	Priority	Responsible Persons	Outcome Measures
Strategic Objective 1.1 Establish effective Legal Aid system	1.1.1 Provide support to Union Legal Aid Board to manage and direct an effective nationwide Legal Aid system	 Adopt Legal Aid Rules and translate into English Collect and analyze the data from courts of Regions and States 	PR-1	ULAB + LAWG+ LPDP+ PRLP +MJ	Timely completion
Strategic Objective 1.2 Improve court users accessibility	1.2.1 Establish modern public information counters and intake centers in courts	• Establish modern public information counters and intake centers in courts specified under CMP	PR-1	BLDP+ HCs + PRLP	Number of established + Court user satisfaction
	1.2.2 Develop automated Case Information System (CIS) for the public	 Develop self-help touch screen display boards for case information at USC Upgrade system for daily cause-list and order list on LED-TV at USC 	PR-1	BLDP+ IT&PRDP + <mark>IPs</mark>	Timely completion
Strategic Objective 1.3 Ensure all people with business before the court are treated with courtesy, responsiveness and respect	1.3.1 Continue training on customer service for judges and court staff	 Develop curriculum for customer service training Conduct customer service trainings for judicial officers and court staff in USC Conduct customer service trainings for judges, judicial officers and court staff in courts of Regions and States 	PR-1	CMC+ TDP + All courts + PRLP	Number of trained + Participants' evaluation + Court user satisfaction

Strategic Action Area 1: Facilitate and Expand Public Access to Court Services

Strategic Objectives	Strategic Initiatives	Actions	Priority	Responsible Persons	Outcome Measures
Strategic Objective 1.4 Build new courthouses	1.4.1 Develop basic standards of design for improving access to	 Draft basic standards designs for each level of court 	PR-1	BLDP+ PRLP	Timely completion
and renovate existing courthouses to improve access to court services	court services	• Distribute basic standards of design to all courts			
	1.4.2 Modernize court facilities to assure adequate and safe access to court	 Support court facilities for new courthouses and courts specified under CMP 	PR-1	BLDP+ HCs+ IPs	Number of provided
		 Install equipment for child witness examination rooms in selected courts 		DCs+ UNICEFWG+ UNICEF	
		Provide computer sets to TCs		BLDP+ IT&PRDP	

Strategic Action Area 2: Promote Public Awareness

Strategic Objectives	Strategic Initiatives	Actions	Priority	Responsible Persons	Outcome Measures
Strategic Objective 2.1 Improve communication with the media and the public	2.1.1 Train judges on media relations skills	 Conduct appropriate training for judges at judicial training center 	PR-1	TDP +IT &PRDP+ PRLP	Number of trained +
		 Conduct PIO/ CIO trainings for judges and judicial officers 		TDP+IT & PRDP+ HCs+PRLP	Pre/post training tests
	2.1.2 Improve public information services at courts	 Provide accurate information of public interest and significant litigation to the media 	PR-1	IT&PRDP + All courts	Public satisfaction + Number of engagements
		Engage with media frequently			
	program	Upgrade USC website	רו 4 רו UI	IT&PRDP+ IPs	Level of progress
		 Link with ASEAN Judiciaries Portal (AJP) 		IT&PRDP+ ASEAN Js	
		 Distribute brochures of public interest matters including child protection and juvenile justice 		IT&PRDP+ UNICEFWG + <mark>UNICEF</mark>	
		 Publish Judicial Journal and Annual Law Report 		LPDP	Timely completion
		 Publish Court Annual Report for 2017 		CART+ FCA+UNDP	

Strategic Action Area 2: Promote Public Awareness

Strategic Objectives	Strategic Initiatives	Actions	Priority	Responsible Persons	Outcome Measures
Strategic Objective 2.2 Enhance community- based programs for court information	2.2.1 Conduct public outreach programs	 Develop guidelines for outreach programs Develop public outreach materials and conduct campaign for court system and role of the Judiciary, complaint procedure, etc. 	PR-1	CRC+ IT&PRDP+ ADP+ PRLP+ UNODC+ MJ	Number of programs
		 Perform various outreach programs at all courts 		All courts	
	2.2.2 Conduct public awareness programs on Code of Judicial Ethics for Myanmar Judges	 Educate the public on Code of Judicial Ethics for Myanmar Judges 	PR-1	JERC+ ECWG+ DPWG+ All courts + DP	Number of activities
	2.2.3 Provide court information to community in local languages	 Distribute brochures for court information in local languages: Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan, etc. 	PR-1	IT&PRDP+ HCs + MJ	Number distributed

Strategic Action Area 3: Enhance Judicial Independence and Administrative Capacity

Strategic Objectives	Strategic Initiatives	Actions	Priority	Responsible Person	Outcome Measures
Strategic Objective 3.1 Build and develop the Judiciary as a strong, trusted and independent institution	3.1.1 Conduct assessment on current status of judicial independence	 Evaluate existing laws, procedures and practices resulting in recommendations for a stronger Judiciary 	PR-1	IR&RDP+ DPWG+ DP+ IDEA	Timely completion
		 Conduct data collection to reflect on the independence and accountability of the Judiciary 			
		 Conduct Copenhagen visit for learning Rule of Law in Denmark 			
	3.1.2 Strengthen relationship with other branches of Government and CSOs to promote a fully functioning and independent Judiciary	 Conduct engagements with Government stakeholders and CSOs to present judicial initiatives Organize inter-agency workshops on specific types of cases (e.g. juvenile justice matters) Organize national and regional workshops as necessary (e.g. 	PR-1	USC+ Gov't stakeholders+ CSOs+ IDEA+ UNICEF	Number of engagements + Perception of stakeholders + Outcomes of workshop
	3.1.3 Strengthen relationship with international judicial institutions	juvenile justice matters) Conduct the Asian Judicial Roundtable on Environmental and Climate Change 	PR-1	IR&RDP+ ADB	Result of engagements
		 Engage with CACJ and other judicial partners 		USC + IJIs +IPs	

Strategic Action Area 3: Enhance Judicial Independence and Administrative Capacity

Strategic Objectives	Strategic Initiatives	Actions	Priority	Responsible Person	Outcome Measures
Strategic Objective 3.1 Build and develop the Judiciary as a strong, trusted and independent institution	3.1.4 Draft bills, rules and procedures related to judicial sector and provide recommendations to other sectors as appropriate	 Draft and submit Insolvency Bill Develop procedures to implement the Arbitration Law Develop Directives on admissibility of digital evidence Provide recommendations for bills and amendments to other sectors 	PR- 1	LPDP + IR&RDP +WG I+ILDC + ILWG + ADB+JICA	Number of bills and amendments reviewed + Timely completion
Strategic Objective 3.2 Propose, advocate for and administer the court budget in a transparent and responsible manner	3.2.1 Review processes for integrated strategic planning and establishing budget priorities	 Prepare a realistic assessment on the alignment of current strategic planning processes with budget priorities Prepare budget for implementation of Strategic Action Plan Develop a narrative to justify the budget request 	PR-1	SPIC+ BLDP+ PRLP BLDP	Strategic planning linked to budget priorities + Timely budget request with narrative + Level of approval of the proposed budget
	3.2.2 Enhance capacity of court personnel to administer the court budget	 Review and identify problems and provide solutions to the budget database program Provide trainings for court personnel administering the budget at USC and HCs 	PR-1	BLDP+ HCs + <mark>PRLP</mark>	Solutions to problems Number of trained

Strategic Action Area 3: Enhance Judicial Independence and Administrative Capacity

Strategic Objectives	Strategic Initiatives	Actions	Priority	Responsible Person	Outcome Measures
Strategic Objective 3.3 Enhance effective administrative capacities for the Judiciary	3.3.1 Implement Five-Year IT Plan under the IT Master Plan for the entire Judiciary	 Initiate the Common Judicial Database Layer Build the Mini Data Center at USC Build Network Infrastructure at USC to link with HCs, DCs and TCs Plan and implement Cyber Security Provide licensed software Build and utilize Exchange Mail System Establish computer training centers in Yangon and Mandalay 	PR-1	IT&PRDP+ All courts+ IPs	Timely completion
	3.3.2 Develop and implement Automated Case Management System (ACMS)	 Plan linkages and integration between ACMS and other automated systems at USC Upgrade CMS and CIS Link between CMS and CIS at USC Initiate a system for data collection from courts at different levels 	PR-1	IT&PRDP + CrJDP+ CJDP+ WDP + All courts + PRLP + UNDP	Timely completion
	3.3.3 Continue trainings for court personnel on administrative and IT capacity	 Conduct trainings on administration of court and computer skills for court personnel at USC, HCs, DCs and TCs 	PR-1	USC all departments + All courts + PRLP +UNDP	Number of trained

Strategic Objectives	Strategic Initiatives	Actions	Priority	Responsible Persons	Outcome Measures
Strategic Objective 4.1 Promote the ethical and professional advancement of judges and court staff	4.1.1 Support the ethical advancement of judges and court staff	 Finalize and review the commentaries on Code of Judicial Ethics for Myanmar Judges Conduct workshops on developing accountability mechanisms Conduct workshop on accountability for court staff Draft Code of Ethics for court staff Translate parts of judicial reform textbook into Myanmar language Prepare ethical training materials for judges Conduct ToT on Code of Judicial Ethics for Myanmar Judges Conduct workshop on investigative methods of judicial complaint Develop complaint manual for complaint process 	PR 1	JERC+ ECWG+ADP+ TDP+ DP CRC+ADP+ CrJDP+ UNODCWG+ UNODC	Timely completion+ Outcomes of discussion

Strategic Objectives	Strategic Initiatives	Actions	Priority	Responsible Persons	Outcome Measures
Strategic Objective 4.1 Promote the ethical and professional advancement of judges and court staff	4.1.2 Support the professional advancement of judges and court staff	 Conduct United States of America study tour on professional advancement Conduct workshops to develop professional standards and guidelines Draft professional standards and guidelines for judges Draft professional standards and guidelines for court staff 	PR 1	TDP+ ADP + PDWG + PRLP	Timely completion
Strategic Objective 4.2 Continue strengthening judicial and professional skills and abilities of court personnel	4.2.1 Improve legal research capacity including upgrading judicial libraries	 Establish a research center Formalize a research team Provide computer sets and accessories, books and online legal research resources for research works and libraries Conduct workshops on research methodology and techniques Conduct workshop on qualitative research and analysis Develop e-library action plan and system for USC Upgrade the legal resource capacity by providing access to online database Provide legal and human rights text books and literature for the OUSC library 	PR 1	IR&RDP+ IT&PRDP+ DPWG + DP	Number of research works + Improvement of libraries

Strategic Objectives	Strategic Initiatives	Actions	Priority	Responsible Persons	Outcome Measures
Strategic Objective 4.2 Continue strengthening judicial and professional skills and abilities of court personnel	4.2.2 Conduct data collection and analysis to support improving judicial performance and accountability	 Collect and analyze data related to caseload and resources of the courts Develop a list of indicators related to cases involving children 	PR 1	IR&RDP+ IT&PRDP+ UNICEFWG + CART + IPs + UNICEF+ FCA+ UNDP	Number of reports
	4.2.3 Provide specific training to enhance judicial and professional skills for judges	 Conduct regular training for judges Conduct specific training for judges in region (e.g., human rights and fair trial standards, handling new types of evidence, legal aid, etc.) Conduct workshops on workload organization and court room management Conduct training for judges centered on judging in a democratic society 	PR 1	TDP + CrJDP + CJDP + HCs + IPs + JICA + UNDP + PRLP + MJ	Timely completion + Number of judges trained
		 Prepare curriculum and textbook and conduct training on Intellectual Property Laws 		TDP+ WG III + JICA	+ Participants' evaluation
		 Prepare Case Study Book on business related laws 		TDP+IR&RDP+ WG V + JICA	
		 Finalize the curriculum and Training Manual and conduct training on juvenile justice 		TDP+ CrJDP + UNICEFWG + UNICEF	

Strategic Objectives	Strategic Initiatives	Actions	Priority	Responsible Persons	Outcome Measures
Strategic Objective 4.2 Continue strengthening judicial and professional skills and abilities of court	4.2.3 Provide specific training to enhance judicial and professional skills for judges	 Conduct workshop on Court Leadership Conduct workshop on data collection and analysis 		IR&RDP+ UNDP/FCA	
personnel		 Conduct high level policy conference and workshops on digital evidence for district judges Conduct workshops on money laundering and financial crimes Conduct workshops on extractive industries in corruption Conduct workshop on Federalism 	PR 1	CrJDP+ UNODCWG + UNODC IR&RDP+	Timely completion + Number of judges trained + Participants' evaluation
		 and the Judiciary Conduct Judicial Colloquium on Corporate and Commercial Law Develop training curriculum for commercial law matters 		IDEA IR&RDP+ TDP+ WG V+ ADB	
	4.2.4 Continue training court staff to enhance efficiency and public	Develop standardized training curriculum for court staff		TDP	Timely
s	satisfaction	 Provide trainings on court procedures and case processing 	PR 1	CrJDP+ CJDP + HCs+DCs	completion + Number of
		 Provide training on ethical and disciplinary guidelines 		ADP+ HCs+DCs	trainings

Strategic Objectives	Strategic Initiatives	Actions	Priority	Responsible Persons	Outcome Measures
Strategic Objective 4.3 Ensure the safety and security of the courts	4.3.1 Assess the current situation regarding court safety and security and provide recommendations	• Evaluate the current situation regarding safety and security	PR 1	IR&RDP + ADP + BLDP + IPs	Timely completion
	4.3.2 Improve safety and security for courts	 security for Engage with stakeholders of justice sector to consider improvement of safety and security for courts Initiate recommendations on safety and security improvements 		USC+ HCs+ Justice sector stakeholders + PRLP + UNDP	Steps taken
	4.3.3 Provide adequate staff housing	 Build new housing for judges and staff in Regions and States 		BLDP+ HCs	Number of units provided

Strategic Action Area 5: Promote Efficient Case Management and Court Specializations

Strategic Objective	Strategic Initiatives	Actions	Priority	Responsible Persons	Outcome Measures
Strategic Objective 5.1 Implement a national Case Management Program (CMP) for courts	5.1.1. Develop a three-year phased approach to implement the designed national CMP for courts	 Design national CMP for courts Review and develop data collection methodology to support the implementing national CMP Adopt legal and procedural requirements to support implementing national CMP Assign HCs to manage CMP implementation Develop implementation plan to expand ACMS as a necessary component of the CMP Communicate case management concepts to public and key stakeholders in locations of courts specified under CMP 	PR-1	SPIC+ CMC+LPDP + IT&PRDP+ All courts+ PRLP	Completion of national CMP implementation
	5.1.2 Develop training program on CMP for judges and court staff	 Provide necessary trainings for judges and court staff 		TDP+ CMC+ HCs+ PRLP	
Strategic Objective 5.2 Establish areas for court specializations	5.2.1 Specify and implement court specialization areas	 Evaluate practical approaches and models for various court specializations 	PR-1	IR&RD P+LPDP+ CrJDP+ CJDP + WGs+ JICA+ADB+ PRLP	Number of specified areas and level of implementation

Strategic Action Area 5: Promote Efficient Case Management and Court Specializations

Strategic Objective	Strategic Initiatives	Actions	Priority	Responsible Persons	Outcome Measures
Strategic Objective 5.3 Establish efficient and effective Court Dispute Resolution (CDR) systems	5.3.1 Develop Court-led mediation system in courts	 Conduct Court-led mediation workshop to support the effective evaluation Complete evaluation for Court-led mediation Design Court-led mediation model and introduce pilot program 	PR-1	WG IV + JICA	Level of implementation



Consultation Meeting with Representatives of High Courts

ABBREVIATIONS

ACMS	- Automated Case Management System
ADB	- Asian Development Bank
ADP	- Administrative Department
AJP	- ASEAN Judiciaries Portal
ASEAN Js	- ASEAN Judiciaries
BLDP	- Budget and Logistics Department
CACJ	- Council of ASEAN Chief Justices
CART	- Court Annual Reporting Team
CDR	- Court Dispute Resolution
CIO	- Court Information Officer
CIS	- Case Information System
CJDP	- Civil Justice Department
CrJDP	- Criminal Justice Department
CMC	- Case Management Committee
CMP	- Case Management Program
CMS	- Case Management System
CRC	- Complaint Reviewing Committee
CSOs	- Civil Society Organizations
DCs	- District Courts

DP	- Denmark-Myanmar Programme on Rule of Law and Human Rights
DPWG	 Working Group for coordination between Office of the Union Supreme Court and Denmark Embassy under the Denmark- Myanmar Programme
ECWG	- Working Group for Ethics Code
FCA	- Federal Court of Australia
HCs	- High Courts
ICJ	- International Commission of Jurists
IDEA	- International Institute for Democracy and Electoral and Assistance
IDLO	- International Development Law Organization
IJIs	- International Judicial Institutions
ILDC	- Insolvency Law Drafting Committee
ILWG	- Working Group for Insolvency Law Drafting
IPs	- International Partners
IR&RDP	- International Relation and Research Department
IT	- Information Technology

IT&PRDP	 Information Technology and Public Relations Department
JERC	- Judicial Ethics Review Committee
JICA	- Japan International Cooperation Agency
LAWG	- Legal Aid Process Implementation Working Group
LPDP	- Law and Procedure Department
MJ	- MyJustice Program
MinLaw	- Ministry of Law, Singapore
OUSC	- Office of the Union Supreme Court
PDWG	- Working Group for Professional Development
PIO	- Public Information Officer
PRLP	- USAID Promoting the Rule of Law Project
SPIC	- Strategic Plan Implementation Committee
TCs	- Township Courts
TDP	- Training Department
ULAB	- Union Legal Aid Board
UNDP	- United Nations Development Program

ABBREVIATIONS

UNICEF	- United Nations Children's Fund
UNICEFWG	- Working Group for coordination between the Supreme Court of the Union and UNICEF (Myanmar)
UNODC	- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNODCWG	- Working Group for implementation under the coordination programme between the Supreme Court of the Union and UNODC
USAID	- United States Agency for International Development
USC	- Supreme Court of the Union
WDP	- Writs Department
WGs	- Working Groups
WG I	- Working Group of Capacity Development for Legislating Work
WG II	- Working Group of Strengthening of Human Resource Development
WG III	- Intellectual Property Working Group
WG IV	- Court-led Mediation Working Group
WG V	- Business and Commercial related Laws Working Group

ASEAN Judiciaries Portal	An Internet Portal that improves sharing of information of ASEAN Judiciaries
Automated Case Management System	A system that provides a modern database program including case scheduling, detailed case tracking, automated court forms and management reports to support the case management program. (The OUSC and PRLP jointly developed the specifications for the automated case management system. The criminal and civil components of the system were implemented and successfully tested in two pilot courts in 2017. It is ready for expansion to all eight pilot courts followed by nationwide implementation.)
Case Information System	A web-based system that provides the direct access to information about the court activities including cause-lists, annual statistics and case decisions.
Case Management Program	A program that comprises of the new pretrial case management procedures, forms, time standards and guidelines contained in the Supreme Court Pilot Case Management Plan (2015).

GLOSSARY

	(The Case Management program was successfully implemented in eight pilot courts in 2015-2017. The pilot court program is completed and the Case Management Program (CMP) and procedures are ready for implementation in all courts. A Case Management Best Practices Implementation Guide has been completed to provide all courts with Case Management Plan guidelines and forms to be needed for implementation.)
Case Management System	 A system for managing case processing that consists of continuous court supervision of the case and features including: Early case screening for complexity based on established criteria Assignment to unique case tracks Differentiated procedures for each case track Case tracking systems or software
Court Dispute Resolution System	The system of resolving disputes between parties which has both adjudicative processes and consensual processes

Court-led Mediation System	The system of mediation in which a registrar or judicial officer of the Court conducts mediations as qualified mediator in specified cases
Court Specialization	A proceeding which is specified by the Supreme Court of the Union because of its significant impact on judicial matters
National Public Information Program	A program that establishes sustainable two-way communication between the Court and communities to provide accurate and comprehensive information regarding the Court's role and activities and to promote understanding of and support for the Court's work