

UNDP Annual Rule of Law Meeting
Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law Session
29 June 2020, 8:45-10:00 a.m.

Key messages ASG Alexandre Zouev on the
“added value of the GFP in field settings”

- I thank all partners and Member States for the support and trust you have demonstrated in the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law.
- The UN Secretary-General has established the GFP to promote a coherent and effective support to Member States in the rule of law area. As you know, at Headquarters, UNDP and DPO co-chairs this arrangement. In the field, the senior UN representative in-country – SRSGs, or RCs in non-mission settings – is responsible for overseeing the United Nations’ rule of law of strategies.
- The GFP aims to overcome fragmentation. It provides an incentive for UN partners to pool expertise and resources towards a common, coherent objective. And, as experience shows, the GFP has been more than the sum of its parts.
- Under the GFP umbrella, joint rule of law programmes have been – or continue to be – implemented by all seven peacekeeping operations with a rule of law mandate, as well as in some special political missions.
- In the Democratic Republic of Congo, collaboration among MONUSCO, UNDP and other partners have resulted in greater efficiency of military justice, through mobile court hearings, investigations and victims support, including on cases of sexual violence. Furthermore, the GFP model has bred UN entities’ collaboration on several other projects on fight against impunity and promoting victims’ access to justice.
- In Somalia, joint programmes have been implemented for the development of the Federal Police Plan, the expansion of legal aid services and greater capacity of the Custodial Corps to provide fair, humanitarian and human rights compliant services.
- With peacekeeping transition becoming a priority for the Secretary-General, the GFP approach has been particularly valuable. In Haiti, GFP partners jointly supported the reconfiguration of the United Nations presence after MINUJUSTH. In Darfur, the GFP’s joint programming model has been replicated in the State Liaison Functions, or SLF, which brings together UNAMID and ten other UN entities to deliver on joint priorities, including in rule of law.
- Furthermore, as mentioned by my co-chair, rule of law institutions face added difficulties in times of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the GFP has been instrumental in delivering timely support in certain areas of needs. Prisons remain at higher risk for mass contamination, and PPE and other assistance has been provided in detention centres of

CAR and Mali, while DRC, Haiti, Sudan and South Sudan expect to receive similar assistance. In Libya, UNSMIL and the UNDP Country Office supported remote court hearings, to continue the review of pending cases and further decongest prisons.

- Finally, the mainstreaming of gender and human rights standards into all phases of the GFP's work is another indication of the holistic nature of this mechanism. This, and the synergetic linkages with other platforms, such as the Inter-agency working group on DDR or the Inter-agency SSR Task Force, enhances the sustainability of results achieved.
- As the GFP continues to promote greater unity, coherence and impact on the ground, I count on the continued political and financial support of Member States towards this effective tool at our disposal.