Recommendations of the 3rd Global Youth Forum for a Culture of Lawfulness

Kyoto, Japan, 15 - 16 February 2025

We, the youth delegates of the 3rd Global Youth Forum for a Culture of Lawfulness (3rd Col-YF), assembled in Kyoto, Japan, on 15-16 February 2025, as aspiring leaders and changemakers, united in our shared goal to exchange perspectives, amplify our voices, and catalyze innovative solutions to envision a safer, more inclusive, and just digital society.

Recognizing the central theme of the Forum, "Youth as Pioneers in Shaping a More Inclusive, Safer, and Just Society: Utilization and Challenges of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Technologies in the Field of Law and Justice," we fully acknowledge our vital roles and responsibilities as young people in advancing UN principles and visions in the digital era. We are committed to making meaningful contributions and actively participating in addressing the global challenges outlined in the Forum's two thematic agenda items: "Ensuring a Safe and Just Society in an Era of Rapidly Developing AI and Digital Technologies" and "Bringing Innovation in the Field of Law and Justice by Promoting Responsible Use of AI and Digital Technologies."

Throughout the Forum, we engaged in enriching discussions, exchanging insights from diverse cultures and countries, while exploring the potential and challenges of digital technologies, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), in crime prevention and justice systems. We examined how youth-led innovations can play a pivotal role in fostering more just, safe, and inclusive justice processes, and addressed the ethical considerations surrounding the adoption of AI and digital technologies in law and justice, emphasizing the principles of transparency and accountability.

We also highlighted the importance of education and youth-led initiatives by showcasing innovations that bridge the digital divide and enhance digital literacy at all levels, particularly in improving access to justice for all. These efforts are essential in promoting a deeper understanding of rights, responsibilities, and the rule of law, contributing to a more secure, inclusive, and equitable digital space.

Echoing the UN Secretary-General's policy brief and the Declaration on Future Generations from the 2024 Summit of the Future, we look forward to the continued commitment of Member States to recognizing our critical role in shaping innovative solutions, advancing peace and security initiatives, and fostering meaningful youth engagement in line with the Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS) agenda.

We commend the Ministry of Justice of Japan for its steadfast commitment to empowering global youth, strengthening the rule of law, and advancing the achievement of Sustainable

Development Goal (SDG) 16. This dedication is further supported by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), building on the successes of the Kyoto Declaration, adopted during the 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as well as the previous Global Youth Forums for a Culture of Lawfulness held in October 2021 and December 2022.

In light of these discussions and deliberations, we hereby present the following actionable recommendations to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for its consideration, without attribution.

The final outcomes and recommendations, presented by the two youth co-chairs Ms. Shuren Otgonjargal and Ms. Celia Mazy, from Mongolia and France respectively, were shared during the Closing Ceremony of the 3rd Global Youth Forum for a Culture of Lawfulness on 15 February 2025.

Recommendations from youth delegates of the 3rd Global Youth Forum for a Culture of Lawfulness (3rd Col-YF):

Enhancing Digital Literacy, Inclusion, and Public Awareness

1. Governments and relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, AI developers, and media, should launch free digital literacy campaigns and increase awareness on online safety risks, including fraud, scams, misinformation, and cybersecurity threats. These initiatives should offer accessible workshops and training programs, particularly targeting women, youth and other vulnerable groups like the elderly and underprivileged communities. The goal is to bridge the digital divide and promote safe, informed use of technology.

2. Governments are encouraged to integrate digital literacy training at all levels of formal education and within informal education through community-based programs. Schools, universities, and public institutions should collaborate with experts and civil society organizations to equip individuals with essential digital skills and ensure access to new technologies that can improve access to justice and other vital services.

3. Governments should allocate funding and resources to support digital literacy programs. Youth-led initiatives should receive financial backing and partner with local organizations and private sector stakeholders to implement community-driven education efforts at the grassroots level.

Ensure Inclusive and Equitable Access to AI and Digital Technologies

4. Governments should actively foster public-private partnerships, involving local governments, technology providers, and media companies, to enhance investments in critical digital infrastructure and broadband access, particularly in rural and marginalized communities. This includes implementing rural coverage quotas for tech companies, distributing devices and other equipment in schools and elderly care facilities, and establishing community-based digital tech centers and technology hubs. These efforts aim to bridge the digital divide and ensure inclusive, equitable access to justice and essential services.

5. Governments, alongside public-private partnerships, should promote open access to digital public goods, such as open-source software, open data, and AI models. This will empower individuals and communities while preventing the reinforcement of digital, social, or linguistic divides. Policies should encourage market entry and fair competition, preventing monopolization of AI-driven tools and ensuring that the benefits of innovation are widely shared and accessible to all.

Ensuring Safety in the Digital Space and Mitigating Risks for Online and Technology-Enabled Crimes

6. Governments and stakeholders, including curriculum developers, schools, and local communities, should implement digital safety education programs and campaigns to equip individuals with the skills needed to foster respectful online dialogue and report harmful behaviors. These initiatives should utilize digital technologies such as Virtual Reality (VR), and e-learning tools, including interactive gaming applications, to provide immersive training on digital safety, crime prevention, and youth violence prevention. Such programs must be inclusive of linguistic, generational, and cultural diversity, tailored to reach specific audiences, and supported by offline resources.

7. Governments should establish regulatory frameworks and laws on AI-facilitated crimes, including deepfake fraud, misinformation campaigns, and privacy breaches. Legal frameworks should outline penalties and enforcement mechanisms to prevent AI from being used for deception, manipulation, or unlawful surveillance. This may include implementing, reporting, and blocking tools for harmful content to prevent misuse, and ensure safe, secure and responsible AI deployment, aligned with human rights principles and frameworks.

3rd Global Youth Forum for a Culture of Lawfulness(Col-YF)
15-16 February 2025, Kyoto, Japan
United Nations
Office on Drugs and Crime

Ethical use of New Technology and Human Rights protection including Rights to Privacy

8. Governments, in collaboration with human rights and data protection authorities, should establish and enforce robust legal frameworks regulating AI-driven data collection, processing, storage, and usage. These regulations should require explicit user consent, protect individuals from unauthorized data exploitation, and ensure ethical, safe, secure and trustworthy AI development. Developing companies and service providers must be held accountable for data processing and compliance with copyright laws, privacy standards, and ethical guidelines in the event of data breaches.

9. Governments should mandate AI bias detection audits by independent bodies to prevent gender, racial, economic, and social biases in judicial and policing applications, that violate human rights and result in profiling practices and discriminations. Regular independent audits should assess training data, algorithmic decision-making, system performance, and real-world outcomes to ensure fairness, accountability, and transparency in AI-driven legal processes.

10. Governments, academia, youth, private sector leaders, and civil society organizations should strengthen AI research networks and collaborative projects to promote ethical, safe, secure, transparent, and inclusive AI development. Cross-sector partnerships are crucial to bridging knowledge gaps, addressing risks, and aligning AI advancements with legal and societal needs, all while fostering responsible governance and innovation.

Enhance and Support Youth-focused and Youth-led Initiatives and Innovation.

11. Governments and international organizations should support, empower, and actively involve service users, particularly youth, in the design, implementation, and evaluation of AI and digital technologies. This can include establishing youth advisory councils, engaging young people in policy forums, and fostering partnerships between youth-led organizations and tech companies through innovation labs, legal and IT student labs, or hackathons.

12. Governments should invest in youth-driven AI research initiatives by providing funding, mentorship, scholarships, and fellowships to empower young innovators in the ethical and responsible development of AI. These initiatives should facilitate collaboration with experts, encourage contributions to policy discussions, and promote AI advancements that align with legal and ethical standards.

Enhancing Access to Justice and Improving the Effectiveness of Justice Systems Through Digital Technologies

13. We encourage governments to harness the potential of digital technologies and AI to enhance efficiency of justice systems for functions such as the provision of legal information and support services; digitization of court records, establishing secure, standardized case management systems to enhance efficiency, reduce backlogs, and alleviate burdens on legal professionals, and legal databases to allow for improved case analysis and informed judicial decision-making. However, taking into consideration critical outcomes of both generative and predictive AI, the government should exercise caution in applying AI in decision making in law enforcement, policing and judicial settings and proceeding.

14. To promote inclusion and access to justice for all, we encourage AI integration in assistive technologies, such as speech-to-text applications, screen reading technologies, and adaptive tools, which can enhance accessibility and inclusion throughout the justice process. These technologies are particularly essential for ensuring equal participation in legal proceedings, especially for individuals who face communication or accessibility barriers.

15. Legislators and regulatory authorities should establish clear ethical guidelines, regulatory frameworks and oversight mechanisms to govern AI-assisted decision-making in justice, law enforcement and penal reform settings that safeguard human rights ensuring fairness, non-discrimination, and accountability, along with a framework for prompt investigations and corrective actions. AI applications before being applied in legal and judicial settings, should have been piloted and demonstrated with periodic evaluation, with no bias, discriminatory or other counter-productive outcomes and risks for human rights violations.

16. International organizations and governments should develop AI governance frameworks that are ethical and effective, to mitigate risks and foster a secure digital environment. To ensure an inclusive and multisectoral approach, we recommend engaging in platforms, such as discussions that facilitate cooperation between state actors, justice and legal professionals, AI developers, civil society and users, national thematic conventions, and task forces. To properly integrate young voices, we recommend the creation of a national and international legal advisory body with youth representation that should be established to guide equitable and forward-thinking AI reforms.

17. Governments should enforce strict data protection measures, regulating AI access, storage and administration of sensitive legal data while ensuring transparency and accountability. Before large-scale AI deployment, sandbox environments should be used to test innovations under controlled conditions; these are pilot programs to test AI applications before full-scale implementation, ensuring continuous updates based on real-time feedback and technological advancements.

18. Governments should enact regulations to ensure that AI models applied in justice systems and legal procedures are accompanied by proper reasoning for their conclusions and suggested decisions and ensure that AI-generated outcomes processes and decision-making criteria are properly explained and understood by the public.

Ensuring Responsible, Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Use of New Technologies in the Field of Law and Justice (civil and criminal)

19. Regulatory frameworks for digital technologies, including AI, should adapt to technological advancements through ongoing expert forums and cross-sector collaborations to ensure fairness, transparency, and ethical governance. Legal and regulatory frameworks governing AI and digital technologies in justice should undergo regular updates to reflect technological advancements and emerging ethical concerns.

Strengthening Oversight, Regulation, and Accountability of AI and Digital Technologies

20. Governments, members states authorities and judicial institutions as well as local communities should introduce oversight mechanisms to ensure accountability including complaint systems, and periodic impact assessments. Regular public assessments should evaluate the societal, ethical, and legal implications of AI in justice, focusing on human rights and privacy protection, transparency, and accountability. Independent review bodies, consisting of experts, external board members, and civil society representatives, should be established to oversee AI decisions in both civil and criminal matters, ensuring accountability and transparency.

21. At all levels of judicial enforcement, a clear, accessible, and standardized reporting system should be established to document and address human rights violations and technology-related crimes. This framework must ensure that victims and affected individuals have accessible and safe channels to report incidents, facilitating prompt investigation, legal recourse, and necessary support services. The system should be transparent, efficient, and equipped with digital mechanisms to enhance

22. Judges, lawyers, and legal experts should be equipped, including through specialised training, to review and interpret AI-generated recommendations, ensuring that automated processes do not compromise due process or fundamental legal principles.

Legislators, policymakers, legal professionals and other staff involved in the justice processes should have tailored training programs for justice and law enforcement personnel to enhance AI literacy. These programs should equip decision-makers with sufficient knowledge to effectively regulate and oversee AI applications in legal and justice systems.

Promoting Environmentally Responsible AI in Legal Systems

23. We urge governments, judicial institutions, and AI developers to align practices with existing environmental regulations, commitments, and Sustainable Development Goals by adopting resource-efficient AI solutions in legal enforcement and judicial processes. Policies should promote energy-efficient AI models, low-carbon data storage, and sustainable digital infrastructure to reduce environmental impact in all application of AI including for enhancing access to justice and efficiency of judicial systems