

Strategy 2024-2026





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Who We Are

We are an international non-governmental organisation promoting economic and environmental justice and the rule of law by providing pro bono legal expertise to civil society, governments, and communities around the world.

Our Mission

Advancing economic and environmental justice and the rule of law through the provision of pro bono legal expertise to civil society, governments, and communities.



Our Theory of Change



International Lawyers Project harnesses the power of the law and legal expertise to tackle economic and environmental injustice and empower citizens across the globe.

With dedicated staff and extensive networks of pro bono lawyers, we provide vital legal support to advance progressive change. Our activities range from legislative and policy reviews to strategic litigation, but always focus on strengthening legal frameworks and enforcing standards that uphold human rights and social and environmental justice.

Through capacity building and trainings, we equip our partners with the knowledge and skills to utilise the law and hold governments and corporations to account. Together, we secure legal victories and catalyse legal and policy reforms to mitigate economic inequalities, protect livelihoods, promote accountable governance, and build more equitable societies.

We seek a balance of government and non-government partners, across different branches of government and different levels of CSOs, whether at local, national, or international levels. We recognise that action by governments and parliaments is necessary to affect any large-scale change, and work closely with them to develop effective legal solutions.

At the core, we believe that the law and lawyers are critical agents of change. We embrace creative legal strategies, never deterred when opponents have vast resources. Our approach is driven by our partners; we support their struggles by bringing legal expertise to the table.

We believe that with ongoing commitment from our global team, our partners, volunteers and funders, we can help to dismantle barriers to justice and build a future where laws and systems uphold dignity for all.

Problem Statement: Rising wealth inequality, escalating South-North wealth transfer, high environmental impact, rampant corruption, and shrinking civic space.

Goal: An economically and environmentally just world, in which law is a tool in the service of those who need it the most.

Rationale:	Programmes:	Resources:	Activities and Outputs:	Intermediate Outcomes:	Ultimate Outcomes:
<p>ILP leverages pro bono legal expertise to combat systemic inequality and corruption, enabling justice for disadvantaged global communities.</p>	<p>Sustainable Finance Governance and Accountability Environment and Sustainable Development Enabling Civic Space Core</p>	<p>Volunteer legal expert network Diverse specialised legal staff Mixed programme funding sources Strategic global partnerships Worldwide organisational presence</p>	<p>Legislative and policy review Strategic litigation support Legal research Capacity building Training programmes Building partnerships Compliance and review Expanding pro bono support</p>	<p>Enhanced advocacy and legal skills in civic and governmental partners, Global South. Specific legal, fiscal, and trade reforms within our programme areas across multiple jurisdictions. Enhanced government transparency and stronger enforcement of freedom of association and expression norms in multiple jurisdictions. Geographically diverse, larger pro bono lawyer network achieving greater project efficiency.</p>	<p>Reformed tax/trade for economic justice, environmental justice, and reduced poverty/inequality. Enhanced governance, reduced corruption through accountability, prioritising impoverished communities. Addressed environmental imbalances for equitable resources and reduced Northern influence. Protected civic space enables inclusive participation and empowers communities for economic justice. Global economic justice capacity, expertise and strength is built, 'evening up the scales of justice', and enabling a different balance of power between the wealthy and the disadvantaged.</p>

Assumptions and Preconditions: 1. Availability of expert legal resources; 2. Pro bono legal success possible against well-funded opposition; 3. Diverse legal approaches effective in complexity; 4. Donor commitment to justice and legal approaches; 5. Legal strategies possible within diverse and changing political contexts; 6. Frontline leadership approach drives impactful outcomes.

What We Do

We seek to achieve our mission through our four core programmes:



**Governance and
Accountability**



**Sustainable
Finance**



**Environment
and Sustainable
Development**



**Enabling
Civic Space**



Drawing on our expert knowledge and experience, we partner with independent pro bono legal experts to advise on:



**Policy
Reform**

Developing and implementing better legislation, regulation and policies to prevent abuse and support good practice



**Transparency and
Accountability**

Providing access to information, exposing wrongdoing, and limiting opportunities for malpractice



**Enforcement
of the Law**

Using national and international legal remedies, relying on norms and standards

Our programmes are founded on international standards. Specifically, we are guided by UN Sustainable Development Goal 1 (ending poverty), Goal 10 (reducing inequality), Goal 13 (combating climate change), Goal 15 (protecting ecosystems), Goal 16 (promoting peace, justice and strong institutions), and Goal 17 (revitalising global partnerships).



A Changing Context



As the International Lawyers Project has adopted this refreshed strategic plan, it has sought to adapt to the shifting dynamics within its key programming areas in order to continue to provide responsive, impactful support to partners.

In the Environment and Sustainable Development programme area, there has been a growth in climate change litigation around the world. Meanwhile, land and environmental defenders face rising threats, harm and violence when opposing unsustainable development projects or conserving natural resources. Large renewable energy investments risk exacerbating land conflicts if not conducted with adequate community consultation and safeguards. Major public and private funds are flowing into climate financing, presenting opportunities to verify that initiatives consider environmental standards and “just transition” principles. Regulations and structures for carbon markets continue to evolve, whilst mandatory human rights due diligence develops piecemeal through case law and international guidance. Further,

environmental crimes have become a key threat to global security and threaten the survival of all species.

The newly named Governance and Accountability programme (formerly known as Anti-Corruption) recognises that the rule of law, government effectiveness and strong measures to control corruption have a positive effect on mitigating economic inequalities, addressing elite capture of political processes, and challenging bribery for access to justice and public services. Unaccountable governance hinders core government functions such as resource allocation, stable economies, redistribution of income and equitable delivery of public goods and services. This directly impacts vulnerable groups in societies, exacerbates regional disparities and results in economic injustices. The principles of transparency and accountability and the right to information are critical to accountable governance.

In the Sustainable Finance programme area (formerly known as Tax and Fiscal Reform), there is an ongoing process to achieve a major reform of the international tax system

in response to the digitalised economy and consequent erosion of the tax base in states where companies conduct their business. These changes will likely alter the overall international tax architecture under which multinational businesses operate. Developing countries need to understand the impact of these changes in order to avoid negotiating away their rights to a fair share of the revenue. Financial instruments are also increasingly being used to create positive behavioural changes towards wealth redistribution that can contribute towards more environmentally sustainable development. At present, ILP's partners are struggling to deepen their capacity in these highly technical areas, and this will likely continue to be the case in the coming years, amid dwindling philanthropic interest in Africa-based work, which is where this programme is mostly focused. Domestic laws require assessment regarding preparedness to curb avoidance and promote progressivity.

The overarching Enabling Civic Space programme is ILP's response to the increasing threats to the legal space our

partners work in. Civic space is narrowing in many nations through more restrictive laws limiting the freedoms of association, expression, information, and assembly. There is also heightened surveillance of civil society, media, and whistleblowers. Shrinking operating conditions increase the importance of building legal skills and technical resources to bolster partners' work to reclaim the civic space for civil society,

media, and whistleblowers. Supporting our partners defending Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs) brought to prevent scrutiny in the public interest, typically framed as defamation cases, is a key element of this programme, providing remedy and progressive jurisprudence as well as individual protection for those advocating for the public interest.



How We Do It



Policy Reform

1. Advising on **comparative and international best practices**
2. Supporting **regulatory reform**, legislative review and drafting
3. Collaborating on **research** that translates our clients' on-the-ground experience into knowledge products that enhance learning and positively influence policies
4. Training for **capacity building** on relevant legal tools and standards
5. Sourcing experts to support **knowledge exchange**.



Transparency and Accountability

1. Providing evidence-based **legal analysis** to craft policies and campaigns, including technical analysis of contracts and treaties
2. Supporting **access to information** requests
3. Strengthening **oversight mechanisms**
4. Providing libel, defamation and **protective legal support** for whistleblowers and journalists exposing evidence of wrongdoing



Enforcement of the Law

1. Advising on **litigation** strategies: identifying **legal enforcement tools**, including filing submissions to appropriate civil, regulatory and criminal authorities, as well as supporting the imposition of international sanctions
2. Facilitating **mediation** between community, corporate and government stakeholders

What Makes ILP's Approach Different?

Our model is partner-led

Expertise in the issues and regions we work across

Access to the highest calibre of independent legal representation

Enabling sustainable, systemic change, by providing these services to governments, communities, civil society organisations and media seeking to achieve justice.

- Our model is partner-led, while advancing shared goals. We believe that in-country actors, our partners, are best placed to know the solutions to their problems. We seek to equip them with the legal means to achieve their goals, recommending legal solutions without dictating approaches nor end goals.
- We share desired policy outcomes with our partners, as our mission is to advance economic justice and the rule of law. We seek to collaborate with partners who share these goals.
- Funders that share these objectives can see how their support contributes to positive change. We track progress towards these shared goals.
- We have deep expertise and experience in the issues and regions we work across within our in-house, but globally distributed staff team. As well as connecting partners with pro bono support, our staff assess partners' needs, design and manage projects, and deliver legal advice and capacity building training directly.
- We have access to the highest calibre of independent pro bono legal representation through our incredible pro-bono network. We actively seek out the best legal experts for our partners, drawing on our international network of highly experienced lawyers built up since 2005, and by sourcing new volunteers tailored to each request. Our current legal network also has a broad in-country office network in each continent.
- We seek to enable sustainable, systemic change. We work with governments and lawmakers as well as communities and civil society groups and understand that to achieve long-lasting change we must collaborate with stakeholders at all levels. We also build capacity for the next generation of pro bono volunteers by inviting our legal network to pair senior specialists with more junior experts, so that knowledge is transferred between generations and geographies.

Who We Work With



ILP's partners include:

- National and international non-governmental and inter-governmental organisations;
- Community-based groups and civil society organisations;
- Government departments, parliamentary committees, judiciary, enforcement agencies, public agencies and regulators; and
- Journalists and the wider media.

We support partners whose aims are aligned with our mission.

We have a number of long-standing partners and often receive referrals via word-of-mouth. With proactive engagement, we contact potential partners and relevant stakeholders directly to offer our expertise. In this strategic period we will further expand our pro bono partnerships with local and domestic legal firms and lawyers, ensuring that in doing so we are sensitive to their ability to contribute pro bono time and financial resources.

We seek a balance of government and non-government partners, across different branches of government and different types of NGOs and civil society organisations, whether at local, national, or international levels. We also work with inter-governmental organisations seeking to develop normative frameworks or promote reform across several jurisdictions. While action by government agencies is necessary to affect any large-scale change, ILP prides itself on the strength of its partnerships with small, dedicated local partners in low-income countries as well as with governments and international organisations. We adopt a long-term view to our relationship building,

recognising that small NGOs suffer from acute resourcing and security challenges and that policymakers often need to wait for a window of opportunity in which to enact change. Fundamental to our relationship building is the belief that we need to be a consistent partner, and we manage our core funding to provide ongoing support to our clients - irrespective of restricted project end dates.

The choice of “government” or “civil society” is not binary – a well-respected civil society organisation often facilitates direct engagement between ILP and government or regulators, and we recognise that it may be more effective and efficient for ILP to work with a local NGO, or a regional or international organisation that already holds those relationships.

Further, we provide support for investigative journalists and the wider media who have a long-term interest in exposing issues of economic injustice, particularly if they are partnering with a reputable NGO. This support may be in the context of libel defence or freedom of information applications to enable publication of stories.



Where We Work

ILP has worked in over 80 countries for nearly 20 years.

We focus on the Global South, with active projects across Africa, Latin America, and Asia. However, the forms of injustice we address are global, and our globally-distributed team and legal partners work in every relevant jurisdiction, North and South.



Although ILP's primary partners are based in low-income countries, the support they seek often requires advice on possible interventions in several jurisdictions, including with enforcement agencies and policy-makers in high-income countries. For example, illicit financial flows and environmental corruption typically require multijurisdictional legal advice.

In terms of regional expertise, while we have maintained deep roots across Africa, we recognise the diversity of contexts and priorities across different regions. In this strategic period, we are continuing to expand our presence to emerging areas of focus in Eastern Europe, Latin America, Asia and beyond.

Our team is comprised of prominent legal specialists in each of our programme areas with deep international development expertise, established networks and fluency in the languages of our partners. Our team members are based in Africa, Asia and Europe, and include individuals who are fluent in English, Swahili, Filipino, French, Spanish and German.

Programme Overview

Over the next three years, ILP will progress its established thematic priorities, under the reconfigured programme titles:



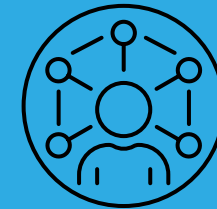
Governance and Accountability



Sustainable Finance



Environment and Sustainable Development



Enabling Civic Space

Enabling Civic Space is a cross-cutting theme across all three core programmes. There is also often an overlap between the different programmes: for example, opposition to or disregard for environmental regulation is often paired with corruption.

We focus our resources on projects where ILP is best placed to support, and where we can make the most significant contribution to our mission to advance economic justice and the rule of law. We seek to work with new partners who are best placed to play a pivotal role in achieving reform in these areas.

Governance and Accountability



Overview

Accountable governance is fundamental to sustainable development and economic justice. Our programme supports greater transparency and accountability in public and private sectors, particularly aiming to mitigate the pervasive effects of corruption on the environment, economy, politics, society, and human rights. Our approach addresses both the 'supply' and 'demand' sides of corruption, promoting systems of prevention, effective enforcement, and the pursuit of accountability. Our corruption work intersects with our other programmes, for example working to ensure that tax monies are received and are allocated out again for public benefit, addressing 'green corruption', and attacking the methods used by corrupt actors to shrink civic space.

Priority Themes

i. Public Procurement Integrity:

Public procurement is the largest area of government spending. Too often countries face the devastating effect of democracy being bought by the highest bidder in

exchange for political favours, such as the award of government contracts. This form of corruption not only distorts competition, but ultimately also results in citizens not receiving value for money spent in government contracts. Under this theme, ILP supports its partners on projects and campaigns to ensure better accountability, transparency and prioritisation of use of public funds in accessing the relevant public information; with constitutional petitions against corrupt or opaque use of public funds; and with reviews of legal frameworks to ensure integrity of funds designated for public goods and services. We aim to expand both the reach and the scope of this Priority Theme across this strategic period.

ii. Accountability for International Corruption:

ILP remains committed to advancing the fight against corruption, actively supporting partners in the meticulous analysis of evidence and the formulation of robust submissions for criminal, administrative, and sanctions proceedings to the relevant authorities, which include criminal

prosecutors and regulators. Our approach integrates pioneering accountability frameworks such as international anti-corruption sanctions mechanisms (widely known as Magnitsky regimes). Sanctions provide foreign governments with the authority to implement deterrents like asset freezes and travel bans, targeting corrupt practices internationally. This is crucial for holding offenders accountable in regions that traditionally ignore corruption. Through ongoing research into the effectiveness of these regimes, ILP is dedicated to refining their use as formidable tools in the global anti-corruption arsenal, alongside exploring other new methods as they emerge. ILP's commitment to impact-driven research will continue to enhance and hone the effectiveness of the entire Magnitsky framework.

iii. Asset Recovery, Illicit Financial Flows and Beneficial Ownership:

As illicit financial flows allow corrupt actors to move their corrupt proceeds from one country to another, it's important to deprive criminals of the enjoyment of these assets

using opaque company ownership and repatriate the stolen funds as compensation for the citizens. Innovative developments and emerging global norms on the international repatriation of stolen assets ensure that citizens – the true victims of corruption – and the economies from which the assets were taken can mitigate economic loss. ILP

seeks to support its partners in advocating for more enabling legal frameworks and transparency and accountability in movement of funds across borders, and in negotiations with governments regarding the structure of asset repatriation to ensure that funds are transparently returned and not re-looted in the returns process.



iv. Tackling the UK's Role as an International Money Laundering Hub for Enablers:

ILP seeks to meet increased demand for our expertise and legal network from civic actors who are seeking high level accountability and transparency within the UK in preventing corruption, tax evasion and illicit financial flows. In addition, the UK made key commitments around anti-corruption, beneficial ownership, anti-money laundering, open contracting, protection of whistleblowers and tax evasion when it hosted the global anti-corruption summit in 2016. ILP's work will support the UK to achieve these goals for its citizens, and in its role within the global community, through enabling legal frameworks, supporting safe exposure of corruption, and facilitating effective sanctions and enforcement. Our ultimate aim is to ensure that corruption and illicit financial flows by investors, political actors and corporates no longer undermine sustainable development and corrupt the UK's political institutions.

v. Environmental Crime and Corruption:

Alongside the Environment and Sustainable Development programme, we empower civil society groups and indigenous communities to utilise legal and policy tools to address environmental crimes such as wildlife trafficking, pollution, and deforestation. These crimes threaten biodiversity, community health, and socio-economic stability. Our approach focuses on enabling

civil society and indigenous communities to combat these issues, thereby preventing land and resource conflicts and reducing corruption and public health risks. By facilitating the use of legal frameworks, such as anti-money laundering laws against the illegal wildlife trade, we support civil society and indigenous communities building their capacity for advocacy and ensuring rigorous enforcement standards for environmental protection.



Programme Pillars

ILP supports the fundamental principles of effective national Governance and Accountability programmes by selecting case requests that address the following pillars:

 Policy Reform	 Transparency and Accountability	 Enforcement
<p>Developing and implementing legislation and policies to prevent abuses and promote good practice</p>	<p>Exposing wrongdoing and limiting opportunities for malpractice</p>	<p>Through national and international legal remedies</p>
<p>We assist clients with capacity building, legislative drafting, implementation gap analyses, and the development of systems in relation to existing or proposed governance and accountability laws and policies.</p> <p>We help ensure that laws and policies are not only meeting international best practices, but are also best suited for the local context.</p>	<p>Hold public officials and wrongdoers accountable, supporting or pushing governments to adhere to their governance and accountability commitments.</p> <p>Such work enables our clients to ensure that public officials take the necessary steps to establish fair processes in public administration, based on transparency, inclusivity and objectivity in decision-making.</p>	<p>A pivotal aspect of governance and accountability reform is ensuring that laws and policies are not only enacted but are also effectively implemented and actioned. ILP aids civil society and governments in overseeing adherence to international and regional standards, such as the United Nations Convention against Corruption.</p> <p>We provide trainings to law societies in relevant countries, and will expand this approach during this strategic period.</p> <p>Our focus is on empowering clients to undertake impactful litigation and to leverage Magnitsky-style sanctions for domestic effect. We analyse and address deficiencies within legal frameworks and enforcement mechanisms, offering recommendations to strengthen these systems. This approach ensures that governance and accountability measures have a tangible impact, promoting fair and transparent practices in public administration.</p>

Environment and Sustainable Development



Overview

Demand for land and natural resources is causing acute stress on the environment and human populations. Biodiversity is declining at an unprecedented rate, with a 68% drop in species over the past four decades and vast tracts of forest destroyed. This environmental degradation not only threatens the planet but also infringes upon fundamental human rights, exacerbating discrimination and inequality. Indigenous peoples, who manage over a quarter of the world's land and protect 80% of its biodiversity, are often at the forefront of conflicts over land and resources. They face threats from illegal logging, which accounts for up to 30% of the global timber trade, and corrupt development practices that lead to forced evictions and displacement. ILP advocates for robust environmental legal frameworks that integrate human rights considerations, responding to a surge in demand for domestic legal advice from NGOs, CSOs and government bodies who are driving sustainable development in their countries. We empower representatives and

communities to legally engage with large-scale developments, defend rights, negotiate equitably, and halt illegal environmental acts that violate human rights and cause dispossession.

Our work aligns with the UN Sustainable Development Goals to ensure economic development coexists with sustainable growth and equitable treatment of all communities. We support the use of fiscal tools and progressive fiscal policies on climate finance instruments to promote a green economy, which is vital to combat climate change. We advocate for a just transition to a green economy that upholds human rights and does not disproportionately burden the marginalised.

Enforcement of laws and policies is critical; yet corruption and illicit financial flows facilitate evasion and obstruct stronger national and international regimes. We challenge biodiversity and environmental harms from deforestation and illegal resource trafficking, including wildlife, while also addressing the human rights violations that inevitably accompany such attacks.

As a global network of lawyers, ILP plays a pivotal role in guiding our partners through the labyrinthine international legal system, marked as it is by a web of intersecting treaties and varied governance frameworks, to champion environmental sustainability and uphold human rights. Our tailored technical training for governments and local civil society actors fosters innovative legal solutions for environmental and human rights concerns, in line with international environmental laws and principles and human rights treaties.

Priority Themes

i. Community Land Rights and Biodiversity:

We advocate for the rights of indigenous and local communities, alongside civil society actors, to actively participate in and influence a human rights-based approach to natural resource governance. Our work ensures equitable development that respects biodiversity conservation and strengthens community land rights. We provide comprehensive training to civil society actors, enabling them to effectively

engage in policy dialogues and public consultations. Additionally, we offer legal support for contract negotiations and policy development, emphasising the necessity of free, prior, and informed consent. By empowering communities and their advocates with legal expertise, we strive to protect their lands, cultures, and the biodiversity that is vital to us all.

ii. Environmental Crime and Corruption:

Alongside the Governance and Accountability programme, we empower civil society groups and indigenous communities to utilise legal and policy tools to address environmental crimes such as wildlife trafficking, pollution, and deforestation. These crimes threaten biodiversity, community health, and socio-economic stability. Our approach focuses



on enabling civil society and indigenous communities to combat these issues, thereby preventing land and resource conflicts and reducing corruption and public health risks. By facilitating the use of legal frameworks, such as anti-money laundering laws against the illegal wildlife trade, we support civil society and indigenous communities building their capacity for advocacy and ensuring rigorous enforcement standards for environmental protection.

iii. Leveraging Fiscal Tools for Sustainable Development:

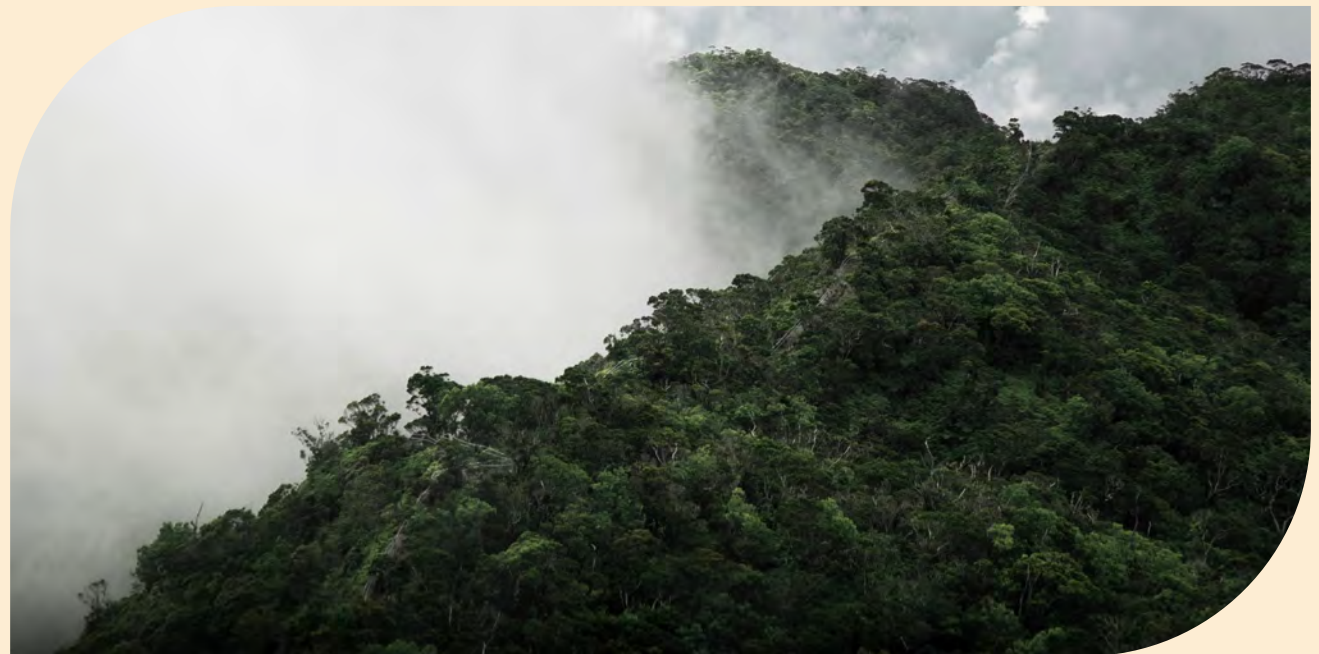
We guide policymakers and civil society in identifying and implementing fiscal tools that promote sustainable development, bridging the gap between environmental sustainability and tax policy. Our work includes providing recommendations for fiscal terms and incentives and proper financing of renewable energy projects to ensure that both the country and the communities impacted equitably benefit from these projects. We also advise on impact investing, adoption of ESG standards and the use of fiscal instruments

such as green bonds to achieve sustainable development.

iv. Just Transition:




The concept of a just transition is essential in ensuring that the shift towards a green economy is inclusive and equitable, particularly for those most impacted by climate change and the move away from fossil fuels. ILP supports climate change litigation efforts that seek to hold

governments and corporations accountable for environmental harms, advocating for policies that not only mitigate climate risks but also promote social justice. We assist in developing legal strategies that protect the human and environmental rights of communities during this transition, ensuring that economic, social, and environmental considerations are balanced and that the voices of the most vulnerable are heard and heeded.



Programme Pillars

ILP favours a holistic approach to tackling environmental injustice and promoting sustainable legal solutions through the following pillars:

 Policy Reform	 Transparency and Accountability	 Enforcement
<p>Developing and implementing preventative legislation and sustainable policies</p>	<p>Exposing environmental wrongdoing and limiting opportunities for malpractice</p>	<p>Through national and international legal remedies</p>
<p>We identify opportunities with our partners to change law, policy and practices that promote sustainable development. We support the development and implementation of legislation and policies that both build good practices in environmental issues and sustainable development, and clearly delineate what are bad practices, and their consequences.</p> <p>We assist with the initiation, review and analysis of legislative and policy frameworks, in order to identify the gaps and loopholes in laws governing wildlife and laws (among others) and provide recommendations for the prevention and detection of these environmental crimes.</p> <p>We assist with the drafting and analysis of laws and policies that promote climate change adaptation and mitigation measures and green investments, in order to ensure that such measures do indeed support sustainable development.</p> <p>Additionally, we integrate domestic tax policy considerations to ensure that fiscal measures contribute effectively to environmental governance and sustainable practices.</p>	<p>Our work promotes transparency as an effective tool for environmental, land and resource governance. This ensures that policies are developed with meaningful public participation, information is readily accessible and sustainable development is achieved.</p> <p>Our work promotes accountability for environmental degradation and proper implementation of environmental policies. We provide legal advice on alternative legal or accountability remedies against governments or corporations for environmental crimes, including what possible sanctions can be applied to these actors or litigation support in the form of amicus curiae.</p> <p>We support structured community dialogue groups in engaging with governments and companies regarding development projects in the communities to ensure that sustainable development aligns well with communities' land and environmental rights.</p> <p>We also work towards tax transparency, ensuring that domestic tax issues are addressed in public discourse and that fiscal policies are aligned with environmental objectives.</p>	<p>Our work supports the proper implementation of relevant laws and policies that are designed to address environmental crimes, climate change impact and natural resources governance.</p> <p>We support all stakeholders to put into place processes, legal mechanisms and best practice frameworks to resolve disputes or enforce remedies to aggrieved parties to ensure that environmental rights are upheld and respected.</p> <p>For example, we identify long-term support strategies for indigenous communities and civil society, ensuring sustained impact following capacity-building initiatives. We also dedicate efforts to assist in the practical implementation of court judgments.</p> <p>In addition, we emphasise the role of domestic tax law in enforcing environmental policies and advocating for tax justice as a means to uphold environmental integrity.</p>

Sustainable Finance



Overview

Low-income countries require robust revenue streams to implement their development agendas and provide essential public services. This includes revenue streams from national sources as well as international development assistance. A well-structured tax system that collects sufficient revenue for public services, redistributes wealth, discourages harmful consumption by repricing goods, and ensures representation of all citizens, is crucial for achieving equitable societies and is integral to sustainable development strategies. However, many developing nations grapple with weak legislation, limited administrative capacity, rampant tax evasion, and poor fiscal management. Governments and civil society need assistance with ensuring that tax legislation is equitable, progressive and constitutional.

In addition, the Global South faces challenges in adapting to a rapidly evolving international tax system, transitioning from century-old rules to new, yet-to-be-finalised global norms. These countries need to advocate strongly against well-paid experts representing the

interests of countries and corporations in the Global North, aiming to secure a fair share of revenue from global corporations. Unfortunately, the current form of the rules offers only marginal benefits to the Global South. The impact of these changes will be profound, whether or not these nations choose to adopt the rules. ILP aims to assist by building capacity on the impact of the new rules and making policy recommendations.

Increasingly countries in the Global South are turning to capital markets to raise money to fund transition to greener economies. However, sovereign debt can amount to billions of pounds, making future generations of citizens responsible for paying off national debt accrued via opaque, undemocratic and illegal contracts, while syphoning off the very assets the country could use to pay off debt, such as ports, mines and land. The need to ensure that sovereign debt is contracted in a manner that allows for transparency and accountability cannot be understated. ILP provides support to evaluate the debt contracting process and build capacity by sharing best practices.

Finally, this programme recognises that fiscal tools, including environmental and health-related levies, can aid countries in achieving the SDGs. Providing developing countries access to climate finance can contribute to the 'positive climate action' envisaged by SDG 13. The issuance of green bonds, devoid of "greenwashing," can facilitate the generation of affordable and clean energy, supporting SDG 7. As the development of Environment, Social, and Governance (ESG) reporting standards progresses, these fiscal measures should be emphasised to ensure a comprehensive approach to sustainable development.

Priority Themes

i. Financing the Transition to Greener Economies:

The effects of climate change are more acutely felt by developing countries because of their high dependence on natural resources, and their limited capacity to cope with climate variability and extremes. Climate finance measures, such as green and solar bonds, carbon taxes, better implementation

of ESG standards, all help to incentivise changes in corporate and citizen behaviour. We work with governments, civil society and international organisations to find creative financing solutions to the environmental challenges we all face.

ii. Ending Illegitimate Debt Burdens:

Debt financing is critical for development. When used in a transparent, well-managed manner, it can help achieve sustained and inclusive growth. Poor borrowing practices, such as corrupt or opaque debt agreements,



can and often do result in high public debt that inhibits investment, increases fiscal pressure, reduces social spending, and limits a government's ability to implement reforms. The need for transparent, strong legal and

institutional frameworks, together with a robust public monitoring that is anchored on a human rights-based approach, cannot be underestimated. We work to strengthen legal frameworks governing public debt and

strengthen inter-institutional coordination for debt control, management, reporting and oversight.

iii. Combating Tax Avoidance and Evasion:

Developing countries are losing billions each year due to aggressive tax avoidance schemes. Our experts help developing countries to take advantage of initiatives spearheaded by international organisations such as the OECD to close off these loopholes.

iv. Supporting Global South Countries to Keep a Fair Share:

The international tax system is rapidly evolving and many developing countries are not well equipped to participate on an equal footing. The proposed new rules often place them in a disadvantageous position. These countries will need to make critical decisions about how best to raise the revenue they need in the face of these changes. We assist these countries in analysing the new rules, evaluating the likely impact on them and suggesting policy solutions.



Programme Pillars

ILP works with its partners to improve resourcing for development in the Global South through the following pillars:



Policy Reform

Developing and implementing legislation and policies to prevent abuses and promote good practice

Guiding governments to adopt favourable fiscal frameworks, our advisory services provide strategic counsel to governments, particularly in developing nations, to secure beneficial outcomes. This includes incorporating domestic tax issues to bolster environmental governance and sustainable development initiatives.

We empower government officials and civil society organisations by offering comprehensive training.

We advise on the taxation of natural resources. Our capacity building efforts involve enhancing the technical understanding of Global South civil society and parliamentarians on international tax issues through networks such as Tax Justice Network Africa.

In order to shape tax reform through informed dialogue, we engage in discussions at various levels, aiming to influence policy and governance. We generate content for platforms used by stakeholders to advance their fiscal strategies, which includes governments, civil society and media.



Transparency and Accountability

Exposing wrongdoing and limiting opportunities for malpractice

To promote transparency and equitable restructuring, we advocate for clear disclosure of sovereign debt and adherence to international standards in debt contracting. Our efforts include supporting fair restructuring practices and public financial management reforms, ensuring fiscal policies are conducive to sustainable development and environmental protection.

We collaborate with a diverse partner base, from government departments to community groups by offering advisory support, capacity building, and research to support the adoption of equitable tax systems. Our services range from developing tax action plans to supporting robust governance to combat illicit financial flows.



Enforcement

Through national and international legal remedies

ILP offers public interest litigation assistance to ensure that taxes are applied in a manner that follows due process, are constitutional and are progressive.

Enabling Civic Space



Overview

Civic space is the bedrock upon which all our programmes are built; it is the essential precondition of success in promoting other political, economic, and social goals. Civic space is the environment that enables civil society to engage in the political, economic, and social spheres. It is a cornerstone of any open and democratic society, signifying that states are obliged to protect individuals while upholding and facilitating the fundamental rights of freedom of association, expression, and peaceful assembly. Without these freedoms, the changes we seek cannot be achieved. Access to information is a fundamental right and a key pillar of civic space. When civic space is safeguarded and encouraged, it fosters participation in public affairs, which is an essential right. It empowers citizens and civil society actors to obtain information, express their views, associate, organise, and engage in public life, driving progressive change.

The Enabling Civic Space programme has been restructured to better encapsulate ILP's work, specifically focusing on the freedoms

of information, association and expression. Under attack in both the UK and worldwide, these twin pillars of a democratic society are necessary to ensure that all voices can be heard and collective action can take place. The programme's strategies and priorities are powered by in-house and external legal expertise, volunteer lawyers, active trustee involvement, and unrestricted core funding. Additional partners are also being considered to further strengthen the programme, as well as sources of income that can enable us to increase our in-house team working on this critical and current area.

Priority Themes

i. Access to Information:

ILP has a long history of providing advisory, technical, and analytical services regarding public access to key information. We collaborate with governments, civil society, and research institutions to deliver sound advice and research outputs. This work results in trainings on access to information, advising on access to information requests, and providing legal advice. The intermediate

outcome of this work is the enforcement of legal standards on access to information and enhanced capacity of governments and civil society on access to information standards.



ii. Defending Civic Space:

ILP is deeply committed to the protection and defence of civic spaces globally. Our work in this area is multifaceted, involving strategic litigation, policy advocacy, and the provision of legal advice to safeguard the rights of individuals and organisations to freely express, associate, and assemble. We engage with a broad network of stakeholders, including governments, CSOs and international bodies, to fortify the legal frameworks that protect civic freedoms. Our efforts are aimed at resisting and pushing back against any encroachments on civic spaces, whether they manifest as restrictive legislation, undue surveillance, or punitive measures against activists and dissenters, which includes combating Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs), protecting individuals and groups from legal intimidation. Our intended outcomes are the robust enforcement of legal protections for civic spaces and an enhancement in the capacity of governments and civil society to defend these fundamental freedoms. Through these actions, ILP strives to maintain

and strengthen the fabric of open and democratic societies, ensuring that civic space becomes vibrant and accessible to all.

iii. Expanding Civic Space:

ILP's work in this area is focused on supporting progressive government entities and civic actors that aim to pass laws or change practices which sustainably expand civic space. Our activities include providing legal advice and support, offering strategic guidance and capacity building, and collaborating with partners to advocate for the sustainable expansion of civic space. The intended outcome of this work is the enactment of new regulations that enhance civic space, increased capacity of governments and civil society to sustainably expand civic space, and a greater public understanding of the importance of expansive and protected civic space. This will help us inch closer to our ultimate goal: a more informed citizenry that can meaningfully engage in matters of public interest affecting their lives.

Programme Pillars

ILP works with its partners to enable civil society around the world to engage in the political, economic and social spheres through the following pillars:



Policy Reform

Developing and implementing legislation and policies to prevent abuses and promote good practice

In the face of escalating challenges to the right to protest, ILP provides critical legal support and advocacy. Our efforts ensure that this fundamental democratic right is preserved and that individuals and groups can voice dissent and demand change both in the UK and internationally.

ILP acknowledges the perilous landscape navigated by environmental and human rights defenders. By offering tailored legal support and advocacy, ILP strengthens their capacity to operate safely and effectively, ensuring they can continue their vital work without fear of legal reprisal or constraint. We will especially focus on supporting and defending civil society engaged in exposing corruption, and financial and environmental crimes.



Transparency and Accountability

Exposing wrongdoing and limiting opportunities for malpractice

Corruption withers under scrutiny. Recognising this, ILP champions the right to information as a means to demystify the workings of public administration and fiscal management and to enable citizens to have a voice in projects which might affect their lives and livelihoods. By aiding partners in shaping robust freedom of information laws and beneficial ownership transparency frameworks, ILP empowers citizens to scrutinise government actions, thereby bolstering transparency and accountability. This overarching theme permeates all programmes, equipping citizens with the means to obtain and apply critical information effectively.



Enforcement

Through national and international legal remedies

Civic actors are increasingly under legal assault, necessitating stringent protective measures. ILP's comprehensive legal support, which includes litigation assistance and defence against SLAPP suits, libel, and defamation cases, aims to uphold the integrity of civic spaces. The intended outcome is the robust enforcement of legal safeguards and the bolstering of the capacity of governments and civil society to defend against such threats.





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