

# CONCEPT NOTE

## 26th International Conference of Chief Justices of the World

### Theme: A New Look at the United Nations and its Charter

#### *Global Governance for Sustainable Future in a Fractured World*

#### THE EVENT

The 26th International Conference of Chief Justices of the World seeks to bring together heads of judiciaries, heads of states & governments and civil society to address the most existential and profound challenges that humanity faces: violence and war, inequitable distribution of global wealth, irreversible climate change and problems arising out of scientific and technological advancement. The Conference is grounded in the conviction that these challenges can only be effectively addressed through strengthened international law and reformed global governance that promote unity, cooperation, sustainable peace and development and a safe future for humanity, especially for children and future generations.

#### CONTEXT

Existing multilateral institutions find it increasingly difficult to meet contemporary challenges as their mandates and processes are increasingly questioned and challenged by many countries and thought leaders. The world's only 'mandated' global governance organization, i.e. the United Nations, is in many respects struggling for effectiveness as it reaches its 80th anniversary in 2025. There is a growing sense that reform of the system must include changes to the Charter to reflect current and future needs.

Alternatively, some voices now see this moment as propitious for new beginnings of a different kind. In a polarized geopolitical world, perhaps it is time for 'smart coalitions' of nations willing to act together to advance global priorities, much like the European and other regional unions were born out of the need to promote peace, values, economic development and the well-being of their citizens.

Between these two lie many other options and pressing issues. City Montessori School believes that a 'Modern School must Act as a Lighthouse of Society', as a main actor in social transformation and must concern itself with the affairs of the age e.g. world unity, peace and the protection of our planet. Consequently, this year, we dedicate the 26th International Conference of Chief Justices of the World to explore the theme of '**A New Look at the United Nations & its Charter: Global Governance for a Sustainable Future in a Fractured World**'.

#### OBJECTIVES & SCOPE OF DISCUSSIONS

The Conference aims to:

1. Address the State of Global Governance by exploring the role of international law in maintaining order amid shifting global alliances and disengagement by major powers. Can issue-based alliances "**Smart Coalitions**" drive reforms where formal multilateral mechanisms struggle?
2. Strengthen Multilateralism, including enabling middle powers to take on a leadership role where traditional superpowers are less engaged or disengaged.
3. Evaluate legal responses to digital threats and global corruption (Cybercrime & Grand Corruption). How can legal systems balance change & continuity, i.e. adapt while preserving fundamental justice principles?
4. Tackle Climate & Health Crises through existing or new legal frameworks for climate litigation, pandemic response, and other environmental needs. From environmental protection to digital governance, how can judicial institutions safeguard the future?
5. Foster Judicial Cooperation with enhanced arbitration mechanisms, particularly in the context of the UN Charter, to resolve international disputes efficiently.
6. Develop a framework for protecting outer space from exploitation and weaponization or military uses.

#### CONCLUSION

This Conference seeks to build a roadmap for a just, sustainable, and rules-based global order in these challenging times. By fostering collaboration among chief justices, judges, legal scholars and thought leaders, it aims to reinforce the role of law as a stabilizing force in an otherwise rapidly changing world. The Conference also seeks to explore a more representative and democratic world order for a sustainable future.

#### ABOUT THE ORGANISER

The organiser of the Conference is City Montessori School, India, (a senior secondary school) recognised by Guinness Book of Records as world's largest school by pupils in a single city, and is a recipient of 2002 UNESCO Prize for Peace Education. The School is an NGO associated with the United Nations Department of Public Information (UN DPI).

The International Conference of Chief Justices of the World (ICCJW) was conceived and convened since 2001 consecutively by the champion of quality and value-based education, the Late Dr Jagdish Gandhi, Founder of City Montessori School, a doyen of world unity and peace and a passionate life-long advocate for a democratic and representative global governance structure.

The Conference is inspired by Article 51 of the Constitution of India which relates to promoting international peace and security, fostering respect for international law, encouraging settlement of international disputes by arbitration, and the maintenance of just and honourable relations between nations.

By 2024, a total of 1520 Chief Justices and Judges from 142 countries and also many Heads of States/Governments had participated in the Conference..



**ICCJW**

A New Look at the United Nations and its Charter

19 - 24 November, 2025

## 26th International Conference of Chief Justices of the World

### On Article 51 of the Constitution of India

Organised by : City Montessori School, Lucknow, India



### TENTATIVE PROGRAMME IN A NUTSHELL

#### Wednesday, 19th November 2025 – Delhi (For overseas guests only)

9:00 am .....	Leave for Rajghat to offer tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at his memorial
11:00 am .....	Leave Rajghat for Constitution Club, New Delhi
11:30 am – 12:00 noon.....	Welcome of the guests at Constitution Club
12:00 noon – 1:30 pm .....	Panel Discussion & Press Conference
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm .....	Lunch
3:00 pm – 5:30 pm .....	Visit of Rashtrapati Bhavan (President's House), New Delhi
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm .....	Reception and Dinner at Lotus Temple
8:30 pm .....	To leave hotel and stay overnight

#### Thursday, 20th November 2025 - Delhi - Agra - Lucknow (For overseas guests only)

6:00 am .....	Leave Delhi for Agra by Volvo buses
11:00 am .....	Arrive at Agra and visit Taj Mahal, a Wonder of the World
1:00 pm .....	Lunch at Agra in Hotel
2:00 pm .....	Leave for Lucknow
6:30 pm .....	Arrive in Lucknow, Welcome Dinner & Dance

#### Friday, 21st November 2025 in Lucknow

8:45 am – 12:30 pm.....	Inaugural Session at World Unity Convention Center of CMS at its Kanpur Road Campus
12.30 pm – 1.00 pm.....	Group Photograph & Press Conference at the Fountain Stairs at venue of the Conference
1.00 pm – 2.00 pm.....	Lunch Break at the Swimming Pool side at the Conference venue.
2.00 pm – 3.00 pm.....	Plenary Panel Discussion
3.00 pm – 3.30 pm.....	Tea Break
3.30 pm – 4.30 pm.....	(a) Talks for Students in Auditorium (b) Parallel Sessions 1 to 6 in Conference Rooms
5:00 pm.....	Cultural Function in honour of the participants at CMS, Kanpur Road Campus
8:30 pm.....	Dinner

#### Saturday, 22nd November 2025 in Lucknow

8:45 am – 9.30 am.....	Opening (Prayer & Appeal by the Students)
9.30 am – 10.30 am.....	Plenary Addresses
10.30 am – 11.30 am.....	Plenary Panel Discussion
11.30 am – 12.00 pm.....	Tea Break
12.00 noon – 1.00 pm.....	(a) Talks for Students in Auditorium (b) Parallel Sessions 1 to 6 in Conference Rooms
1.00 pm – 1.45 pm.....	Lunch Break at Swimming Pool Side
2.00 pm – 3.00 pm.....	Plenary Addresses
3.00 pm – 3.30 pm.....	Tea Break
3.30 pm – 4.30 pm.....	(a) Talks for Students in the Auditorium (b) Parallel Sessions 1 to 6 in Conference Rooms
4.30 pm – 6.00 pm.....	Interaction with Chief Justices for finalizing Draft of Resolution.
7:00 pm.....	Dinner

#### Sunday, 23rd November 2025 in Lucknow

9.00 am – 10.30 am.....	Final Plenary Session
10.30 am - 11.00 am.....	Tea Break
11.00 am - 12.00 noon.....	Moving of the Draft Resolution for consideration and adoption by the House and Vote of Thanks.
12.00 noon. ....	Press Conference followed by Lunch
2.30 pm .....	Departures for those leaving on the day

#### Monday, 24th November 2025 in Lucknow

Optional extra day for those who wish to stay for further sightseeing and shopping, followed by Departures

P.T.O.



**A New Look at the United Nations and its Charter**

## **PERMISSION LETTERS**

from the Government of India  
for holding the

# **26<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Chief Justices of the World**

on Article 51 of the Constitution of India

from 19<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2025

**Permission from Ministry of Law and Justice**

**Permission from Ministry of External Affairs**

**Permission from Ministry of Home Affairs**

Permission letter from Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India  
for organizing the 26th International Conference of Chief Justices of the World  
on Article 51 of the Constitution of India  
from 19<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2025

**F. No.42250016/CC  
Government of India  
Ministry of Home Affairs  
Foreigners-I Division  
(Computer Cell)**

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Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium  
New Delhi-110001, Dated: 13.01.2025

To

Prof. Geeta Gandhi Kingdon,  
Convenor of the Conference & Manager,  
City Montessori School (CMS),  
12, Station Road, Lucknow- 226001

**Subject:- 26<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Chief Justice of the world on Article 51 of  
the constitution of India from 19<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2025 at City  
Montessori School (CMS), Lucknow, U.P.**

Madam,

I am directed to refer to your letter dated 01.01.2025 on the above mentioned subject and to convey that in the light of extant instructions outlined in the Visa Manual, security clearance of Ministry of Home Affairs is required for an event only if (i) there are foreign participants from **PRC Countries i.e. Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Sudan, foreigners of Pakistani Origin and Stateless persons** or (ii) **the venue of the event falls under RAP/PAP area**. The organiser of such events needs to apply to MHA on its online event clearance platform (<https://conference.mha.gov.in>) for obtaining the security clearance of MHA. Necessary instruction in this regard is annexed as Annexure-'A' for reference and future compliance.

2. For events, other than the two categories mentioned above, Indian Missions are authorised to issue 'Conference Visa' to the Foreign Participants.

Yours faithfully

*Raj*  
13/1/25

(Raj Kumar Sah)  
Section Officer (CC)



A New Look at the United Nations & its Charter

## A brief synopsis and overview of the 26th International Conference of Chief Justices of the World on Article 51 of the Constitution of India to be held from 19<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2025 at Lucknow, India

The current conflicts ravaging our world have unleashed unprecedented devastation, claiming countless lives and reducing homes to rubble. The humanitarian crisis deepens as millions flee to neighboring countries, stripped of everything they once possessed. Beyond the immediate human toll, these wars have sent shockwaves through the global economy and raised the specter of a catastrophic world war.

Many other serious problems threaten the very existence of humankind, such as terrorism, huge stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction, global warming and climate change, the inevitable water crisis, disease, poverty and hunger. A very large section of the world's population is deprived of basic human rights, the right to live with liberty, dignity, freedom and is living in abject poverty.

The flagrant disregard for International Law underscores an urgent truth: we must fundamentally re-imagine and rebuild our global governance structures in the interest of humanity, especially children and future generations. This transformation is vital not only for today's humanity—particularly our children—but for all future generations who will inherit the world we shape. There is a growing global yearning for a reformed United Nations that could usher in an era of peace, unity, and shared prosperity.

Children are humanity's common denominator and their well-being is the common concern that transcends national boundaries, connecting all peoples across the globe. We must ensure that every child, regardless of their nationality, has access to fundamental rights: equality, justice, freedom, education, proper nutrition, healthcare, and safe shelter. They need a clean and sustainable environment not only for their own development into healthy adults, but also for future generations who will carry forward humanity's progress. By creating these essential conditions worldwide, we invest in both our children's wellbeing and our shared human advancement.

Our generation bears a profound responsibility to address these challenges, not only to avert immediate catastrophes but to provide future generations with a better world than we inherited. Chief Justices and Judges command deep respect for their commitment to justice, impartiality, and universal values. Recognizing this, we convene annual International Conferences of Chief Justices of the World to gather their unbiased perspectives on humanity's pressing challenges.

These Conferences aim to influence world political leadership toward meaningful reform of global governance structures, ensuring they can meet both current and future needs. Through twenty-five successful conferences, we have fostered crucial dialogue on these vital issues. Our goal remains clear: to help forge a safer, more just world for present and future generations.

### 1. Why a World Judiciary Conference by a Montessori School?

The City Montessori School (CMS) at Lucknow in India, has over 63,000 students on rolls, and is recognized by the **Guinness Book of World Records** as the largest day school of the world. CMS is a recipient of the **2002 UNESCO Prize for Peace Education** and is an NGO recognized by the UN Department of Public Information (UNDPI). CMS considers it as its duty to highlight the cause of a safe and secure future of the over 2.5 billion children of the world and the generations yet-to-be born.

### 2. The vision and responsibility of this Montessori School

The City Montessori School (CMS) is a senior secondary school and it believes that '**A Modern School must Act as a Lighthouse of Society**' and must concern itself with the Affairs of the Age. Under its vision and philosophy, City

14. **H.E. Ms Chandrika Kumaratunga**, President of the Republic of SRI LANKA (1994 - 2005)  
(participated in the year 2015)
15. **H.E. Mr Teburoro Tito**, Former President of the Republic of KIRIBATI (1994 - 2003), KIRIBATI  
(participated in the year 2023)
16. **H.E. Mr Abdul Rahman Swar Al Dahab**, President of the Republic of SUDAN (1985 - 1986)  
(participated in the year 2016)
17. **H.E. Mr Rexhep Meidani**, President of the Republic of ALBANIA (1997 - 2002)  
(participated in the year 2014)
18. **H.E. Mr Alexandre Ferdinand N'Guendet**, President of the CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC (2014)  
(participated in the year 2014)
19. **H.E. Mr Ludwig Scotty**, President of the Republic of NAURU (2004 - 2007)  
(participated in the year 2014)
20. **H.E. Sir James R. Mancham**, KBE, Founding President of the Republic of SEYCHELLES (1976 - 1977)  
(participated in the years 2010, 2007, 2003)
21. **H.E. Dr Pakalitha B Mosisili**, Prime Minister of Kingdom of LESOTHO (1998 - 2012 & 2015 - 2017)  
(participated in the years 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017)
22. **H.E. Mr Jean-Henry Ceant**, Prime Minister of the Republic of HAITI (2018 - 2019)  
(participated in the years 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019)
23. **H.E. Mr Moses Veerasammy Nagamootoo**, Prime Minister of the Republic of GUYANA (2015 - 2020)  
(participated in the year 2016)
24. **H.E. Mr Anerood Jugnauth**, Prime Minister of the Republic of MAURITIUS (2014 - 2017)  
(participated in the year 2016)
25. **H.E. Sir Rodney Errey Lawrence Williams GCMG**, Governor-General, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA  
(2014 - Present) (participated in the years 2024, 2022, 2015)
26. **H.E. Sir Iakoba T. Italeli**, Governor General of the Republic of TUVALU (2010 - 2019)  
(participated in the years 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015 and 2012)
27. **H.E. Sir Daniel Williams**, Governor General of GRENADA (1996 - 2008) (participated in the year 2002)
28. **H.E. Mr Marie Cyril Eddy Boissezon, GOSK**, Vice-President of the Republic of MAURITIUS  
(participated in the year 2023)
29. **H.E. Mr Khemraj Ramjattan**, Vice-President of the Republic of GUYANA (2015 - 2020)  
(participated in the year 2017)
30. **H.E. Mr Archibald Lesao Lehohla**, Deputy Prime Minister of the Kingdom of LESOTHO (2002 - 2009)  
(participated in the year 2006)
31. **Rt. Hon. Mr Alban Kingsford Sumana Bagbin**, Speaker of the Parliament, Republic of GHANA  
(participated in the years 2023, 2021)
32. **Hon. Mr Gelase Daniel Ndabirabe**, Speaker of the National Assembly of Republic of BURUNDI  
(participated in the year 2023)
33. **Hon. Rt. Professor Aaron Michael Oquaye**, Speaker of the Parliament, Republic of GHANA  
(participated in the years 2020, 2018, 2017)
34. **Hon. Mrs Santi Bai Hanoomanjee**, Speaker of the Parliament, Republic of MAURITIUS  
(participated in the years 2018, 2017)
35. **Hon. Rt. Rebeca A. Kadaga**, Speaker of the Parliament, Republic of UGANDA  
(participated in the year 2019)
36. **Hon. Mr Justice A. N. Bankole Stronge**, Speaker of the Parliament, SIERRA LEONE  
(participated in the year 2009)
37. **Hon. Ms Ntlhoi Motsamai**, Speaker of the Parliament, Kingdom of LESOTHO  
(participated in the year 2007)

**We request your participation in the 26th International Conference of Chief Justices of the World to be held from 19th to 24th November 2025 and also request your honourable self to motivate political leadership of your country to work for making this world a better place to live in.**



## **CERTIFICATE**

**The largest school based on pupils is  
City Montessori School in Lucknow,  
Uttar Pradesh, India, with 61,345 pupils  
as of 10 Aug 2023 across 21 campuses; the  
school was founded by Dr Jagdish Gandhi  
and his wife Dr Bharti Gandhi (both IND)  
in 1959 with five students**

**OFFICIALLY AMAZING™**



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United Nations Educational,  
Scientific and Cultural Organization

## The 2002 UNESCO Prize for Peace Education

has been awarded to the

City Montessori School, Lucknow  
(India)

in recognition of its efforts to promote  
the universal values  
of education for peace and tolerance  
at a time when these values  
are increasingly being challenged

Paris, 23 September 2002

Koïchiro Matsuura  
Director-General

United Nations  Nations Unies

HEADQUARTERS - STEGE NEW YORK, NY 10017

9 June 2014

Jagdish Gandhi  
President  
The City Montessori School Society  
12, Station Road, Lucknow - 226001

Dear Jagdish Gandhi,

The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations of the Department of Public Information (DPI) met on 6 June 2014 to consider new applications from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for association with DPI. I am pleased to inform you that the Committee approved The City Montessori School Society for association with the Department, effective immediately.

This association constitutes a commitment on the part of your organization to disseminate information and raise public awareness about the purposes and activities of the United Nations and issues of global concern. Associated NGOs are expected to focus a portion of their publications and information activities on the work of the United Nations. You are encouraged to cooperate with the United Nations Information Centres or Services in your country and with representative of other parts of the United Nations in the area of your expertise.

To confirm your NGO's association with DPI, your NGO must **create a profile in the Civil Society Network (CSO Net)**. Please visit the website: <http://esango.un.org/irene/?page=login> and click on the last option, "Please Click Here To Add Your Organization" to create your profile. Please search the database to check if your organization already has a profile in the database. If so, you can update that profile.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that as an associated NGO, you are entitled to six grounds passes each year to enter the United Nations Headquarters in New York. On the 2014 Newly Associated Information Form (attached), you may designate one main representative, two alternate representatives, and two youth representatives (between the ages of 18 and 32 years old) who will be granted annual United Nations grounds passes. Please email the completed form to [undpingo@un.org](mailto:undpingo@un.org).

The UN grounds passes will give your representative(s) access to the United Nations Campus in New York, including all open meetings of the United Nations bodies, which they can attend as observers. Representatives are also invited to attend the NGO Thursday Briefings organized by NGO Relations, featuring United Nations officials, government delegates and other experts from the NGO Community.

Your organization will start receiving emails of relevant United Nations material and information on United Nations conferences, seminars, briefings and other events following the creation of your CSO Net profile. Information on these events and announcements are also available on our website. We encourage your NGO to provide a link the DPI NGO

P.T.O.

Relations website (<http://outreach.un.org/ngorelations>) on your organization's website. We also encourage you to "LIKE" us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/UNDPINGO>.

Before the end of each year, we will send information regarding the Annual Review, which will also be available on our website. In order to maintain your associated status with DPI, you **must complete the Annual Review form** by the deadline and appoint representatives for renewed grounds passes. Please note that your designated representative(s) should come to the DPI/NGO Resource Centre located in the UNITAR building on 45th Street and First Avenue in person with a government-issued photo ID to receive the grounds pass.

As part of the criteria to maintain association, you are also expected to keep NGO Relations informed of the activities you undertake and to send us relevant publications and other materials. In the case of an amendment to your organizational structure or bylaws, please send us a copy of the amended documents. In addition, you should inform us of all changes in your name or contact information (mailing and emails addresses) as well as any changes of NGO representatives. If you have any further questions please contact [undpingo@un.org](mailto:undpingo@un.org).

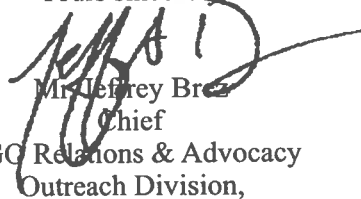
#### **Use of the UN Emblem**

Please also note that the use of the UN emblem is restricted by General Assembly resolution 92(i), adopted in 1946. This resolution states that in order to prevent the misuse of the UN seal and emblem, **it cannot be used without the authorization of the Secretary-General**. NGOs are **not allowed** to use the official UN emblem on their websites, stationary, business cards or other items. NGOs may, however, request authorization to use the modified UN emblem which requires written approval and authorization by the Office of Legal Affairs. Please refer to the attached guidelines for further details on the use of the UN emblem.

Association of NGOs with DPI does not constitute their incorporation into the United Nations system, nor does it entitle associated organization or their staff to any kind of privileges, immunities or special status. Your NGO may mention that the organization is "associated with DPI".

Again, it is my pleasure to welcome your organization among NGOs associated with DPI and to assure you that the staff of the DPI NGO Relations Section looks forward to a productive partnership in pursuit of our common goals.

Yours sincerely



Mr. Jeffrey Brzezinski  
Chief

NGO Relations & Advocacy  
Outreach Division,

Department of Public Information

cc: Ms. Anne-Marie Carlson, Chair, NGO/DPI Executive Committee.