**QUESTIONNAIRE**

**The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the administration of justice and the free and independent exercise of the legal profession**

1. Please describe the measures adopted in your country to guarantee the proper functioning of the justice system during the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Were these measures adopted on the basis of emergency legislation? If so, was the judiciary consulted prior to their adoption, or has the legality or the constitutionality of these measures been subject to judicial review?
3. Please indicate the measures that have been adopted in your country to ensure access to justice during the COVID-19 pandemic:
4. Have courts remained opened throughout the different phases of the pandemic?
5. Which criteria have been developed and used to identify urgent cases (e.g. cases on the legality of pre-trial detention or domestic violence)?
6. What measures have been developed and implemented to manage the backlog caused by the COVID-19 pandemic?
7. Has your court system experienced an increase in pandemic-related cases, e.g. complaints against emergency measures or grievances caused by the pandemic (e.g. bankruptcy or family disputes)?
8. Please describe the health and safety measures adopted in the court system to ensure the protection of all the actors in the justice system (e.g. judges, prosecutors, parties to the proceedings and their lawyers, court officials, law enforcement officials) during the COVID-19 pandemic.
9. Please provide information on the technological means used to ensure the functioning of the court system during the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g. online submissions to courts or hearings held in videoconference):
10. What measures have been adopted to ensure that judicial stakeholders (e.g. judges, court staff, prosecutors) have access to adequate technological means and appropriate training on new procedures (e.g. use of electronic platforms to access documents, electronic case management and videoconferencing options)?
11. What measures have been developed to facilitate access to justice for disadvantaged groups and individuals who may not own a computer, not have access to internet, or not be tech-savvy enough to participate in online hearings?
12. Which safeguards have been put in place to ensure that the use of technological means does not adversely affect fair trial and due process standards (e.g. public hearings, adequate time and facilities to communicate with one’s own lawyer, access to interpretation…)?
13. Please provide information on the additional budgetary resources allocated to the court system for the years 2020-2021 to enable that the judiciary and the public prosecution to continue to function and to recover from the pandemic. Do these measures include safeguards to prevent and tackle corruption in the allocation of these additional budgetary resources?
14. Please describe the measures that have been adopted to enable lawyers to carry out their activities during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly with regard to their access to people under arrest or detention and means to facilitate confidential client-lawyer communications during online hearings.

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