



The ROLE UK Programme Strategic Forum: Terms of Reference

1. Background and context

Advocates for International Development's (A4ID) Rule of Law Expertise UK (ROLE UK) programme was founded through the collective efforts of UK legal pro bono providers, working with the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).

To ensure that the partnerships and activities the programme supports are effective and relevant, there is a recognised need for:

- Continued meaningful stakeholder engagement;
- Ongoing dialogue with the UK pro bono legal community;
- Collaborative contribution to the developing strategy of the ROLE UK programme going forward.

A4ID has therefore established a **Strategic Forum**, which will be open to all interested stakeholders in the ROLE UK programme. This provides a broad opportunity for relevant stakeholders to be apprised of the ongoing work of the ROLE UK programme, be a forum for views on the direction of the programme and facilitate coordination between Forum stakeholders.

1.1. About Advocates for International Development

A4ID is the charity that empowers lawyers to use their skills to fight world poverty. Through its pro bono broker, legal education, programmes and thought leadership work, A4ID is helping the legal sector to meet its global corporate social responsibility to bring about sustainable development.

1.2. About ROLE UK

A4ID's ROLE UK programme, funded by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), contributes to building long-term partnerships between the UK legal sector and legal actors in developing countries to strengthen the rule of law and facilitate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We focus on the eradication of poverty; gender equality; reduced inequalities; peace, justice and strong institutions; and partnerships for development.

The ROLE UK programme supports partnerships between the international development and legal pro bono sectors to provide high-quality pro bono legal and judicial expertise.

2. Membership

The Strategic Forum is open to:

- legal or rule of law organisations or individuals, including but not limited to:
 - Law firms
 - Barristers
 - Judiciary
 - Societies, associations, networks
 - Academic institutions
 - Rule of law/development NGOs
- Involved in initiatives addressing rule of law issues in developing countries, and
- Interested in the role of pro bono legal expertise.

3. Purpose and Benefits

The Strategic Forum is designed to strike the right balance between ensuring that the strategy of the ROLE UK programme is as collaboratively developed as possible, without impact on the efficient delivery of its activities.



Participants in the Strategic Forum have the right to attend, the right to be heard, the right to have their views and needs formally considered, the right to offer criticism, and give suggestions on programme strategy.

- It will be an opportunity for all stakeholders to comment on the strategy of the Programme, and suggest improvements.
- It will be an opportunity for A4ID to take full account of the views of the broader community.
- It will be an opportunity for the stakeholder community to consider how they can support the ongoing programmes of ROLE UK.
- The Strategic Forum will not discuss operational matters.

The ROLE UK programme is managed by A4ID directly. Views, comments and suggestions expressed by the members of the Strategic Forum will be relayed to and duly taken into account by the programme's management team and A4ID's governing bodies.

There are significant benefits to this engagement process:

- The ROLE UK programme will be designed with the needs of the stakeholder community in mind, which will lead to useful, impactful activities;
- The ROLE UK programme will stay relevant and will be flexible to modify its strategy in light of changing conditions;
- The modality of the forum allows for varying levels of engagement and participation;
- The openness of the forum ensures that the views taken are sufficiently representative;
- Finally, the convening of the forum will organically form a community of practice of legal pro bono and rule of law actors.

4. Expectations

Participants in the Strategic Forum will be expected to:

- Commit to regular attendance of Strategic Forum meetings (twice a year);
- Engage with materials shared by the ROLE UK programme;
- Share their views in a constructive way, in the interests of the ROLE UK programme.

5. Methodology of Forum

- A4ID will convene a meeting twice a year in July and January (predominantly in the evenings to increase accessibility). Meetings will be held in London. Wherever possible, technological solutions will be offered to facilitate the participation of stakeholders located elsewhere.
- Invitees will be sent in advance with a number of questions that ROLE UK would like stakeholders to consider, to help guide the discussion. Participants will also be invited to submit agenda items for discussion.
- Generally, the agenda will be as follows:
 - 1) Updates on ROLE UK programme
 - 2) Pre-arranged questions discussion
 - 3) Items from stakeholders
 - 4) AOB
- Notes of this forum (in the form of a thought-piece, not a direct summary) will be published as a blog online (<https://www.roleuk.org.uk/blog>), to all participants and to the mailing list.
- In between meetings, members of the Strategic Forum will be invited to networking events and training sessions organised by the ROLE UK programme. They will also be kept informed when resource materials are published.