



**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JUDGES  
UNION INTERNATIONALE DES MAGISTRATS  
UNIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE MAGISTRADOS  
INTERNATIONALE VEREINIGUNG DER RICHTER  
UNIONE INTERNAZIONALE DEI MAGISTRATI**  
PALAZZO DI GIUSTIZIA - PIAZZA CAVOUR - 00193 ROMA - ITALY

## **WELCOME**

### **International Justice Forum – Quality and Efficiency of Justice; trends and past practice; 18 September 2019**

**G T Pagone**

**President of the International Association of Judges**

It is a pleasure to welcome such distinguished guests and colleagues to this forum in which judges and court administrators participate. The primary objectives of the International Association of Judges (“**the IAJ**”) is to advance the Rule of Law and the independence of the judiciary. Those essential objectives providing just outcomes, however, take place within the concrete context of courts and their administration. Judges and court administrators have complementary interests in providing just outcomes in accordance with the Rule of Law and by an independent judiciary.

It is important that judicial associations and court administrators speak with each other about how best to achieve the objectives of, on the one hand, providing justice in accordance with the Rule of Law by an independent judiciary, and on the other hand, providing it efficiently and within the constraints of the resources which are available. The two aspects of judicial administration (namely, the provision of justice and its administration) may sometimes come into conflict. The dictates of efficiency, and the limitations of resources, may sometimes put strains upon the delivery of impartial justice in accordance with the Rule of Law.

The desire to provide efficient and speedy judicial decisions can sometimes come in conflict with equality, fairness and impartiality. It is common to hear complaints that access to justice is too costly, too time consuming and too slow. Judges, and court administrators, are constantly looking for ways in which litigants can have their disputes decided faster, more cheaply and more efficiently. Sometimes the solutions which are attempted impinge upon, and come at a cost to, the quality of justice.

The tension between the ideal and the efficient occurs in a complex world in which resources need to be allocated to different objectives. It occurs also in the context of changing technology. Those present here today come from different places and bring with them the particular expectations of their legal system and their experiences within those systems. We have here today, therefore, an impressive depth of knowledge and experience from which we are all able to draw and learn. Judges and administrators throughout our respective jurisdictions face essentially the same issues and need to obtain the same just outcomes within the context of their legal system and the resources available to them. We are very fortunate to be here together to share and to learn from each other about how the common objectives can best be achieved and how different communities have gone about doing so. It is important that administrators and judges alike listen to each other and learn from each other. We are fortunate to be able to do this in this context in which the learning is not only as between administrators and judges but also across a great number of jurisdictions.

Organising this conference has not been easy and the organisational efforts in bringing it about have been significant. That can be seen from the impressive list of speakers who will address this forum and who will lead discussion. I have no doubt that their contributions, and the panel discussions, will give rise to much thoughtful discussion and co-operation during, between and after the formal sessions. It remains for me to thank our hosts for all they have done in putting

together this forum and in giving us this opportunity to deepen our understanding of the issues we face and how others have dealt with them.

G T Pagone