



INNOVATIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL SOCIETIES

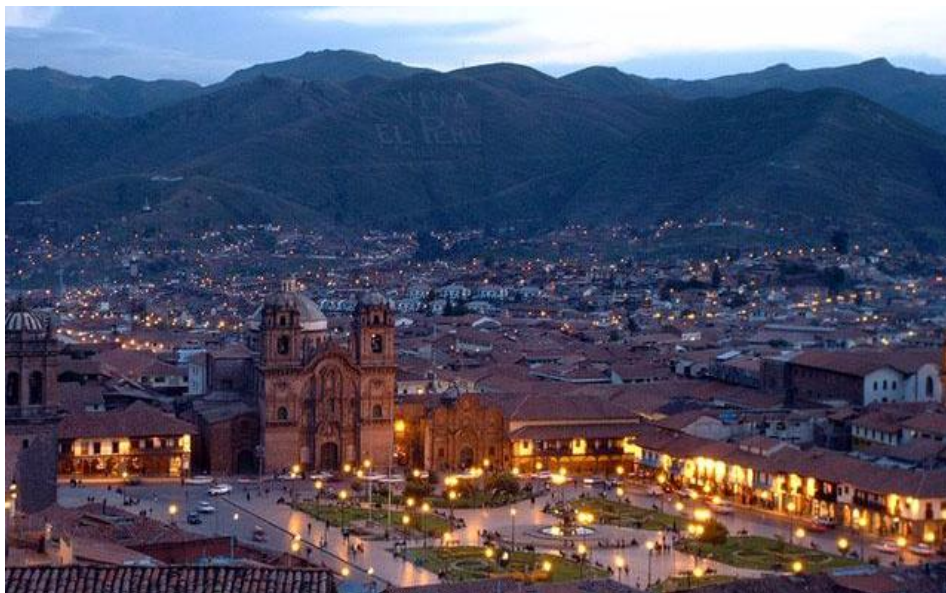
Courts, Corruption, and Public Norms

Good governance depends on impartial, accessible, and timely dispute resolution. Two new ISS case studies showcase reforms in **Kenya** and **Peru** designed to increase the efficiency of court processes and fight corruption.

Kenya: Transforming the Courts

What do you do when it's cheaper to bribe a judge than to hire a lawyer? When Willy Mutunga became Kenya's chief justice in 2011, he reduced judicial delay and took aim at corrupt practices in the country's courts. Judges, magistrates, and court staff helped court registrars streamline administrative processes and set up a new nationwide case-tracking system. Mutunga also opened up lines of communication for citizens to register complaints, suggest changes, and monitor actions taken.

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Cusco, Peru. Photo by EDu Dougall

Peru: Battling a Cancer, Tackling Corruption

In 2009, Peru's transitional government successfully prosecuted high-level political corruption and set up a special anti-corruption subsystem. But by 2011, new regional corruption networks had emerged. To counter these, Peru's comptroller general, the national attorney general, and the president of the judiciary joined forces to establish a new anti-corruption tribunal, strengthen investigative capacity, and expand the number of special prosecutors for corruption throughout the country. By 2015, prosecutors were investigating several scandals that reached the highest levels of Peru's government.

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ISS Featured Interview

[Muhammed Lawal Uwais](#), former chief justice of Nigeria, describes his efforts to reform the country's judicial system. He discusses the need to eliminate bribery, corruption, nepotism, and political interference within the judicial system and the importance of providing citizens with a mechanism for registering complaints about the system.



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