

A Culture of Lawfulness

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Topic 3 at the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Kyoto, 20–27 April 2020):

“Multidimensional approaches by Governments to promoting the rule of law by, inter alia,

- providing access to justice for all;
- building effective, accountable, impartial and inclusive institutions;
- and considering social, educational and other relevant measures, including fostering **a culture of lawfulness** while respecting cultural identities, in line with the Doha Declaration.”

16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**

Defining **the Rule of Law**

“a principle of governance in which all persons, institutions and entities, public and private, including the State itself, are accountable to laws that are publicly promulgated, equally enforced and independently adjudicated, and which are consistent with international human rights norms and standards. It requires, as well, measures to ensure adherence to the principles of supremacy of law, equality before the law, accountability to the law, fairness in the application of the law, separation of powers, participation in decision-making, legal certainty, avoidance of arbitrariness and procedural and legal transparency.”

the rule of law = a principle or set of principles

Defining a Culture of Lawfulness

“engaging all members of society to make prevention efforts more effective and to galvanize public trust and confidence in criminal justice systems.”

Paragraph 10(c) of the Doha Declaration

Defining a Culture of Lawfulness

“State institutions alone cannot secure the rule of law. Also required is a culture of lawfulness – **a culture in which the overwhelming majority is convinced that the rule of law offers the best, long-term chance of securing their rights and attaining their goals.** They believe that the rule of law is achievable and are committed to upholding it. In a culture of lawfulness, most people believe that living according to the rule of law (respecting the rights protected by law, fulfilling the duties codified by law) is the best way to serve both the public interest and their personal interest in the long term. They also strive to make the government itself follow the rule of law.”

Roy Godson (2004)

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graph TD; A[Culture of Lawfulness] --- B[Democracy]; A --- C[Human Rights]
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Culture of Lawfulness

Democracy

Human Rights

the rule of law = a principle or set of principles

a culture of lawfulness = a culture that supports

the rule of law = a procedure of justice

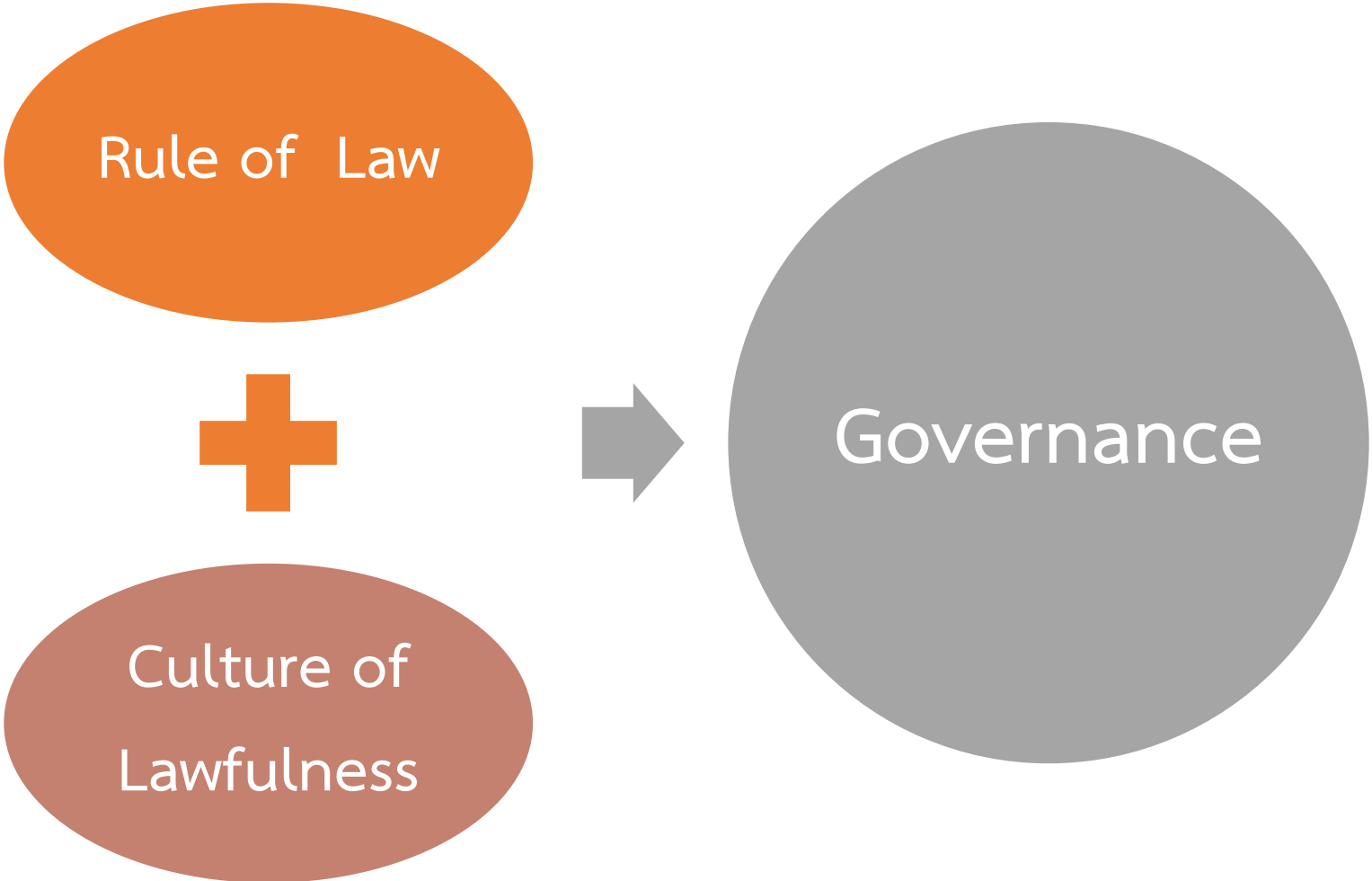
“Why do people obey the law?”

Obeying the law depends less on the outcome of the process, and more on the perceived fairness of the process and on how they are treated.

building TRUST

trust in the law, trust in the strength of the rule of law, trust in the institutions responsible for the rule of law, trust in one's own abilities, and trust in one's own community

The importance of a culture of lawfulness for sustainable development



Challenge of a culture of lawfulness



no “one size fits all”

respecting cultural identities

Promoting a Culture of Lawfulness

Installing a Culture of Lawfulness in Mexican Youth

1. *Civic and school-based education.*

2. *Centers of moral authority.*

3. *Media and Popular Culture.*

Main Mechanisms for Promoting Culture of Lawfulness

