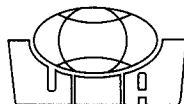


UNION INTERNATIONALE DES AVOCATS

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LAWYERS
INTERNATIONALE ANWALTS-UNION



UNION INTERNACIONAL DE ABOGADOS
UNIONE INTERNAZIONALE DEGLI AVVOCATI

الاتحاد الدولي للمحامين

INTERNATIONAL CHARTER REGARDING ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL

Considering that the unconditional right to justice must be incorporated in the recognised rights of the human being, from which it is inseparable;

Considering that this right, without which there is no true dignity of the human being, must be guaranteed, to every person, regardless of any consideration other than his status as a human being;

Considering that this right implies the obligation of each States to make know to each individual his rights and the manner in which they may be exercised, and that he holds such rights under International conventions as well the Constitution and National laws;

Considering that this right includes the right of access to all courts, both regular and special, under conditions of total liberty and equality of treatment;

Considering that nothing must compromise the right, taken as fundamental, of an individual to consult a lawyer and to be assisted and defended by him or her, whether the individual is plaintiff or defendant, victim or accused;

Considering that the choice of a lawyer must be a free one under all circumstances;

Considering that it is the duty of each State to bear the economic burden of legal assistance to indigents;

Considering that the dignity of the lawyer requires that his or her interventions on behalf of an indigent be compensated in an appropriate manner;

Considering that, in any event, the legal profession has the obligation of playing an active role in this system of legal aid, dedicating to it, without reservation and with complete independence, its competence and its efforts, regardless of any consideration other than the best interest of the indigent;

ARTICLE 1

Every individual has right to have access to justice regardless of his or her economic status or social situation, without distinction, including in particular those based on age, sex, nationality, ethnic origin, membership to any group, religious or political convictions.

ARTICLE 2

Access to justice includes the right to be counselled, as well as to be assisted and defended, by a lawyer, with full independence, before every court, regular or special, and before every authority or institution that is called upon to resolve any litigation or dispute of any kind.

ARTICLE 3

Regardless of his or her economic status, every individual has the right to benefit from the assistance of a lawyer whom he or she has chosen freely.

ARTICLE 4

Every State shall have the responsibility for assuming the economic burden of legal assistance to indigents. The interventions of the lawyer on behalf of indigents must be compensated in an appropriate manner.

ARTICLE 5

The legal profession, in any event, shall monitor closely the provision of legal services for indigents.

ARTICLE 6

The lawyer shall fulfil his or her functions of counsel and defence with complete independence in all circumstances.

ARTICLE 7

The Bars and professional Organisations of lawyers shall monitor the measures taken by each State to put into place a system of education and information for those subject to its jurisdiction regarding their rights and the exercise thereof.

ARTICLE 8

The Bars and professional Organisations of lawyers signatories of the present Charter undertake to encourage respect of the principles enunciated herein.

To this end, they will make all necessary representations to the authorities of their State in order that the Charter be adopted as an internal legal norm.

This Charter was adopted by the General Assembly of the Union Internationale des Avocats in Morelia, on August 2, 1991