

JDRN WEBSITE STATEMENT

SECOND MEETING OF THE JDRN – NEW YORK, 22-23 MAY 2023



1. The International Judicial Dispute Resolution Network (JDRN) was established in May 2022 by judiciaries from across the common law and civil law traditions to advance the adoption of the Judicial Dispute Resolution (JDR) process in judicial systems around the world. We are motivated by our common goal of promoting affordable and effective access to justice through the early, amicable, and fair resolution of court disputes. We believe that judicial time can be saved through pro-active, judge-led management of cases, twinned with the employment of Court Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) modalities.
2. On 22-23 May 2023, the founding members of the JDRN, together with invited observer judiciaries and judges, gathered to discuss the role of the JDR process in furthering access to justice, the challenges faced, and the development of resources and programmes to advance the vision of the JDRN. The Second Meeting of the JDRN was hosted by the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York (SDNY). Twenty-five delegates from six judiciaries attended physically at the stately Daniel Patrick Moynihan United State Courthouse for the meeting and enjoyed the warm hospitality extended by SDNY. Another twenty-two delegates from eight judiciaries participated remotely through video conferencing.

3. The meeting was opened by Chief Judge Laura Taylor Swain of SDNY and Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon of Singapore. The discussions that followed over the next two days were spirited, enriching and thought-provoking. The common experiences of member judiciaries clearly demonstrate the value of the JDR process to all parties, wherever they may be situated, and also the common challenges faced. Member judiciaries actively discussed the importance of establishing the central role the JDR process plays in judicial proceedings in the eyes of the public, the legal community, and even among members of the judiciary.
4. Since the beginning of the year, as a testament to the growing appreciation of how the JDR process enhances the delivery of fair, proportionate and practical justice, and results in better outcomes for parties, a number of judiciaries have expressed an interest in joining the JDRN. The Judiciary of Jamaica and the Judiciary of Rwanda successfully applied to join the JDRN as Observers and were officially brought on board at the meeting. The next JDRN meeting will be hosted by the Federal Court of Malaysia and has been provisionally confirmed to take place in 2024.