

## Barriers to access to justice as a constraint to the development of nations

This article seeks to analyze the impact that access to justice has on nations' development based on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – a commitment signed by 193 countries, including Brazil, that was set by the United Nations for the 2030 agenda. This article begins with an analysis of development theories, i.e., the economic theory and multidimensional theories that encompass economic, social, and environmental aspects. The adoption of the multidimensional theory by the UN implied the creation of new indicators to measure the development of nations. Among them is the Human Development Index (HDI) which is based on life expectancy and education in addition to individuals' income. This index (conceived by scholars Mahbub ul-Haq and Amartya Sen) aims to shed light on the actual quality of life of a nation. Sen's theory is the framework for both the current conceptualization of development and access to justice.

We also analyze the implementation of some of the SDGs in Brazil, emphasizing Goal 16 which consists of promoting peaceful and inclusive societies by providing access to justice in all levels of institutions. The relationship between the themes of development and access to justice is critical. It is the focus of this article precisely because Brazil has adopted the SDG as its own national, developmental goals. The article is based on a bibliographic review of developmental theories and the concept of access to a constitutionally-guaranteed justice. It examines some national indicators that show the level of implementation of these goals in Brazil.

**KEYWORDS:** *Access to justice; Development; Restriction of freedom.*