

## Annual Conference 2020 Call for Session Proposals

The Knowledge Platform Security & Rule of Law will host its Annual Conference on October 15<sup>th</sup> 2020.

The Annual Conference brings together the brightest minds in the security and rule of law community and beyond to critically engage with the most pressing issues in the field by pushing community participants to question their assumptions, explore new ideas with enthusiasm, present state of the art research and encourage networking amongst community participants.

The content of the Annual Conference will comprise sessions conceived and organized by the Secretariat and the sessions that result from this call, submitted by members of the Platform network.

Through this call, we invite submissions for a range of session formats—from panel discussions and workshops, to trainings and debates, or any other type of session you might have in mind. This document offers guidance on what we're looking for in terms of content, format and how to submit your proposal.

### *Harnessing Potential*

#### Theme Rationale

The Security & Rule of Law sector is consumed by very real problems: violence, conflict, injustice, abuse of power, corruption; making the sector a natural theater for cynicism. However, the KPSRL Secretariat has come to recognize the value of mobilizing around promising ideas, new approaches, and catalytic innovations. Particularly in times when adversity appears to be mounting from every direction, it is essential to seize upon the creativity and ingenuity that difficult circumstances demand (and even inspire). With this in mind, the 2020 Annual Conference will channel our community's collective energy to focus on those small, emergent possibilities that hold the prospect for large, sweeping changes. We are inviting our community to call attention to and rally around the potential they see to improve SRoL policy and programming.

Consider mobile courts, youth-led political parties, Galtung's Triangle, legal empowerment for the poor, or even open source intelligence. These were all once just a nascent idea. To bring them to the scale proportionate to the challenges they sought to tackle, their potential had to be harnessed.

The first step is identifying where potential lies. Putting forward untested ideas or elevating unheard perspectives can reveal opportunities to do things differently. From there, the hardest part can simply be getting out of our own way, quieting the doubts and dissent that argue for following the status quo. Recognizing potential not only involves the ability to see what others may have missed, but also the courage to challenge convention.

Once potential has been recognized, the hard work of 'harnessing' it is next. Here much could be learned from the design community, pioneers in methods for thinking problems through, and mobilizing the creativity, ingenuity and iterative adaptation needed to build workable solutions. The 2020 Annual Conference will be a place to harness potential at any stage of development, from the

first kindling of a radical new idea, to the tough but necessary process of honest critique, to the transformative stages of taking working models to scale. Progress is valued at each of these critical junctures, and at the 2020 KPSRL Annual Conference there will be room for potential at all stages. For more details about the theme and objectives, please refer the full [concept note](#)

## **Guidelines for Annual Conference sessions**

This year, we are offering our community, the opportunity to present, discuss and receive feedback on ideas and projects carrying potential to improve SRoL outcomes, regardless of their stage of development. Sessions may aim to: unpack an idea and identify needs involved (necessary to bring the idea to life), reframe a question and, through collaborative brainstorming, explore possible solutions to a specific issue, share a tested approach and discuss lessons learnt in order to improve it....

The Annual Conference's program will comprise of regular sessions to serve as interactive and participatory discussions (on projects realized/currently implemented or approaches tested) in various formats, as well as special sessions on "seedling ideas" or emerging potential to be tested. The objective of the latter will be to offer space to encourage participants to open up to new ideas, provoking their imagination, allowing them to interact with others, and ultimately create innovative ways of thinking or working

## **Sessions**

With this call, the Platform is seeking applications from its network to contribute to the Annual Conference by hosting a session.

This year's Annual Conference offers SRoL stakeholders with a variety of backgrounds the opportunity to put forward new ideas and accelerate the development of potential solutions on specific SRoL subjects or projects. It will place enhanced emphasis on sessions session formats which encourage (new ways of) engaging, learning, collaborating and networking with the diverse assembly of experts at the conference.

Sessions can take various forms, including – but not limited to –panels, focused discussions, fish bowls, skills trainings/workshops, collaborative brainstorms, elevator pitches and feedback rounds, or any other interactive session format you think may contribute to harnessing potential in the field of security and rule of law.

Sessions will range from 45-90 minutes and must address an important issue within the field of security and rule of law. Proposals must demonstrate that at least half of the session time is dedicated for discussion and interaction.

While we are open to your ideas for proposals, the following characteristics for sessions will be weighed more favourably:

- Collaborative partnerships: We will give preference to sessions that include multiple stakeholders and diverse perspectives and are structured to build conversations between these actors.

- Regional diversity: We aim to build a program that represents the richness of our global community. We will look favorably on sessions that include perspectives from different areas of the world.
- Time for discussion and audience interaction: proposals should demonstrate that at least half of the session time is dedicated to discussion and interaction with the audience. Panels should be limited to ‘discussion starters’ and ultimately provide a space for exchange between all in attendance.

### Speakers

We encourage sessions to present a diversity of views and perspectives. Speakers should represent different backgrounds, including non-Western voices, local actors, various sectors, and different organizations. We strive to maintain a gender balance in speakers at the Conference.

### Submission procedure

**Please submit your proposal for a session at the Annual Conference using [this link](#).**

The deadline for the online submission is up to and including Tuesday July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020. Late submissions will not be accepted. Submissions must include:

- Contact details of the session organizer (and preferably those of the speakers)
- Proposed session title (max. 7 words)
- Brief summary of the session: Describe the substantive content of the session, the proposed format for the session and the structure in which it will play out. Please include a suggested length, proposed size of audience, etc
- Relevance to conference theme: Summarize how the session relates to the theme of the Conference (“Harnessing Potential”), making reference to the potential it is aiming to exploit. Based on the 5 stages of development listed in the [Harnessing Potential Concept Note](#), outline what you see as the desired outcomes for the session
- Name and role of speakers: Identify proposed speakers, outlining their role in the session and providing a brief bio if possible. Speakers do not need to be confirmed for the application, but please keep in mind feasibility
- Note taker: Indicate if you are able to provide a note taker for your session. We require all selected applicants to provide a notetakers. Persons covering sessions should be familiar with the content being discussed
- Facilities and AV requirements: List the facilities and AV equipment required for your session
- Given the uncertain evolution of COVID-19 pandemic, potential speakers should be prepared to adjust their sessions formats to an online meeting or webinar, if need be. We would like to encourage applicant to submit their initial ideas for how to host their session online through the section on *contingency plans* in their applications

## Key Dates

May 18 <sup>th</sup>	Opening of Call for applications/proposals
July 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Proposals for sessions due
July 21 <sup>th</sup>	Notification of acceptance
July 28 <sup>th</sup>	Announcement of Annual Conference Sessions
August 6 <sup>th</sup>	Confirmation session title and short blurb
August 28 <sup>th</sup>	Confirm session speakers and submit full description of program
September 10 <sup>th</sup>	Speakers bio due
September 24 <sup>th</sup>	Communicate final Audiovisual requirements
October 8 <sup>th</sup>	Submit session media(PowerPoint, Video, Audio..)
October 15 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Conference

## Notes

- Proposal submissions, if accepted, are to be considered an initial draft, and will be subject to further development in cooperation with the KPSRL Secretariat. Applicants should anticipate additional rounds of session preparation between July 21<sup>st</sup> and August 28<sup>th</sup>. If the session lead is not available during this period, a surrogate will need to be designated. The Secretariat reserves the right to revoke a session's place in the program if session development deadlines are not met.
- Please note that acceptance by the Platform Secretariat of a session proposal for the Annual Conference does not imply financial support from the Platform Secretariat. Financial support can be discussed with the Secretariat in certain cases.
- Due to the large amount of proposals, not all submissions will be accepted. If we determine that proposals address similar topics, we may encourage applicants to work together or combine sessions where possible.
- Not all AV requirements can be met. Please ensure that your proposal contains all AV requirements.
- If you have any further questions, please get in touch with the Secretariat for more information.

## Responsibilities

Applicants with accepted proposals:

- Provide contact information and bios of speakers before aforementioned deadlines.
- Develop proposed session, including:
  - Submitting session title and blurb no later than August 6<sup>th</sup>
  - Submitting session speaker names, titles and organization, as well as full session description to be reproduced in Annual Conference program, no later than August 28<sup>th</sup>
  - Submitting electronic copies of session media (PowerPoint, videos, audio, etc.) no later than October 8<sup>th</sup>