



**The 29th Annual Conference and
General Meeting of the International
Association of Prosecutors**

29 September-02 October 2024

Baku, Azerbaijan

Call for Speakers



Hosted by



International
Association of
Prosecutors



Prosecutor General's Office
of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Call for Speakers

The International Association of Prosecutors invites proposals from those interested in giving a presentation during the plenary sessions and workshops of the 29th Annual Conference and General Meeting of the IAP in Baku, Azerbaijan, between 29 September – 02 October 2024.

The theme of the 29th Annual Conference is The Role of the Prosecutor in Upholding the Rule of Law. Criminal justice systems vary considerably from one country to another, but are all underpinned by the need for the fair, impartial and effective administration of justice. The functions of public prosecutors impact on all of those who are involved in a criminal matter, including suspects, defendants, witnesses and victims. Prosecutors must make their decisions independently and carry out their functions objectively, respecting and protecting human rights, and ensuring that the criminal justice system functions in a proper manner. As the crime threats that we face continue to evolve and the complexity of crime increases, prosecutors must ensure that, at every stage in the criminal process, they are upholding the rule of law and acting in the interests of justice.

Against that backdrop, the conference will explore how prosecutors can best ensure that there is procedural equality between the prosecution and defence, and will consider the role that prosecution authorities play as one of the main pillars of an independent criminal justice system. The conference will consider ways in which victims and witnesses can be better served by the criminal justice system to ensure that they are able to give their best evidence, both through specific initiatives and greater collaboration between criminal justice stakeholders. It will examine challenges and responses to the growth in cybercrime and the use of artificial intelligence, carefully considering how prosecutors can ensure transparency and accountability, and will also seek to identify more effective methods of international cooperation to tackle this transnational criminal activity.

Many of the conference themes are mirrored in the IAP Standards of Professional Responsibility and Statement of the Essential Duties and Rights of Prosecutors, which celebrate their 25th anniversary this year. The Standards – which are as resonant for prosecutors now as they were when they were first issued – will frame the conference discussions and will provide a benchmark for the conduct, roles and responsibilities of prosecutors in upholding the rule of law. Hearing insights from across the globe, we will explore how we can collectively work together to prevent, tackle and combat terrorism, organised crime, and other serious criminal activity.

Proposals must be submitted to iapspeakers@iap-association.org



Please note the following instructions:

- **The deadline for proposals is Friday 10 May 2024.**
- All proposals should include the following information:
 - Name and full job title/role
 - Title of the proposed presentation
 - Short description of the content of the proposed presentation - no more than 400 words
 - Language in which the presentation will be delivered.
- All proposals must be submitted in English.
- The working language of the conference is English. Simultaneous interpretation into French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic and Chinese will be available for all plenary sessions and sessions that take place in the main conference hall.
- Priority will be given to proposals that have a strong practical and operational focus. Presentations illustrated with operational outcomes at an international, national, organisational and/or individual case level are particularly welcome. Presentations should not focus on academic research and should not simply be a summary of the legal framework in a specific jurisdiction, as this will not be of universal application to other jurisdictions.
- Presentations should last for no longer than 15 minutes.
- All speakers and other active contributors to the conference must pay a registration fee.

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PLENARY 1

NATIONAL APPROACHES TO BALANCING THE THREE MAIN PILLARS OF AN INDEPENDENT CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM – CHALLENGES AND RESPONSES

WORKSHOP 1A

The role of the prosecutor in ensuring procedural equality between prosecution and defence

WORKSHOP 1B

The role of the prosecutor in the sentencing process.

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PLENARY 2

VICTIMS AND WITNESSES WITHIN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

WORKSHOP 2A

Collaboration between stakeholders to ensure the rights of victims in the criminal justice system

WORKSHOP 2B

Transparency and public confidence in the criminal justice system

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PLENARY 3

THE ROLE OF THE PROSECUTOR IN UPHOLDING THE RULE OF LAW IN THE DIGITAL AGE – CHALLENGES AND RESPONSES

WORKSHOP 3A

Ensuring transparency, accountability and data protection in the framework of digital evidence and AI usage

WORKSHOP 3B

The importance of international cooperation in prosecuting cybercrime



PLENARY 1:

National approaches to balancing the three main pillars of an independent criminal justice system – challenges and responses

An independent judiciary, a prosecuting authority that is autonomous and safeguards the public interest, and an effective defence are the three main pillars of an independent criminal justice system. This plenary session will examine and contrast national approaches to balancing those three pillars, analysing challenges to the independent operation of each element and considering responses to ensure the proper functioning of the criminal justice system.

Amongst other topics, speakers may wish to explore:

- How national frameworks can ensure the independence of the judiciary
- What policies and procedures can be put in place within prosecution agencies to ensure compliance with the IAP Standards
- What reforms may be needed to ensure that a suspect/defendant is able to put forward an effective defence
- What are the main challenges to the independence and efficiency of each pillar of the criminal justice system, and what are the potential solutions.

The plenary session will include an interactive panel discussion and a Q&A session where speakers and delegates will be encouraged to share their thoughts and experiences of the topic.

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WORKSHOP 1A

The role of the prosecutor in ensuring procedural equality between prosecution and defence

Ensuring that each party has a reasonable opportunity to present their case under conditions that do not put them at a disadvantage when compared to the other party is an inherent feature of a fair trial. The prosecutor plays a crucial role in ensuring that this principle is upheld. This workshop will examine the obligations of prosecutors under the IAP Standards and the principles of a fair trial to ensure that procedural equality is maintained. As part of that, it will also consider the disclosure of material to the defence prior to trial.

Amongst other topics, speakers may wish to explore:

- How the prosecutor can uphold the principle of procedural equality
- Disclosure of evidential and unused material to the defence
- How does the prosecutor work with the court and other relevant agencies to safeguard the rights of the accused.

WORKSHOP 1B

The role of the prosecutor in the sentencing process

Whilst the final determination of a sentence rests with the judge, the prosecutor also has a role to play in the sentencing process. This workshop will consider issues including uniformity in sentences, the impact of plea bargaining procedures on sentences, sentencing guidelines and pre-sentence reports, as well as the participation of a prosecutor in the execution of sentences, conditional release and pardoning.

Amongst other topics, speakers may wish to explore:

- Sentencing Guidelines – how they operate, advantages and disadvantages
- Impact of alternative / lesser pleas on sentence
- Alternatives to traditional sentences

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PLENARY 2

Victims and witnesses within the criminal justice system

Victims and witnesses are at the heart of the criminal justice system, and it is vital that the criminal justice system better serves those individuals and other vulnerable participants. This plenary session will include the use of special measures to obtain the best evidence from witnesses, the Victims Code, trauma-informed practices, the rights of victims to challenge decisions, the development of minimum standards for the treatment of victims and witnesses and the need to balance the interests of victims and the rights of offenders.

Amongst other topics, speakers may wish to explore:

- Victims Code
- Trauma-informed practices
- Innovative ways to support victims and witnesses to give their best evidence
- Victim's Right of Review / Appeal against prosecutorial decisions.

The plenary session will include an interactive panel discussion and a Q&A session where speakers and delegates will be encouraged to share their thoughts and experiences of the topic.

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WORKSHOP 2A

Collaboration between stakeholders to ensure the rights of victims in the criminal justice system

This workshop will consider the importance of collaboration among different stakeholders involved in the criminal justice system, including prosecutors, defence counsel, the courts, law enforcement agencies, victim support agencies, the media and policymakers, to ensure that the rights of victims are analysed and upheld.

Amongst other topics, speakers may wish to explore:

- How to improve engagement and collaboration between different stakeholders
- Cross-organisational mechanisms to protect the rights of victims
- Research methods to identify gaps and solutions in a holistic approach to victim support.

WORKSHOP 2B

Transparency and public confidence in the criminal justice system

Improving public confidence in the criminal justice system through enhanced transparency is vital in a democratic society. This workshop will consider prosecutorial engagement with the media and civil society, the use of metrics to demonstrate prosecution standards and the role of the media as a safeguard against potential abuses.

Amongst other topics, speakers may wish to explore:

- How to measure public confidence in the criminal justice system
- Transparency and the use of data to improve public confidence
- Engagement with the media and civil society to positively impact on public confidence.

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PLENARY 3

The role of the prosecutor in upholding the rule of law in the digital age – challenges and responses

The rapid advancements in technology, including the use of artificial intelligence (AI), have brought significant changes in the criminal justice landscape. This session will focus on the benefits and risks associated with the use of AI in the criminal justice system, including the challenges of AI algorithms, bias, the lack of interpretability and ethical concerns. It will also explore the challenges faced by prosecutors in adapting to these changes and seek to identify potential solutions.

Amongst other topics, speakers may wish to explore:

- The use by criminals of AI
- Potential uses of AI within the criminal justice system – advantages and disadvantages
- Ethical considerations around the use of AI
- How prosecutors can adapt to the growth of AI.

The plenary session will include an interactive panel discussion and a Q&A session where speakers and delegates will be encouraged to share their thoughts and experiences of the topic.

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WORKSHOP 3A

Ensuring transparency, accountability and data protection in the framework of digital evidence and AI usage

The use of AI in the criminal justice system raises important questions about transparency and accountability. The workshop will discuss strategies to ensure transparency and accountability in AI systems used by prosecutors, such as the need for clear guidelines, independent audits, and ongoing monitoring of AI applications. Moreover, the digital age brings new challenges related to privacy and data protection. Prosecutors often handle sensitive and personal data as part of their work. The workshop will consider the legal and ethical considerations in collecting, storing, and analyzing digital evidence. It will discuss the importance of adhering to data protection laws and implementing appropriate safeguards to protect the privacy rights of individuals involved in criminal proceedings.

Amongst other topics, speakers may wish to explore:

- Development of guidance and training for the use of AI systems in the criminal justice system
- Data protection techniques and mechanisms
- Safeguards in the collection, storage and usage of digital evidence

WORKSHOP 3B

The importance of international cooperation in prosecuting cybercrime

This workshop will focus on the importance of international cooperation in the fight against cybercrime. Participants will discuss the following subtopics:

- Sharing information and intelligence:** Cybercrime is a global phenomenon that requires international collaboration to effectively combat it. Participants will explore mechanisms and platforms for sharing information and intelligence between prosecutors from different jurisdictions. They will discuss the challenges related to cross-border data access, privacy laws, and information-sharing frameworks, as well as potential solutions to facilitate effective cooperation.
- Extradition and mutual legal assistance:** The workshop will delve into the challenges and opportunities in extradition and mutual legal assistance processes concerning cybercrime cases. Participants will discuss strategies to expedite these processes, streamline international cooperation frameworks, and overcome legal and procedural hurdles that may impede the prosecution of cybercriminals.
- Harmonizing legal frameworks:** Participants will examine the importance of harmonizing legal frameworks to ensure consistent approaches to prosecuting cybercrime.

Amongst other topics, speakers may wish to explore:

- Effective international cooperation methods (formal MLA and informal mechanisms)
- Cross-border access to data – challenges and solutions
- How to ensure that incompatible legal frameworks do not impinge on the effective prosecution of cybercrime.

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If you have any questions, please
contact gc@iap-association.org

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