



## ON TRIAL: GLOBAL GOVERNANCE FAILURES IN ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE, RISING INEQUALITIES, AND JOBLESS GROWTH.

As the world is urbanizing, there is a growing global recognition that the solutions to climate change, rising inequality, and uneven growth must occur in cities. Yet these problems are becoming more critical every day and there appear to be only weak or misdirected responses by governments, international organizations, and thought leaders. Greater inequality, further environmental degradation, and climate change is not inevitable. It stems from patterns of economic, social, and political behavior, which reinforce each other though governments, can reverse this trend with more effective policies. However, up to this day, institutions at the city, regional, national, and international levels have not exercised leadership in effectively addressing these issues. How can international entities, conferences, and outcome documents such as the new urban agenda and climate treaties, create meaningful and applicable solutions for the issues at stake?

With this in mind, The New School held a Global Tribunal on Governance on February 27, 2015 to focus attention on the failure of governance as well as exploring how institutions can be held more accountable. The trial also gave voice to those that are often not included in the conversation. The Trial consisted of a prosecution that presented the state of affairs and a potential indictment against the global governance system. Prosecution witnesses reported cases of government failure in the US, Mexico, and India. The Defense, played by New School faculty and graduate students, represented international, national, and local actors, and highlighted cases in which institutions and governments indeed have contributed to meaningful and sustainable change. A diverse panel of experts commented on the cases presented. Finally, a panel of judges interrogated witnesses from both the defense and the prosecution, and gave closing remarks. The trial ended with the presentation of a model verdict, presented by the chief judge.

The Side Event will feature the streaming of a 30-minute excerpt of the Tribunal, followed by a discussion with the audience on issues raised in the film and the given model verdict.

