

STATEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
LAW ORGANIZATION

THE SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE 74th SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGENDA ITEM 86:
THE RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS

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VERSION FOR THE INTERPRETERS

Check against delivery

Thank you Mr. Chair,

Let me begin by congratulating you on your chairmanship. In line with the theme selected for the rule of law debate this year, IDLO makes a deliberate effort to ensure that our work on policy and advocacy promotes implementation of international law. Many of our operational activities, undertaken at countries' request, focus on putting relevant normative frameworks into practice in a variety of different contexts. The forms of assistance range from identifying and applying successful strategies for the fulfilment of women's rights, and capacity development to promote adherence to international norms in customary and informal justice practices, to support for criminal accountability for serious violations of international humanitarian law, and review of domestic regulatory frameworks for non-communicable diseases against the background of international standards.

IDLO engagements on research and policy development as well as in-country programmes encompass diverse development settings and a broad spectrum of thematic areas of the rule of law. Much of the institution-building work focuses on strengthening criminal justice in conflict-affected countries to increase stability and prevent recurrence or escalation of violence. Our programme in northern Mali, for example, will now expand to other countries in the Sahel region to address cross-border crime trends in partnership with UNODC. It builds on experiences from fighting money laundering and other complex crimes in Somalia, combating human trafficking in Liberia, and supporting criminal justice institutions in Afghanistan.

IDLO has extensive country-level experience in pursuing gender programming, most notably in Afghanistan, Liberia and Mongolia, where we work on eradication of sexual and gender-based violence as well as, more recently in Burundi, Jordan, Tanzania and Uganda on the economic empowerment of women.

As previously emphasized in this forum, the recognition in the 2030 Agenda that the rule of law and access to justice are integral parts of development and vehicles for making socio-economic progress sustainable, have marked an important turning point in the evolution of our organization.

In preparation for the review of SDG 16 at the 2019 High Level Political Forum, UN DESA and IDLO co-organized with the Government of Italy a conference in Rome in May 2019. The event gathered an international coalition of more than 300 government officials, judiciary, civil society, private sector and independent experts, from all the regions, who, in spite of recognizing a range of constraints, reiterated their commitment to join forces to support the achievement of the targets set by SDG 16.

In assessing the state of affairs in the last four years of implementation, there is broad recognition that peace, access to justice, inclusion, and strong institutions – the pillars of Goal 16 – are a critical link in the sustainable development chain. Nevertheless, as noted in the UN Secretary-General's report, we face a number of global trends that hinder efforts of governments and their partners, some of which disproportionately affect respect for the rule of law. In the present environment, we cannot be content with the ongoing trajectory and have to find adequate means to accelerate progress and scale up the reach of our interventions.

IDLO stands ready to redouble the efforts and respond to UN Secretary-General's call for Acceleration Action with a commitment in four areas all geared to help narrow the justice gap by 2030:

Firstly, we will seek to enhance access to justice, especially for women, children and others most at risk of being left behind, so that they are empowered to claim their rights.

Secondly, we will help countries experiencing conflict or fragility to build peace and sustain development by reforming laws and strengthening the capacity and integrity of justice institutions.

Thirdly, we will engage with informal and customary systems as well as formal institutions to ensure fair, accessible, affordable pathways to justice, in keeping with local context, national ownership and international human rights standards.

Finally, we would convene with partners a global multi-stakeholder forum engaging the judiciary along with government and civil society representatives in an open, periodic dialogue on innovation and on modalities for scaling up our efforts, which will draw from the experience with the 2019 Rome Conference.

Before concluding, let me take the opportunity to express IDLO's appreciation to Italy as well as Sweden, The Netherlands, and the United States, for the generous financial support they



are continuing to extend to the organization. I should also like to thank the European Commission for the significant contribution it has pledged for our Investment Support Program for the Least Developed Countries. I would like to thank all member states that are prioritizing the rule of law and are engaging with us in the common effort to advance it to build peace and accelerate sustainable development.

Thank you.

The International Development Law Organization (IDLO) enables governments and empowers people to reform laws and strengthen institutions to promote peace, justice, sustainable development and economic opportunity

