The Outcome Document of the Rio +20 Conference on Sustainable Development stated:

"Democracy, good governance and the rule of law, at the national and international levels, as well as an enabling environment, are essential for sustainable development, including sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development, environmental protection and the eradication of poverty and hunger."

Furthermore, the Declaration unanimously adopted at the 2012 High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, reaffirmed Member States’ commitment to the rule of law and recognized that:

“The advancement of the rule of law at the national and international levels is essential for sustained and inclusive economic growth, sustainable development, the eradication of poverty and hunger and the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, all of which in turn reinforce the rule of law and for this reason we are convinced that this interrelationship should be considered in the post-2015 international development agenda.”

The process to frame the post-2015 development agenda has generated an unprecedented level of attention to the most pressing economic, social and environmental issues of our time. Furthermore, there has been intensive discussion as to the contributions that the rule of law can make in realizing sustainable development, including pathways that lead to inclusive economic development, equitable social development and robust environmental stewardship.

Expert Dialogue
Scheduled to coincide with the June session of the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals, the Expert Dialogue seeks to contribute to this discussion by bringing together experts from different regions who will share their experiences on how the rule of law can contribute to the three pillars of sustainable development as conceived at Rio. Their presentations will be followed by an interactive discussion on how the rule of law can best be integrated in the post-2015 development agenda so as to maximize its contribution to the achievements of inclusive development.

Panelists will include among others Michael Doyle, Professor of Foreign and Security Policy, Columbia University, who will also serve as Moderator, Justice Antonio Herman Benjamin, National High Court of Brazil (STJ) and Dalee Sambo Dorough, Professor of Political Science at the University of Alaska Anchorage and Chair of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

IDLO’s newest publication, supported by the Government of Finland, on “Doing Justice to Sustainable Development: Integrating the Rule of Law into the Post-2015 Development Agenda” will be presented during this event.

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.