

**Press Release**  
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## **IDLO ASSISTS UN MEMBER STATES IN DRAFTING NEW COUNTER-TERRORISM LEGISLATION**

The International Development Law Organization has continued its counter-terrorism program with the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime/Terrorism Prevention Branch (UNODC/TPB) by holding specialist legislative workshops in Bangladesh in May 2-9, 2008 and East Timor on May 21-23, 2008.

Under United Nations' requirements, Member States are obliged to introduce and implement domestic measures to address the threat of terrorism and transnational crime. This includes ratifying the 16 UN Counter Terrorism Conventions and putting in place domestic legislation to effectively combat terrorism.

Throughout 2007, IDLO held a series of policy dialogues aimed at enabling selected countries meet these United Nations obligations. These dialogues were successful in identifying areas of incompatibility between the international conventions on terrorism and domestic laws, and developing practical in-country activities for drafting domestic counter-terrorism legislation.

In late 2007, IDLO began holding national workshops designed to facilitate the task of the competent authorities in ratifying, incorporating into the law and implementing specific universal anti-terrorism instruments relating to terrorism and criminal justice cooperation, including extradition and mutual legal assistance.

These workshops are designed to guide political decision-makers and legislators through the basic requirements set forth in the UN conventions, protocols and resolutions and to overcome potential obstacles to introducing new government legislation.

The first workshop was held in Papua New Guinea at the end of 2007 and resulted an intergovernmental legislative committee being formed comprising the Justice and Foreign Affairs Ministries, Prime Minister Office, National Intelligence and the Police. New proposals for national legislation are due to be presented to the Cabinet by mid 2008.

Following the UNODC/TPB and IDLO workshop in East Timor, government officials have also taken a highly proactive approach, with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs establishing inter-ministerial working groups, which include the Ministry of Justice and the Prosecutor General.

## NOTES:

*In resolution 1373 (2001), of 28 September 2001, the United Nations Security Council decided that “acts, methods, and practices of terrorism are contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations”. In paragraph 2 of this resolution, the Security Council decided that in order to counter these practices States must cooperate in criminal matters. In paragraph 3, the Security Council calls upon all States to “become parties as soon as possible to the relevant international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism, including the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism of 9 December 1999”. In that resolution the Security Council determined that all acts of international terrorism “constitute a threat to international peace and security” and it was accordingly decided that Member States must “take the necessary steps to prevent the commission of terrorist acts”.*

### **For more information on IDLO’s counter-terrorism program, please contact:**

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*IDLO (International Development Law Organization) is an international, inter-governmental organization with a mandate to promote the Rule of Law and good governance in developing countries, countries in economic transition and countries emerging from post-conflict situations. Since its establishment in 1983, IDLO has contributed to the training of more than 17,000 lawyers, magistrates and officials from approximately 176 countries.*

*IDLO has its Headquarters in Rome, Italy and two Regional Offices; in Cairo, Egypt, covering Arabic-speaking countries and in Sydney, Australia, covering the Asia Pacific area. IDLO currently operates Project Offices in Afghanistan, Indonesia and Kyrgyzstan.*

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