

## **IDLO HOSTS LAUNCH OF REPORT BY COMMISSION FOR LEGAL EMPOWERMENT OF THE POOR**

International Development Law Organization (IDLO) today hosts the presentation of the report from the Commission on the Legal Empowerment of the Poor: *'Making the Law Work for Everyone'*, at the Biblioteca del Senato 'Giovanni Spadolini', in Rome.

Emma Bonino, Vice-President of the Italian Senate will open the presentation and Naresh Singh, Executive Director of the Commission, will then present the report and its findings.

The ground-breaking report finds that half the people in urban areas worldwide live in squatter settlements and work in the informal economy. Even larger numbers live in isolated rural areas with limited secure access to land and other resources. They operate outside the law's protection by entering into informal labor contracts, running unregistered businesses, and often occupy land to which they have no formal rights.

In his speech, Mr. Singh will strongly reiterate the Commission's call for governments, international institutions and civil society to make legal empowerment a top agenda item in the fight against poverty.

Moderating the presentation will be IDLO Director-General, William T. Loris. Commenting on the report, Mr. Loris states:

*"Making the Law Work for Everyone is a significant contribution to the public debate on the role of law and legal institutions in developing countries.*

*"For the majority of the world's population, breaking free from the cycle of poverty will require substantial social and economic development. Developing institutions and mechanisms to enable the poor to exercise their rights to property, earn their livelihoods and seek justice through the law can make a fundamental contribution to such development."*

Full details of the Commission's report can be found at:

[www.undp.org/legalempowerment/](http://www.undp.org/legalempowerment/).

**(ENDS)**

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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. For detailed information on IDLO and its activities, please refer to our website at [www.idlo.int](http://www.idlo.int).