

For Immediate Release

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## Paraguay Becomes New Member State of IDLO

ROME – 8 JUNE 2009 -- Paraguay has become the 19<sup>th</sup> Member state of the International Development Law Organization (IDLO). H.E. Mrs. Ana Maria Baiardi, Ambassador of the Republic of Paraguay to Italy, acting under delegated powers, deposited Paraguay's Instrument of Accession to IDLO during a ceremony held at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Counselor Alessandro Levi Sandri presided over the ceremony representing the Italian Government, Depository of the IDLO Establishment Agreement.

Ambassador Baiardi expressed her appreciation to IDLO for the work that has been done already in Paraguay, highlighting the successful workshop on Investment Promotion of International Trade in Paraguay held in April 2009. Paraguay's accession to IDLO will enable the government of President Fernando Lugo to provide continuity and support to national efforts undertaken in initiatives such as the *Programa Umbral*, whose main objective is to reduce corruption and strengthen the rule of law in Paraguay.

"I congratulate Paraguay for joining the Organization and thank the Ambassador for her personal efforts in moving towards the accession," said William T. Loris, Director-General of IDLO. "We hope that more Latin American countries will follow this example and fast-track their entry into IDLO. This furthers our ability to promote the rule of law and development on a regional basis, which is becomingly increasingly important as we deal with issues that cut across national boundaries such as natural resources and climate change."

Mr. Mario Renzo Rosso, Plenipotentiary Minister of the Italian Government, noted his pleasure on the accession of Paraguay to IDLO, emphasizing the importance of member states in strengthening IDLO's influence as an intergovernmental organization.

**IDLO** is a non-partisan, intergovernmental organization that promotes legal, regulatory and institutional reform to advance economic and social development in post-crisis and developing countries. Founded in 1983 and one of the pioneers of rule of law advocacy, IDLO uses its access to governments and interest groups of differing ideologies, as well as its expertise and vast stakeholder network, to create opportunity for those most in need. <http://www.idlo.int>