

## **OPEC Fund for International Development Becomes 22<sup>nd</sup> Member of IDLO**

**ROME – 24 November 2009** -- The OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) has finalized its process of accession and become the 22<sup>nd</sup> member of the International Development Law Organization (IDLO). The instrument of accession was signed today in Rome by the Director-General of OFID, Mr. Suleiman J. Al-Herbish.

At a ceremony in Rome at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Minister Plenipotentiary Paolo Guido Spinelli, Head of the International Legal Affairs and Treaties Department, noted his pleasure on the accession of OFID to IDLO, emphasizing the significance of institutions in strengthening IDLO's influence as an intergovernmental organization.

"We are delighted to join IDLO, and look forward to working even more closely with the organization," said OFID Director General Mr. Suleiman J. Al-Herbish. "We value IDLO's work, and share its vision for social and economic growth and sustainable development."

OFID has been a long-standing supporter of IDLO, and very active in the establishment of this organization since 1983 and hosted its launching event at the OFID Headquarters in that year. Furthermore, OFID extended six grants in the amount of **US\$658,000 towards IDLO's fellowship and training programs**. More recently, in 2009, IDLO received a US\$2 million, three-year grant from OFID to reduce discrimination and increase access to justice in national HIV responses.

"OFID is the first multilateral organization to join IDLO," said William T. Loris, Director General of IDLO. "OFID has been a reliable supporter of IDLO, and we welcome the growth in our relationship as we work together to reinforce our common goals in the development assistance arena."

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### **For further information and interview requests, please contact:**

Nebat Sukker, Press Consultant, IDLO Headquarters (Rome, Italy)

Tel: (+39) 06 40403242, Email: [nsukker@idlo.int](mailto:nsukker@idlo.int)

Sam Ifeagwu, Press Officer, OFID Headquarters (Vienna, Austria)

Tel: (+43) 1 51564 139, Email: [s.ifeagwu@ofid.org](mailto:s.ifeagwu@ofid.org)

## **Note to Editors:**

IDLO is an intergovernmental organization that promotes legal, regulatory and institutional reform to advance economic and social development in transitional and developing countries. Founded in 1983 and one of the leaders in rule of law assistance, 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>

OFID is the development finance institution of OPEC Member States. OFID provides financial support for socio-economic development, particularly in low-income countries. It extends concessionary loans; finances private sector endeavors and provides grant financing for various activities.

<http://www.ofid.org/>