

## **IDLO Warns Climate Change Mechanisms Will Fail Without Strengthened Legal Capacity in Developing Countries**

***Calls on international community to address critical issues such as land rights, anti-corruption, contract compliance and human rights***

**ROME -- 15 December 2009 --** The International Development Law Organization (IDLO) has warned that the climate change mechanisms being considered in Copenhagen will fail without considerable investment in strengthened legal frameworks and better adherence to the rule of law in developing countries.

"Law alone cannot ensure that developing countries successfully mitigate greenhouse gases or adapt to the impacts of climate change," said William T. Loris, Director General of IDLO. "However, without a proper legal framework and the capacity to satisfy the requirements in any proposed climate regime, developing countries will struggle to participate in the solutions proposed and will suffer even more hardships."

Developing countries seeking to gain access to the billions of dollars in climate aid must first resolve critical legal issues concerning land rights, anti-corruption, compliance and enforcement of laws and contracts, and adherence to human rights, particularly for indigenous and minority communities.

To date, little has been done to assess the specific legal and institutional reforms that are required on a country-by-country basis. Without this comprehensive knowledge, donor nations and development practitioners are unable to coordinate initiatives to help developing countries implement the international climate agreements.

"We have begun to work with countries and donors to move legal preparedness to the forefront of developing countries' agendas," said Paul Crowley, IDLO's Manager of Social Development Programs. "Legal capacity to ensure adherence to the rule of law is essential to tackle climate change, human rights violations, food security and poverty."

IDLO and the Centre for International Sustainable Development Law (CISDL) are holding a Side Event in Copenhagen on Thursday, December 17, from 11.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. on '*Developing Sustainable and Equitable Legal Frameworks for the Global Low-Carbon Economy*'. Leading international experts will discuss the most recent legal frameworks and practices in climate finance, REDD, clean technology development and rights-based frameworks for climate change, focusing particularly on the needs and priorities of the most vulnerable countries.

In addition, a '*Climate Justice and Sustainability*' Book Launch Celebratory Reception will be hosted by IDLO and CISDL on Thursday, December 17, from 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. Several new initiatives and publications on international law, sustainable development, forests, human rights and **climate change will be launched, including IDLO's publication '*REDD Tenure and Local Communities: A Study from Aceh, Indonesia*'** by Jane Dunlop.

###

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

Paul Crowley, Manager of Social Development Programs  
Tel: (+39) 34 98 24 44 79, Email: [pcrowley@idlo.int](mailto:pcrowley@idlo.int)

Isabelle Delas, Program Legal Officer - Environment  
Tel: (+39) 3357766969, Email: [idelas@idlo.int](mailto:idelas@idlo.int)

Greg Levendusky, Communications Director  
Tel: (+39) 06 4040 3257, Email: [glevendusky@idlo.int](mailto:glevendusky@idlo.int)

**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.

[www.idlo.int](http://www.idlo.int)