

**PROCEEDINGS**  
**MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2018**  
**November 20, 2018**

The 2018 Annual Meeting of the Assembly of Parties (the Assembly) of the International Development Law Organization (IDLO), was held in the “*Sala delle Conferenze Internazionali*”, at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in Rome, on November 20, 2018 [The meeting documents are available online at [this link](#)].

**AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING**

The President of the Assembly, Mr. Thomas M. Duffy, Chargé d’Affaires at the United States Mission to the UN Agencies in Rome, representing the US, welcomed Member Party representatives and other participants and thanked the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Government of Italy for hosting once again the Assembly meeting.

Before the start of the proceedings, the Assembly’s attention was called to the legacy of the late Kofi Annan, former United Nations Secretary-General, as a champion of the rule of law, and was shown a video where he spoke eloquently about interlinkages among peace and security, inclusive development, and respect for human rights, and pointed to the centrality of the rule of law in building peace and sustaining socio-economic progress.

The President then gave the floor to H.E. Enzo Moavero Milanesi, Italy’s Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, to deliver opening remarks on behalf of the Government of Italy.

The Minister expressed his pleasure at having been invited to open the Assembly of IDLO, an organization with the rule of law at the heart of its work, and referred to the rule of law as a key element for all organized societies. He recalled the challenges that growing conflicts, large scale migrations, inequalities and lack of development in many parts of the globe pose for the international community and highlighted IDLO’s pivotal role in helping address these challenges.

Stressing the need to create effective legislative frameworks to build more prosperous and inclusive societies, prevent instability and conflict, and mitigate the negative effects of globalization, he observed that IDLO’s expertise is crucial to bring to the fore elements to be leveraged at the political level to advance progress in these inter-related areas.

He said that the rule of law, enshrined in Agenda 2030, is in the heart of every human being: everyone wants to see justice in the world, he observed, as well as rules that protect minorities and address inequalities. However, he added, in many societies the rule of law is still not a reality, and inequalities are on the rise in most countries, including the more prosperous ones.

Turning to the UN Declaration of Human Rights - which he referred to as an important roadmap, alongside Agenda 2030, for future action - the Minister outlined the five main priorities that would be the focus of Italy's membership on the Human Rights Council for the period 2019-2021:

- Improving the rights of women, children and old people;
- Protecting and improving the rights of those with disabilities;
- Achieving a moratorium on the death penalty;
- Protecting freedom of belief and religious minorities; and
- Combatting the scourge of human trafficking.

The Minister went on to reiterate Italy's strong commitment to IDLO, as an integral part of the Rome hub of international organizations, and to reaffirm Italy's commitment to continuing to support IDLO financially as it has been doing consistently in the past. Expressing appreciation, as a key positive sign, for the continued expansion of IDLO's membership, he welcomed Montenegro as IDLO's most recent Member Party and said he looked forward to Liberia joining soon.

The Minister commended IDLO's ability to convene different stakeholders to reflect together and translate such reflections into concrete actions on the ground. He also encouraged increasingly strong partnerships between IDLO and the UN system to contribute jointly to building better societies.

The Minister also underlined the importance of continued international commitment to support post-conflict and fragile countries and referred in particular in this context to Afghanistan and the countries of Northern and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Highlighting the strong interlinkages between respect for the rule of law, justice, peace and economic growth, and expressing his best wishes to the DG and the IDLO Member Parties for a fruitful meeting, the Minister said that he looked forward to the discussions in the Assembly and the subsequent Partnership Forum, and to the concrete actions that would follow.

The President thanked the Minister for his inspiring remarks which were, he said, a useful reminder of the stakes involved in and of the importance of IDLO's work, and reiterated his gratitude to the Government of Italy for its longstanding strong support for IDLO's work.

## **AGENDA ITEM 2: DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S REPORT (AP/2017/2.1)**

The Director-General (DG) welcomed representatives of Member Parties, special guests and other delegates, particularly those who had traveled long distances to attend the Assembly and participate in the subsequent Partnership Forum, and greeted the IDLO colleagues present, including those from the organization's field offices. She especially welcomed Ambassador Inga King, President of ECOSOC and of the High-Level Political Forum.

She joined the President in thanking Minister Moavero Milanese for honoring the Assembly with his presence and for his inspiring opening remarks, and reiterated IDLO's deep appreciation to Italy for its longstanding financial support as well as its

active role and important substantive contribution to the work of IDLO and its governance, as *ex officio* Vice President of the Assembly and the Standing Committee.

The DG began her report by reflecting on how IDLO had evolved during its 30-year history, from a small training institution to a global intergovernmental organization with 34 Member Parties and programming across four continents.

She drew attention to IDLO's healthy financial position and operational stability and expressed special appreciation to Italy, the US and Sweden for continuing to provide IDLO with core funding, and the Government of the Netherlands and the Kuwait Fund for their earmarked funding.

Turning to programming, the DG gave an overview of IDLO activities during 2018, citing examples of programs implemented under Goal 1 of the Strategic Plan (*empowering people to realize their rights*), including work to combat gender based violence (in Afghanistan, Liberia and Mongolia, among others), legal empowerment (in Uganda, Tanzania and Jordan), strengthening civil society (in Honduras and Myanmar), and informal and customary justice (Somalia).

Moving to Goal 2 (*strengthening institutions to make them more effective, accessible and accountable*), she highlighted IDLO's work on strengthening the criminal justice chain in Mali, which had given rise to the development of a more ambitious sub-regional initiative covering the G5 countries of the Sahel. She also referenced IDLO's activities on anti-corruption (in Ukraine), the longstanding and ongoing support to the justice institutions of Kenya, and the growing body of work in the area of economic development being implemented in Eastern Europe and Central Asia and the MENA region in partnership mainly with the EBRD and the Kuwait Fund.

The DG then went on to describe how IDLO had intensified its policy advocacy during the past year, particularly in the area of justice for women, and drew the Assembly's attention to an IDLO publication being launched that very day on "Women Delivering Justice". She also highlighted IDLO's engagement in the High-level Group on Justice for Women, the inaugural meeting of which IDLO had co-convened in The Hague in May 2018 together with UN Women, the World Bank and the Taskforce on Justice.

The DG noted that attracting core funding was still a major challenge and expressed the hope that Member Parties would respond positively to the joint appeal which she had made earlier in the year together with the Presidency, observing that support from Member Parties would also help open doors to support from non-members. On membership expansion, she expressed confidence that IDLO would be able to meet its target of 40 Member Parties by the year 2020.

The DG concluded her presentation by remarking that in today's world the rule of law has never been more relevant, and recalling that ultimately the rule of law is not only about processes, but a matter of human rights and substantive justice.

The full text of the DG's report to the Assembly and power point presentation are available online at [this link](#).

**PRESIDENT:** The President thanked the DG for her comprehensive report. Commenting on the positive evolution of the organization, he recalled the governance

reform that had taken place during 2017, which had led to broader geographic representation on IDLO's Standing Committee and to a strengthened role for the Board of Advisers as an independent expert body. He also applauded the implementation across IDLO of its new employment model.

Echoing the remarks of the DG, he called on Member Parties to support the organization financially as well as politically, adding that their engagement with the organization would be particularly important during 2019 when the Member Parties will be called upon to elect the DG's successor. He encouraged all Member Parties to get involved in the process, and concluded by paying tribute to the current DG for "transforming" IDLO and underlying how challenging it will be to find as accomplished a successor.

The President proceeded to the adoption by consensus of the meeting's Agenda (AP/2018/1.1)

### **AGENDA ITEM 3: GENERAL DEBATE**

**PRESIDENT:** The President opened the General Debate and invited Member Parties to take the floor.

The Assembly heard interventions by the representatives of Italy, Sweden, China, the Netherlands, the US, Pakistan, Montenegro and Peru, who addressed the evolution of IDLO's work and standing in the international community, commented on the highlights of IDLO's activities during the year and the priorities that should guide its activities in the year ahead, including in the broader context of progress towards the 2030 UN Agenda. Member Parties paid tribute to the Director-General, who will conclude her second and last term of office in 2019, for her contribution to the successes and impressive evolution of the organization and remarked on the challenge Member Parties are facing in electing a suitable successor. The full text of all statements delivered and subsequently shared with the IDLO Secretariat are annexed to this report and available online at [this link](#).

The DG thanked the Member Parties for their kind words and for their support and guidance during the past seven years.

Responding to some specific comments by Member Parties, she agreed that the Sahel and MENA regions would be high priorities for the coming year. Thanking the Netherlands for its reference to the Task Force for Justice, she noted that the recommendations of the High-level Group on Justice for Women that she had co-convened with UN Women and the World Bank earlier in the year will be fed into the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2019 and the High-Level Political Forum the following July. She stressed the importance of ensuring that the impact of the group's findings is not limited to international discussions but translates into action on the ground. She noted more generally that IDLO is available and keen to help Member Parties translate into reality their commitments to the SDGs and make concrete advances towards access to justice for all.

The DG also highlighted the importance of partnerships for IDLO, and the intention to further strengthen cooperation in particular with the Rome-based agencies in the year ahead.

Acknowledging comments from the representative of China regarding support for legal capacity building in countries covered by the Belt and Road Initiative, she recalled that one of the earliest activities on which IDLO had collaborated with China, as one IDLO's founding Member Parties, was the development of the country's own first company law.

Sharing Sweden's comment that human rights and democracy are at the heart of the rule of law, and of the country's feminist foreign policy, the DG said she was looking forward to continuing to work with Sweden to see to it that such principles are effectively applied on the ground, as well as looking, overtime, to an effective "feminization" of the rule of law.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4: 2019 MANAGEMENT PLAN AND BUDGET (AP/2018/3)**

**PRESIDENT:** The President gave the floor to the DG to present the Management Plan and Budget for 2019.

The DG recalled that the Draft Management Plan and Budget for 2019 (MP2019), and related annexes, had all been shared with the Member Parties several weeks prior to the Assembly meeting.

She outlined IDLO's key vulnerabilities particularly the volatile environments in which it operates, together with its narrow donor base and the low level of unrestricted funds and explained how the Plan sought to address mitigating against these risks in 2019, while further diversifying programs geographically, with particular reference to the Sahel and MENA regions.

Overall, she said, IDLO programming is on a clear positive trajectory and is currently estimated to grow by approx. 34% from around 23 million euro to some 31 million euro in 2019, with the current robust program pipeline expected to sustain its growth into 2020.

MP2019, she added, remains thematically grounded within IDLO's Strategic Plan 2017-2020, and is focused on three key areas: "strengthening justice institutions"; "promoting justice for women and girls"; and "economic growth and the rule of law". In terms of organizational priorities, in 2019 the main focus will be on strengthening monitoring, reporting and learning.

On resource mobilization, along with a continued commitment to the expansion of core funding, a renewed effort will be made to expand soft-earmarked funding, including through the innovative "thematic programs" initiative.

Gender would be further mainstreamed throughout IDLO programming, and 2019 would see the launch of IDLO's new gender strategy, enriched through lessons learned from the current strategy.

In 2019 programs are expected to grow in Africa, Latin America and Central and Eastern Europe. The expansion of programs in the MENA region remains a challenge but there is hope that the recently signed HCA with the Government of Jordan will help open up new opportunities for programming in the region.

As to the thematic breakdown of IDLO's portfolio, it was envisaged that two thirds will be dedicated to institution building (impact goal 2), with the remaining one third, will be focused on impact goal 1, empowering people to realize their rights.

There was growing demand for IDLO's work on the eradication of sexual and gender-based violence, with programs already up and running in Afghanistan, Myanmar, Honduras, Liberia, Uganda and Mongolia, as well as for work to promote the legal empowerment of women. IDLO's responses to this growing demand towards promoting and protecting women and girls' rights were being pursued with full awareness of their contribution to peace and security as well as economic and social progress.

Other activities more generally focused on supporting civil society enhance legal empowerment, were under way and expected to continue into 2019, in Honduras, Uganda, Myanmar and Indonesia, while activities engaging with informal and customary justice systems were being pursued in Uganda, Kenya and Somalia.

Turning to IDLO's impact goal 2 (institution building), the DG reiterated that this area of programming would continue to occupy the bulk of IDLO's work in 2019, with large programs continuing in Afghanistan, Mexico, Kenya, Mali and Somalia. She expressed particular satisfaction that IDLO engagement in Somalia was growing, which was, she noted, indicative of the growing confidence of the international community in the political processes under way in the country.

She further noted that there is growing interest in and demand for IDLO's work in the area of anti-corruption, as part of the broader effort to increase people's confidence in the justice sector.

Demand for IDLO's economic development work remains focused in Central Asia and Eastern Europe, but new opportunities are also opening up in Kenya and in the Middle East. The initiative to provide legal support for investments in LDCs under the ISP/LDCs program could also create additional new programming opportunities in 2019.

IDLO's work in Jordan examining the legal barriers for women entrepreneurs, could in turn offer insights to help the organization put a stronger gender focus on its economic empowerment work in 2019.

Turning to IDLO's cross-cutting goal on the rule of law as a driver for sustainable development, the DG highlighted two key meetings that would take place during 2019, namely the July session of the High-Level Political Forum that would focus on SDG5 and SDG16, among others, and the first overall review of progress towards the SDGs at the outset of the 2019 session of UNGA. She noted that SDG16 is a very complex goal and that reporting and reviewing it and measuring progress towards it are much more challenging tasks than for other goals. In the same broad context, she underlined that IDLO's ongoing advocacy work in connection with Agenda 2030 is creating rich ground for partnerships with the UN system, national institutions and research bodies which the organization intend to vigorously pursue.

While stressing that all the activities contained in the Management Plan have assured funding, the DG drew attention to various proposals, highlighted in blue boxes in the document, outlining additional activities that IDLO was ready and keen to implement if further funding were to become available.

In terms of organizational priorities, the DG referred to the eight Major Initiatives included in the Strategic Plan 2017-2020, noting that significant progress has been made already in improving systems and processes but that the changes being introduced now need to be fully embedded across the organization. Key objectives in this regard for 2019 will be the rollout of an integrated learning program across IDLO, continued reform of critical systems also at field level, greater accountability and transparency through improved reporting and communications, and intensified resource mobilization.

Noting how for an intergovernmental organization such as IDLO financial and political support go hand in hand, she recalled the key financial targets for 2019, as well as the goal of reaching 40 Member Parties by 2020, which she described as very doable, while underlining the desirability of adding both OECD and non-OECD countries in the membership.

The Director of Finance and Support Services was then given the floor to provide a brief overview of the 2019 Proposed Budget, which had been shared in advance with Member Parties, and discussed in detail and endorsed by both the AFC and SC.

He noted that the program revenue was already 80% secured, with the remainder in the pipeline. Hence the overall figure was a conservative estimate and would likely be higher by year end.

The increase in employee related costs was attributable, he said, to the impact of the implementation of the new employment model across the organization, while the increase in institutional costs was mainly due to the ERP system and the recruitment process during 2019 for the next IDLO DG.

The Director of Finance and Support Services concluded that IDLO was expected to have a larger surplus than the one shown in the budget, and drew attention to the more ambitious target budget for 2020, an innovation introduced in the documentation for the first time.

**PHILIPPINES:** H.E. Domingo Nolasco, Ambassador of the Philippines to Italy, expressed satisfaction at the positive growth trend in IDLO programming, welcomed the geographic diversification of programs and reiterated his Government's support for such expansion and diversification, particularly in the ASEAN region.

The DG thanked the Ambassador for his support and said IDLO was keen to expand its programming in the region, building on activities already underway in the Philippines, Indonesia, and Myanmar.

**PRESIDENT:** Concluding the discussion of agenda item 4, the President recalled that the 2019 Draft Management Plan and Budget had been discussed and considered at length by both the AFC and the SC and had been endorsed and transmitted to the Assembly for its approval. Following the projection on screen of the draft resolution,

the President noted that there were no additional comments and declared Resolution No.1 (AP/2018/3.5) on “Approval of the Management Plan and Budget for 2019” approved by consensus.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE (AP/2018/4.1)**

**PRESIDENT:** The President then turned to the report of the Standing Committee (SC) (AP/2018/4.1) which had been circulated in advance to the Member Parties, and provided a short overview of the content of the report, including details of the current, expanded, composition of the SC, the dates of the SC meetings during 2018, and the key items discussed and decisions taken, including the approval of IDLO’s financial statements for 2017, the external auditors’ report, cost policy statement, and the Committee’s endorsement of the draft Management Plan and Budget for 2019 and of the draft resolutions for adoption by the 2018 Assembly of Parties.

There were no comments from the Assembly on the SC report.

**AGENDA ITEM 6: REPORT OF THE AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE (AP/2018/4.2)**

**CHAIR OF THE AFC:** Mr. Filippo Alessi (Italy) highlighted the role of the AFC and how it had endeavored to contribute to the effectiveness of IDLO governance, building a highly constructive relationship with the SC and the IDLO Secretariat. He reported that AFC members regularly attended SC meetings as observers, and that SC members were likewise welcome to attend AFC meetings should they so wish.

He welcomed the appointment of the new Internal Audit and Compliance Officer at IDLO, noting that the latter had provided a first report to the AFC and would continue to do so on a regular basis under a standing item on the agenda of future AFC meetings.

He also commended IDLO for the impressive growth it was experiencing in terms of program revenue, while underlining IDLO’s vulnerability and the challenges it faced in program implementation in the absence of mandatory contributions from its members.

The President thanked the current Chair of the AFC for his dedication to the work of the Committee.

**US:** Ms. Sandrine Goffard, Alternate Permanent Representative at the US Mission to the UN Agencies, also thanked the AFC Chair, and the IDLO Director of Finance and Support Services and finance colleagues for their responsiveness in answering queries and requests for additional information and analysis from her delegation on a range of financial issues. She described the AFC as a key part of good governance and an essential channel of communication between IDLO and its Member Parties, which helped to foster a mutually responsive and accountable relationship. She said the US had been pleased and honored to serve as a member of the AFC and would welcome the opportunity to continue to serve were it to be re-elected.



## **AGENDA ITEM 7: REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ADVISERS (AP/2018/4.3)**

**PRESIDENT:** The President recalled the important reforms to IDLO's governance structures introduced by the Assembly in 2017 with the adoption of the revisions to IDLO governance documents and referred to the Board of Advisers annual meeting held in Rome on July 24-25, 2018, which SC members had also attended in part, noting that the meeting had been a useful reminder of the expertise and dedication of BOA members to IDLO and its mission. He then gave the floor to the Chair of the BOA to present his report.

**CHAIR OF THE BOA:** Professor Makau Mutua, began by acknowledging the presence of the Vice Chair of the BOA, Ms. Hongxia Liu, and of fellow Board Member, Dr. Hanno Scheuch, who was attending the Assembly as the Representative of OFID.

The Chair echoed the comments of the President regarding the importance of IDLO's governance reform and said that the BOA looked forward to providing its expertise on matters of law and substance to IDLO, through the Assembly, the SC, and the Secretariat. The BOA intended to work closely with them in a productive, collegial and effective relationship.

Referring to the annual meeting the Board held on July 24-25, 2018, he said the BOA had held fruitful discussions with the DG, senior staff, and SC members, and had provided its feedback in particular to two draft papers prepared by IDLO on the subjects of "justice and peace building", and "informal and customary justice", both of which he described as very timely policy themes, given also the attention being given to these themes by the UN and The World Bank.

The Chair said the BOA was conscious of the role it would be called upon to play in the upcoming recruitment process for the next IDLO DG and said that the BOA was fully committed to working collaboratively with the SC to apply their complementary functions and expertise to ensure a smooth and successful process.

He also referred to a draft conflict of interest policy for BOA members which had been submitted to the BOA by IDLO's Office of the General Counsel and said that the draft was currently being reviewed by Board members and that the Board would provide its considered feedback in due course.

The President thanked the Chair for his report and reiterated that the SC took the Board's expertise and advice very seriously. He encouraged all Member Parties to take advantage of the additional resource that IDLO had at its disposal through the BOA.

The BOA Vice Chair intervened briefly, saying that she and her fellow BOA members were honored to collectively support IDLO, the DG and the SC in their important work.

## **AGENDA ITEM 8: PROPOSED PROCESS FOR THE 2019 SELECTION OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF IDLO (AP/2018/5.1) AND ADOPTION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION (AP/2018/5.2)**

**PRESIDENT:** The President introduced the agenda item, recalling that the proposed process for the selection of the next DG was based on the legal framework provided in

IDLO's governance documents and noting that it had been discussed at length by the SC, which had endorsed the relevant draft resolution for adoption by the Assembly.

He outlined the key steps in the process which would begin with the launch of a competitive bidding process to identify and hire the executive search firm which would work closely with the SC to support the process.

The President then outlined the role of the SC in the process, noting that both the SC and BOA would be involved in interviewing shortlisted candidates for the position, that the BOA would provide its advice to the SC and that the SC would then refer the top three candidates to the Assembly in November 2019 for a final decision.

The BOA Chair commented that the BOA fully endorsed the timeline and process for the DG selection, as outlined by the President.

PERU: Ms. Diana Calderon, Second Secretary, Embassy of Peru to Italy, voiced Peru's full endorsement of the process and encouraged all Member Parties to actively participate in the process.

OFID: Mr. Hanno Scheuch, Senior Counsel, expressed OFID's strong support for the proposed process and timeline, commenting that the adoption of such a straightforward process was partly the result of the positive achievements made the previous year through the governance reform process.

PRESIDENT: After projecting the draft resolution on screen, the President noted that there were no further comments and declared Resolution No.2/2018 on the "Endorsement of the Proposed Process for the 2019 Selection of the Director-General of IDLO" approved by consensus.

## **AGENDA ITEM 9: ELECTIONS**

### **ELECTION OF ONE AD HOC MEMBER OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE (AP/2018/6.2)**

PRESIDENT: The President introduced the agenda item by outlining the different vacancies which were open on the IDLO governing bodies as well as the process to be followed in order to fill such vacancies, including voting procedures in the case of a contested election.

He noted that an expression of interest had been received from Turkey for the vacant position on the SC. After asking if any other Member Party wished to submit its candidacy and acknowledging that there were none, the President declared Turkey elected by consensus as a new Member of the SC and congratulated Turkey on its election.

TURKEY: Mr. Mehmet Bulut, Counsellor at the Embassy of Turkey to Italy, recalled that his country had been an active member of the AFC for the past three years and had regularly attended SC meetings as an observer, during which time he had been positively impressed by the level of collaboration between the secretariat of IDLO and Member Parties' representatives serving in its governing bodies. He said he was pleased that Turkey would now join the SC and although he himself was due to leave

Rome in the near future, his colleagues would continue to work closely with the organization.

The election of Turkey to the SC for a two-year term, from 2018-2020, was subsequently memorialized by Resolution No.3/2018, projected on screen.

### **ELECTION OF FOUR MEMBERS OF THE AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE (AP/2018/6.3)**

PRESIDENT: The President noted that four nominations had been received for membership on the AFC, from Italy, Peru, the US and Pakistan respectively, the latter being a new member while the other three would be renewing their membership for a second term.

Acknowledging that there were no further expressions of interest or objections to those submitted, he declared the four new members elected by consensus with Italy to serve for one additional year and Peru, the US and Pakistan to serve for a two-year term, from 2018-2020. The elections to the AFC were subsequently memorialized by Resolution No.4/2018, as projected on screen.

### **ELECTION OF THE CHAIR OF THE AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE (AP/2018/6.4)**

PRESIDENT: The President recalled that the Assembly was also required to appoint a Chair to the AFC and that Mr. Filippo Alessi, the current AFC Chair, had been nominated by Italy for re-appointment for a one-year term. He further acknowledged the strong support expressed for Mr. Alessi's reappointment by several AFC members.

Noting that there were no additional comments or objections the President declared Resolution No.5/2018 appointing Mr. Filippo Alessi as Chair of the AFC for a one-year term, 2018-2019, approved by consensus.

Mr. Alessi thanked the Member Parties for their confidence, recalling that he had been first elected as Chair of the AFC in 2016 and had very much appreciated the collaborative and constructive approach taken by all the AFC members and by the IDLO Secretariat in working together to strengthen the organization. He said he was honored to be elected for a second time as Chair and that he looked forward to leading the Committee as effectively as possible during the coming year.

### **AGENDA ITEM 10: ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND CLOSING OF THE ASSEMBLY**

PRESIDENT: The President noted that no Member Party had requested to discuss additional items under this item.

He expressed his thanks to the Member Parties for their active participation, and to all those who supported IDLO's mission. He warmly thanked Italy for hosting once again the Assembly meeting and the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation for honoring the Assembly with his presence at the opening session.

Finally, he thanked the DG, Management and staff of IDLO, including the field staff, for their hard work and dedication to the organization. After congratulating once again the newly elected Members of IDLO's governing bodies, the President declared the 2018 Assembly meeting closed.

ENDS //

**STATEMENT OF CHINA**

**MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2018  
November 20, 2018**

Over the past year, IDLO has done a great deal of work on the improvement of the rule of law in developing countries. China greatly appreciates the IDLO's contribution to promote sustainable development in this respect, as well as the Director General's outstanding work.

China and IDLO have signed a memorandum of cooperation during the “Belt and Road” International Cooperation Summit in May 2017, when both parties agreed to jointly develop projects under the framework of the “Belt and Road Initiative” to achieve common goals. **On November 5, 2018, in the keynote speech on the opening ceremony of the first China International Import Expo, President Xi Jinping stated that all countries shall be engaged in the promotion of inclusive development and the implementation of the 2030 sustainable development agenda, so that people of all the countries will be able to share the benefits of economic globalization and global growth. China will continue to pursue the Belt and Road Initiative through international cooperation, consultation, and collaboration of shared benefits, and to set up more trade promotion platforms.**

China appreciates the great effort and energy of the IDLO team in the past year over the development of the initial plans for detailed cooperation projects. China will carry on our practical cooperation

with IDLO and all related countries to promote the implementation of relevant projects, researching and developing relevant projects, achieving **better guarantee through the rule of law for the “Belt and Road” construction, fulfilling the commitment to promote the UN's 2030 sustainable development agenda, and promoting the inclusive and sustainable development on the economy, society and environment in a comprehensive and balanced manner.**

**STATEMENT OF ITALY**

**MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2018  
November 20, 2018**



## ASSEMBLEA DELLE PARTI IDLO 2018

### Speaking points (after Director General's Report on 2018)

I am very **glad** to attend the annual IDLO Assembly of Parties and to have the opportunity to share comments with the management, member countries and partners.

As you mentioned, Director General, 2018 has been an **important year** for IDLO: it marked the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its establishment as an intergovernmental organization, and the route pursued since is impressive. 2018 was also, indeed, the midpoint of the implementation of Strategy 2020.

But there are also a number of **positive achievements** that mark this year:

It was the **first year of work of the enlarged Standing Committee**, which means that members were empowered, and their involvement strengthened.

At the end of the year **budget figures** showed an increase compared to the approved figures.

**Three new thematic programs** were recently launched to better frame IDLO's work on the ground.

These results show that **IDLO is in a good shape**.

IDLO is definitely an **asset** in the hands of the International Community to contribute to the consolidation of accountable institutions and equitable societies based on the rule of law.

More in detail, we note the **continued expansion of IDLO's programmatic activity**, with a growing geographical diversity.

We appreciate that the **first focus remains on fragile and post-conflict contexts**, where building accountable institutions is key to the path of sustainable development.

**Italy** has expectations about the **regular expansion of programs focused on economic development**. The fruitful partnership with **EBRD** has proven to be an ideal leverage in this regard.

We also appreciate the positive developments of the Investment Support program for **Least Developed Countries**.

With no means of reducing the current work on preventing Sexual Based Gender Violence, that we strongly support, we believe that an economic development segment should also fall naturally in the projects aimed at the **empowerment of women and girls**.

**Italy** also strongly support the revamp of IDLO's work in the **MENA region**. A structural programmatic engagement in this pivotal geographic area is of the highest importance, and we encourage the Organization to consider the elaboration of a dedicated regional strategy.

Another area of global priority is the **Sahel region**, of course, and it is very positive that IDLO will strengthen its action in this region. We believe that this new engagement can offer the basis for an increased collaboration with the **FAO, IFAD, WFP**, which are developing a common action plan for the Sahel.

More in general, we encourage the Organization to pursue an ever-increasing cooperation with **the RBAs, being the Rome hub of the United Nations a natural partner for IDLO in its pursuit of sound and accountable legal frameworks for development**.

Issues such as, but **not limited to**, lands tenure or responsible investments in agriculture are natural areas of possible cooperation. In this regard we support activities already accomplished with FAO in Latin America, but an **higher level of cooperation** should be pursued.

Relations with the **UN Committee on World Food Security/CFS**, another valuable element of the Rome hub, should also be strengthened, and we are very happy to count the Chair of CFS, Amb. Arvelo, among the speakers of the Partnership forum of this year.

We encourage IDLO to actively engage in CFS' activity, starting from the incoming negotiations of the future **Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition**.

This would be even more appropriate as IDLO is opening its activity to **new dimensions**, such as the new project on **Non-Communicable Diseases**, to be developed within the framework of the Second International Conference on Nutrition.

**However**, we agree with you, Director General, that a **vulnerability** persist as a backdrop to the brilliant results of the Organization and this lies, on the one hand, on the **nature of the financial contributions** received by the Organization, and on the **narrow donor base**, on the other.

It is, indeed, extremely **positive** that the program revenue forecast for 2019 shows a 34% growth, compared to the current year.

IDLO has made important organizational reforms in the latest years, but it needs **more core funding** to continue strengthening its **unique profile of champion of SDG16**, thanks to investments in research and learning, in elaboration of policies, in further improvements in the operational tools.

Under the **guidance of its Members**, we believe that IDLO should be put in the condition to consolidate its action.

The **innovation** represented by the three **Thematic Programs** shows the maturity and the potential reached by the Organization, and we encourage Members and Partners to consider **soft earmarked contributions** to support IDLO's work in these three crucial areas for sustainable development.

To conclude on this point, we reiterate the **appeal to Members States** to contribute financially to the Organization, because, as we say in Italian, we believe that IDLO' membership implies "**oneri ed onori**" (responsibilities and privileges).

**STATEMENT OF MONTENEGRO**

**MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2018  
November 20, 2018**

Montenegro is very pleased to participate this year to IDLO Assembly of Parties and Partnership Forum as a member country, and we are grateful for all the support that IDLO has provided us in the process of achieving full membership. We have recognized the important work that IDLO is doing in the field of strengthening rule of law, access to justice, equality and human rights, which is fully in line with Montenegro's endeavors to, through strengthening of rule of law, further advance our democracy, stability and achieve overall development.

The significant projects that IDLO has supported and implemented in Montenegro have given an invaluable contribution to building of capacities of our judiciary and, at the same time, an important incentive in making progress and achieving goals within the chapters 23 and 24 of our negotiation process with the European union.

Our work in the areas of rule of law and access to justice is rooted in our firm belief that rule of law is indispensable for achieving equality and lasting stability and represents an important precondition for economic development.

I would like to take this opportunity to express gratitude to Madam Director General for all her support, and for the admirable work she is doing. Montenegro and its Government are committed to being a constructive partner of IDLO, as we work together to build a more just, equitable and prosperous world.

**STATEMENT OF THE NETHERLANDS**

**MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2018  
November 20, 2018**

- Thank you for the organization of this event and the partnership forum
- The Netherlands looks forward to the election of new members to the Standing Committee of IDLO and appreciates the positive effects this is likely going to have on further geographical diversification of this Committee.
- Regarding the field work, we would encourage further geographical diversification especially in the MENA region.
- We welcome the fact that the Sahel region has also become a region of intensified efforts for IDLO. As the Netherlands, we are discussing with IDLO to embark on a substantial programme looking at the Force Conjointe-G5-Sahel and the links with the regular justice institutions. We already have a good collaboration with the office in The Hague and on projects in Mali, Kenya, and Somalia.
- The Netherlands is supportive of the focus on gender mainstreaming, in addition to gender specific programs. We specifically welcome evidence based discussions on the Justice Gap for Women during the Partnership Forum. Gender justice is an important topic of the work of the Task Force on Justice which the Netherlands is co-chairing.
- For this reason, we are supportive of IDLO expanding its work on informal justice systems considering the numbers of people, and especially women, that resort to informal justice in many fragile and post-conflict states.
- The Task Force SDG16+ message takes a position of high priority on the NL agenda. As a co-chair of the Task Force on Justice, our Minister of Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade recognizes the importance of promoting the SDG Agenda to achieve access to justice for all.
  - Thus, we are delighted to engage further with IDLO to promote the SDG 16+ Agenda and concretize it through national commitments and we hope that IDLO will remain an important partner for the Netherlands as one of the most specialized organizations on promoting the rule of law.
- We commend IDLO on its strategy which allows for output-based budgeting and we encourage efforts for working towards a more visionary approach that relies on thorough country analyses as this will allow programs to be more cost effective.
- For this we are happy to further engage with IDLO in discussing opportunities to shift away from a purely project-based approach to multi-year soft-earmarked (program) funding in line with strategic priorities of IDLO and the NL government. We therefore welcome the initiative of IDLO to undertake Thematic programmes. Thinking along thematic lines is useful, but the programmes do require additional attention to results. We also encourage the Organization to ensure that the reporting and monitoring systems are being set up to support those frameworks.



- We congratulate IDLO on the new employee rules and a revised employment model and hope it will enable IDLO to strengthen its human resource base also in the field of thematic expertise.
- Thank you for the dedicated work to promote the rule of law in the world.

**STATEMENT OF PAKISTAN**

**MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2018  
November 20, 2018**

**IDLO Annual Assembly of Parties 2018**  
**Statement by Pakistan**

Thank you Chair,

Pakistan would like to compliment the Director General and her team for a comprehensive report of last year performance and their proposed plans for future.

We are happy to see that IDLO is continuing its engagement in nearly all previous countries of operation while planning for good degree of geographical diversification in the next plan. The planned engagement in Sahel region is a commendable step forward.

We appreciate IDLO's plans of exploring new avenues. The organization's involvement in areas such as non-communicable diseases and return, integration and protection of internally displaced people and refugees is an indication of its expanding horizon.

We would also like to appreciate IDLO's work for promotion of Law despite facing multiple challenges, especially related to funding.

We feel that there is a need to work towards increasing membership of IDLO.

We feel that 2019 would be an important year. Finding a new Director General who can follow up on the great work done by Irene Khan would be instrumental for the future of the organization.

Pakistan would continue to work with IDLO for attainment of its goals and objectives.

Thank You.

**STATEMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES**

**MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2018  
November 20, 2018**

**AS DELIVERED**

**PHILIPPINE INTERVENTION  
IDLO ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES  
20-21 November 2018**

Item 4. 2019 Management Plan and Budget

Thank you Mr. President.

The Philippines would like to thank IDLO Director General Irene Khan, the Secretariat, the Standing Committee, and the Audit and Finance Committee for the preparation and work on the draft 2019 Management Plan and Budget.

We welcome IDLO's continued aim to contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We fully support the achievement of IDLO's impact goals, especially towards empowering people and groups, especially women and girls, as well as, making effective, accessible, and accountable institutions and law and policies fair.

We take this opportunity to thank IDLO, including the support of the United States, for the program *Enhancing the Capacity of Prosecutors in the Philippines*. The program trains our prosecutors and officials from the Office of the Philippine Ombudsman that contributes towards strengthening the rule of law in our country.

The Philippines is also happy to note that 2019 is seen as a period of significant growth for IDLO, building on the achievements of the past years. The increase in the program revenue is a welcome development.

On geographic diversification, we welcome IDLO's focus on ASEAN member countries as it expands into the Asia-Pacific Region. The Philippines, both as a founding member of ASEAN and a founding member of IDLO, is ready to further support IDLO as it engages ASEAN members states.

As IDLO expands its donor base and looks into strategies for philanthropic and private sector funding, the Philippines encourages IDLO to look into South-South and Triangular Cooperation as means to further boost IDLO's work in developing countries.

With these comments, the Philippines endorses the draft 2019 Management Plan and Budget. Thank you.

**STATEMENT OF SWEDEN**

**MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2018  
November 20, 2018**



**Ministry for Foreign Affairs**

Department for International Law, Human Rights  
and Treaty Law

## IDLO Assembly of parties 2018 – Intervention by Sweden in General debate

First of all let me extend a warm thanks to the Director General for the very comprehensive report presented here today on IDLO activities within the Strategy 2020.

I will offer some comments on a few aspects.

- The link between rule of law, respect for human rights and democracy is crucial and a key feature of how Sweden is addressing these issues comprehensively. Without respect for human rights and without democracy there will be no rule of law.
- The engagement of IDLO with civil society to enhance legal empowerment is in our view absolutely crucial and cannot be emphasised enough. Civil society can have a very valuable contribution as a watchdog, asking for accountability of states and empowering individuals in claiming their rights.

- Empowering women and girls – gender equality is a key topic for Sweden. A feminist foreign policy has been pursued for the past four years, now Sweden has a transitional government so it remains to be seen whether there will be a continuation. However, gender equality as such has been a strong feature in Swedish foreign policy for many years. We appreciate you highlighting the issue of gender equality in your report. It should be self evident that no sustainable development can be achieved if we do not include all persons – women, men, girls and boys.