

IDLO WELCOMES SWEDEN AS A NEW MEMBER PARTY

Rome, November 28, 2017 – Sweden has joined the International Development Law Organization (IDLO), strengthening their partnership and emphasizing the country's commitment to supporting the rule of law.

Sweden's accession took place during IDLO's 2017 meeting of the Assembly of Parties, hosted by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in Rome on November 28 and 29, 2017.

"The prominent work of IDLO – enabling governments to strengthen their work with the furthering and promotion of the rule of law – is of great importance, not only for the safeguarding and promotion of human rights for all, but also for the implementation of the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals," said Anna Maj Hultgård, Deputy Head of the Department for International Law, Human Rights and Treaty Law at the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In June 2015, IDLO and Sweden signed a multi-year partnership agreement, highlighting the country's recognition of the importance of the rule of law for international development. Since then, the Swedish Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) has provided financial support for IDLO to carry out its mandate to further the rule of law and development.

In addition, Sweden is currently supporting a community justice program in Uganda to enhance the accessibility, quality and sustainability of justice services and support access to justice at the community level.

Welcoming Sweden's accession, IDLO's Director-General Irene Khan said: "Sweden's membership of IDLO will strengthen our joint partnership to ensure access to justice for all and put the rights of women and girls at the heart of sustainable development."

Ms. Hultgård also drew attention to Sweden's support for gender equality, including as the first country in the world to pursue a feminist foreign policy.

For further information, please contact Judit Arenas, jarenas@idlo.int, +1 646 506 5996

You can also follow on Twitter: [@IDLO](https://twitter.com/IDLO) or [@IreneKhan](https://twitter.com/IreneKhan)

Background for editors

The International Development Law Organization (IDLO) is the only intergovernmental organization exclusively devoted to promoting the rule of law. IDLO works to enable governments and empower people to reform laws and strengthen institutions to promote peace, justice, sustainable development and economic opportunity. Its programs, research and policy advocacy cover the spectrum of rule of law from peace and institution building to social development and economic recovery in countries emerging from conflict and striving towards democracy.

IDLO sees the rule of law as the cornerstone of peace, security, justice and development, as well as an integral part of sustainable development – underpinning social and economic progress and

environmental protection with strong institutions and good governance, formal legal frameworks and legal empowerment of people, equal opportunity and equitable access to basic services, and due process and fair outcomes for all.

For further information about IDLO visit www.idlo.int

/ENDS