



INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT LAW ORGANIZATION

STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, MS JAN BEAGLE

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL TO THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES

Assembly of Parties, 30 November 2022

UnderSecretary Tripodi,
Mr. President,
Excellencies.
Colleagues and Friends.

I am pleased to present my third annual report to the Assembly of Parties.

My thanks to Ambassador Archi for presiding, in the absence of Ambassador Saleem, who has left Italy to take up new responsibilities in Islamabad.

I am grateful for Ambassador Saleem's support to IDLO as President, and to me personally, over the past two years.

We are meeting at a time of global uncertainty and upheaval.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has lingered, intersecting with pre-existing challenges including conflict and climate change, and exacerbating inequalities and fragilities.

The result has been increased global volatility and a growing backlash against human rights, multilateralism, and democratic governance.

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Despite these challenges, progress is possible when we work together.

I have just returned from COP27 in Sharm-el-Sheikh, where delegates overcame decades of resistance to establish a loss and damage fund for countries that have contributed the least to emissions, but are on the frontlines of climate change.

As the Secretary General said at the end of the conference, this represents “an important step towards justice”.

Indeed, as a strong advocate for the need to ensure fairness, justice, and equity in climate action, IDLO is also pleased to see a clear, unambiguous reference to climate justice in this year’s final text, which represents progress from Glasgow.

Of course, much more needs to be done on emissions and transitioning to more sustainable development models, but these measures are a step in the right direction and give us a foundation to build on.

The rule of law can be a powerful force for peace and sustainable development and has rarely been more relevant to addressing global challenges.

And while the current global volatility makes our task more difficult, with over half IDLO’s work carried out in fragile contexts, we are determined to engage where our support is needed most.

As my report shows, IDLO was able to make significant progress at the mid-point of the current Strategic Plan, despite these strong headwinds.

A major area of concern has been the war in Ukraine and its global ramifications.

In addition to its mounting human cost, the crisis has profound implications for human rights, the rule of law, and international peace and stability.

IDLO has been drawing on its longstanding relationships and understanding of the context to support partner institutions, including the Office of the Prosecutor General, to address emerging needs.

We have also continued to engage in Afghanistan.

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Following a careful assessment of conditions on the ground, operations were resumed in May and national and international personnel returned to our Kabul Office.

I am pleased to report that we successfully negotiated the return of female staff to the office with the de facto authorities.

IDLO has been working to identify entry points for justice support to civil society, and especially women and girls, in the current context.

The safety and security of our colleagues in these, and other crisis contexts, remains my foremost concern.

IDLO continues to monitor the security situation closely and is pro-actively adopting mitigation measures, including through an increased emphasis on the negotiation of Host Country Agreements.

Over the past year, IDLO helped make justice systems in all regions of the world more effective and responsive through our programmes, research, and advocacy.

We promoted rule of law approaches to strengthen inclusive economic development, food security and nutrition, climate justice, and health law.

We also invested in our own systems, capacities, and resources to better deliver results, increase efficiency and deliver on our Strategic Goals.

We prioritized outreach to reinforce existing partnerships and build new ones; advocated for justice and the rule of law at the global, regional, and national levels; and strengthened our resource base.

The achievements presented in my report to the Assembly would not have been possible without the support of our partners, and the dedication and ingenuity of IDLO colleagues around the world.

As Member Parties will recall, IDLO's Strategic Plan is anchored in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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It structures IDLO's work around two Strategic Goals, achieved through six Strategic Objectives.

They are based on our commitment to putting people's needs at the centre of justice systems, and making the rule of law a driver of peace and sustainable development.

The first Strategic Goal focuses on people-centred justice and seeks to make justice systems more effective and responsive to people's needs, and respectful of their human rights.

It builds on IDLO's traditional expertise in legal empowerment and access to justice, strengthening of national institutions, and addressing key justice barriers faced by women and girls.

The second Strategic Goal links IDLO's work more closely to the 2030 Agenda, through the lens of SDG 16.

Under this goal, IDLO leverages the contribution of the rule of law to advance broader peace and development objectives including inclusive economic development, climate justice, food security and sustainable use of natural resources, and healthy lives and well-being for all.

IDLO's contribution to the global pandemic response and recovery remains a key element, and is incorporated throughout the Strategic Plan.

The three cross-cutting principles of inclusion, integration, and innovation, which have been central to my approach as Director-General, continue to guide all IDLO's efforts.

A good example of this approach is Liberia, where IDLO has been implementing programmes aimed at strengthening the response to Trafficking in Persons and Gender Based Violence.

Our work involves not only strengthening legal and policy frameworks although this is essential – for example, IDLO played a key role in helping to draft a new, stronger law on Trafficking in Persons.

It also includes capacity-building activities for all parts of the justice chain – police, immigration, the Drug Enforcement Agency, customs and security, prosecutors, and judges.

And programmes aimed at empowering women professionals in the justice sector.

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Earlier this year, I visited Liberia and met with a wide range of partners.

I would like to share a short video featuring some their perspectives to give you a flavour of our work on the ground.

[video plays]

I am pleased to share that in this year's Trafficking in Persons Report, published by the United States State Department, Liberia was upgraded from the Tier 2 watchlist in view of progress made over the past year.

Judge Cornelius Wennah, a close IDLO partner who you saw on the video, was recognized as one of six global anti-trafficking heroes.

We are now beginning to implement a follow-on project in Liberia, as well as a sub-regional project to combat Trafficking Against Persons in the Mano River Union countries of Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, and Sierra Leone.

Working in an integrated way with stakeholders across borders can help to build new partnerships, break down silos, and boost the prospects for change.

It is this approach that IDLO promotes throughout its programmes, research and advocacy.

My report to the Assembly presents IDLO's achievements and challenges over the past year in detail. Today I would like to highlight a few key results.

As members are aware, IDLO takes a people-centred approach to justice.

We work from the bottom-up to empower justice seekers through legal awareness, aid, and advisory services, supporting them to engage effectively with those who administer the laws and institutions that affect their daily lives.

In **Afghanistan**, for instance, following the resumption of operations in May, IDLO pivoted its support to non-state and community level actors.

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We conducted a mapping of civil society organizations still active on justice issues, focus group discussions with lawyers on the formation of a potential Advocates' Union, and a roundtable discussion with religious experts on improving legal aid services in the country.

IDLO also began the development of an online database called the Afghanistan Rule of Law Observatory, or ARLO, to provide legal analysis of new laws and changes in Afghan laws and policies to help practitioners navigate the changing justice sector in Afghanistan.

In **Myanmar**, IDLO continued its support to civil society organizations and legal practitioners to safeguard justice seekers' rights through training, peer-exchange, and mentorship.

In **Uganda**, IDLO supported legal aid providers to assist over 10,000 people, including 5000 women and girls, in more than fifteen districts across the country.

At a time when space for civic engagement is shrinking, IDLO brings together communities, civil society, and government officials to resolve local justice problems and respond to people's needs.

In the context of increasing instability and democratic backsliding across the Sahel region, IDLO's programme seeks to improve respect for human rights and increase public trust in the criminal justice chain, through Cadres de Concentration.

The Cadres are composed of a broad range of criminal justice actors, traditional authorities, and civil society representatives who come together to identify and address priority criminal justice concerns and propose solutions.

This year IDLO facilitated the launch of three new groups in **Burkina Faso**, and **Niger**, where the Cadres have been formally recognized by the Government of Niger through a Ministerial Order.

Later today in the Partnership Forum, we will hear from Professor Khalid Ikhiri, the former president of the Commission National de Droits Humains of Niger, who will share his insights on efforts to tackle the link between injustice and insecurity in the Sahel.

IDLO engages with both formal and informal pathways to justice, increasingly including digital platforms.

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The organisation works to increase access through Customary and Informal Justice systems, while ensuring greater respect for international norms and standards in **Kenya, the Sahel, Somalia, and Uganda**.

In **Somalia**, for example, IDLO continued to support 15 Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Centres across the country and opened four new ones in Somaliland.

In 2022, the ADR Centres received almost 3000 cases, of which around fifty percent were brought by women.

The Centres provided outreach and legal awareness services, in schools and Internally Displaced Persons camps.

IDLO is also a leading member of the Working Group on Customary and Informal Justice and SDG16+, a global network of over 70 justice organizations.

IDLO also works from the top down to make laws and institutions more effective, accessible, and accountable.

We help to fight corruption and discrimination, and to build judicial independence and legal capacity.

The majority of this work is carried out in conflict-affected and fragile contexts, where the challenges are more pronounced, resources are scarce, and reforms may take years or be set back by recurring cycles of insecurity and violence.

Last year we supported people-centred reforms in **Armenia, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Honduras, Indonesia, Kenya, Liberia, the Philippines, Somalia, Uganda, and Ukraine**.

In **Ukraine**, for instance, IDLO continued to provide institutional and capacity-development assistance to the Office of the Prosecutor General (OPG), and other institutions, in their efforts to promote accountability for violations of international criminal and humanitarian law.

We provided on-demand legal support to the OPG, including through the review and evaluation of draft guidelines, protocols, and strategies, as well as in the preparation of advisory briefs on various legal issues.

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These efforts are coordinated with other international actors, including through partnership with the Atrocity Crimes Accountability Group, a joint US-UK-EU initiative.

At the same time, IDLO is also working with the OPG and other partners to help safeguard Ukraine's anti-corruption reforms during the conflict, given the significant role they will play in reconstruction efforts.

We will hear more on Ukraine's efforts to promote justice during a time of crisis from Prosecutor General Kostin at the Partnership Forum this afternoon.

Combatting corruption is an increasingly important area of work for IDLO.

We take a comprehensive approach, building capacity to investigate and prosecute corruption, counter illicit financial flows, and recover assets.

We also promote preventive measures, including increasing transparency and integrity in the judiciary and public sector, and strengthening the monitoring role of civil society.

In addition to Ukraine, our anti-corruption programming in 2022 covered **Armenia, Bahamas, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Honduras, Kenya, Moldova, Peru, Rwanda, and Somalia.**

In **Armenia**, for instance, IDLO provided ongoing support to the establishment of the Specialized Anti-Corruption Court. IDLO was the only international organization providing expertise within the framework of this key institution-building initiative.

IDLO facilitated technical and legal assessments as part of the competitive selection of Armenian prosecutors and investigators.

We also supported qualifications verification processes and integrity interviews for over 250 candidates for various judicial, prosecutorial, and other anti-corruption roles.

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IDLO continues to engage with multilateral processes aimed at strengthening the integrity of public institutions and combatting corruption.

Over the past year we participated in the 9th session of the Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption and inter-sessional meetings; and the Anti-Corruption working groups of the G20 and OECD.

Reducing the justice gap for women and girls is essential for progress on the entire 2030 Agenda and a key priority for IDLO.

Given its importance, IDLO promotes gender equality by pursuing it as a stand-alone goal, as well as by mainstreaming it throughout our work.

We implemented dedicated programmes to promote justice for women and girls in Afghanistan, Kenya, Mongolia, the Philippines, Tunisia, and Uganda.

We are working in partnership with UN Women to promote equality in law and in practice.

In Kenya, Mali, the Philippines, and Sierra Leone we have conducted legal assessments to identify discriminatory laws and practices, and supported multi-stakeholder dialogue and capacity building activities to facilitate legal reform.

Another major priority is combatting gender-based violence – a grave and sadly globally prevalent human rights violation.

IDLO is a strong supporter of the 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence.

We are focused on strengthening the capacity of justice sector institutions – formal and informal – to respond to GBV and promoting survivor-centric approaches.

In **Mongolia**, for example, IDLO is piloting mobile GBV clinics.

Over the past year we provided over 1200 survivors with primary legal advice, psychological counselling, and referral services.

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We have also partnered with George Washington University to conduct research on ‘Survivor-Centred Justice for Gender-Based Violence in Complex Situations’ through case studies in **Afghanistan, Honduras, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, South Sudan, and Tunisia**.

This research was cited by the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women and Girls in her report on ‘Violence against women and girls in the context of the climate crisis’

Our advocacy builds on the insights from our programmatic work and research to inform global policy dialogue.

IDLO participated in the 66th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66), where I delivered a [statement](#) addressing the session’s theme on the link between gender equality and climate.

IDLO co-organized a [side event](#) on ‘Feminist Climate Action and the Rule of Law’, with the support of the Permanent Missions of **Italy, Maldives and the Philippines** to the United Nations, IFAD, the American Bar Association and other partners.

During the event, IDLO launched a [policy brief](#), which builds on our commitment to Generation Equality and explores ways in which rule of law-based approaches can accelerate feminist climate action.

In September, I joined global leaders, including the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of **France and Mexico**; the Minister of Gender, Children and Social Protection of **Liberia**; and the Executive Director of UN Women, at the Generation Equality Forum 2022 Accountability Moment at the General Assembly.

The initiative was an important moment to highlight momentum towards the Generation Equality agenda, and to review and assess initial progress on commitments.

IDLO also works to catalyze progress in key areas of the 2030 Agenda, through rule of law-based approaches. A good example is our work to promote inclusive economic growth.

The rule of law encourages economic growth by providing stability and certainty for business, ensuring protection of investment and property, and resolving disputes fairly and expeditiously.

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In 2022, we worked in **Armenia, Jordan, Kenya, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and the West Bank and Gaza** to promote increased legal capacity on economic and commercial law related to insolvency, commercial arbitration and mediation, and contract issues.

Our Investment Support Programme for LDCs, was developed in collaboration with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

It provides no-cost legal and capacity building support in investment negotiation and dispute settlement, to LDC governments and eligible private sector entities.

In the past year, the Programme supported initiatives in the **Gambia, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, and Rwanda**.

In the Gambia, for example, IDLO supported the development of a Model Bilateral Investment Treaty, that seeks to introduce investors' business and human rights obligations as a shield for Host States, to reduce power imbalances in dispute settlement, and to promote more equal sharing of risks and benefits.

IDLO also contributed to the work of the Preparatory Committee for the 5th UN Conference on the LDCs, to be held in Doha in March 2023.

This engagement led to the inclusion in the Doha Programme of Action of a commitment to further strengthen the ISP/LDCs Programme.

I look forward to participating in the Conference next year.

Climate change represents perhaps the single largest long-term threat to peace and sustainable development.

IDLO has continued to scale up efforts to promote climate justice and a rule of law approach, through programmes, research, and advocacy.

Over the past year, we worked to support **Burkina Faso, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, and the Philippines**

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In **Kenya**, for example, IDLO continued its work to advance the sustainable use of natural resources by supporting the Ministry of Environment and Forestry to develop the Forest Professionals Bill.

The Bill provides for the regulation of forestry, helping provide clear frameworks that promote climate justice.

The causes and effects of climate change and the actions needed to address them are fundamentally linked to issues of justice, equity and accountability.

And we know that women and girls are hit first, and worst, by the effects of climate change. So we are convinced of the need for a gender responsive approach to climate action.

In 2022, we launched comprehensive gender assessments of climate – and environment – related legal and regulatory frameworks in **Burkina Faso** and the **Philippines**.

IDLO published a new [issue brief](#) which highlights key challenges that contribute to climate insecurity, drawing on case studies from **Burundi, Indonesia, Rwanda, and Somalia**.

We also continued our advocacy to keep climate justice high on the agenda through participation in multilateral policy forums.

Our most significant engagement this year was COP27.

In addition to my plenary statement which highlighted the key interlinkages between rule of law, human rights, gender equality and climate action, IDLO partnered with the Open Society Foundations to organize a discussion on the need for rule of law-based solutions to address climate mobility.

Building on a partnership started at Glasgow, I joined the Minister for Environment and Land Reform of Scotland to open an event on the link between climate and gender equality.

While in Sharm-el-Sheikh, I was pleased to sign a Memorandum of Understanding on future collaboration with the Director General of the International Renewable Energy Agency.

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Another key engagement was Stockholm+50, convened by the UN General Assembly and hosted by the Governments of Sweden and Kenya, where IDLO organised a side event on feminist climate justice with Sida, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru, UN Women, and other partners.

Next month IDLO will be participating in the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15) in Montreal, chaired by China.

We are also working to finalize our climate justice strategy following a series of expert group meetings with representatives from governments, intergovernmental organizations, development foundations, and civil society groups.

Over the last year, we continued to work at local, national, and international levels to advance the right to adequate food through the rule of law.

For example, in Tunisia, IDLO hosted a national dialogue to analyze challenges and legal barriers to enhance smallholder producers' access to markets, in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture.

IDLO is finalizing a global legal assessment and issue briefs on "Food Security and the Rule of Law in times of emergencies", developed in partnership with FAO.

Engagement with the UN Food System Coordination Hub brought the opportunity to co-organize a Solutions Dialogue "Strengthening governance for more just, inclusive, and effective food system transformations", together with FAO and the Swedish National Food Agency.

In 2022, IDLO participated for the first time in the Committee on Food Security's Bureau and Advisory Group meeting organized by FAO, and participated as an in-person observer at the Committee's annual session here in Rome.

IDLO works at the nexus of health, sustainable development, and the rule of law to promote greater access to healthcare and pandemic preparedness, and to strengthen capacity to prevent and manage non-communicable diseases.

During the year, we concluded the pilot phase of our Pandemic Preparedness and Response Project which provided technical assistance and support to the governments of **Uganda** and **Zambia**.

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The programme used a participatory and consultative process to develop legal analysis reports for both countries.

In Zambia, IDLO also supported the drafting of regulations for the National Public Health Institute.

We have been working with the Ministry of Health and other relevant government actors in Uganda to develop a technical assistance action plan, and mobilize financial support for follow-on work.

The second phase of IDLO's Global RECAP programme started in July.

The programme will continue the partnership between IDLO, WHO, and Canada's International Development Research Centre to strengthen national regulatory and fiscal environments to promote healthy diets and physical activity.

It will build on the results and lessons from the first phase to sustain progress and promote longer-term change in current countries - **Bangladesh, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, and Uganda** - while at the same time extending coverage to new partners.

In line with its integrated approach, IDLO complements its programmes with research and advocacy in policy forums.

This year, the World Health Assembly approved an agreement between IDLO and WHO that grants IDLO Observer Status in all future Assemblies.

IDLO participated as an Observer in the UNAIDS Programme Coordination Board, delivering a statement underscoring the importance of addressing inequality through rule of law in promoting health rights and combating HIV/AIDS.

Our Strategic Plan 2021- 2024 identifies four Organizational Enablers to strengthen IDLO's systems, capacities, resources, and partnerships to better implement our Strategic Goals, and deliver the best possible results and value for our partners.

A key objective is to enhance quality, integration, and innovation and increase our focus on evidence and results.

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Over the past year, IDLO finalized a review of its programme cycle and will be implementing measures to increase quality, learning and results at all phases of the cycle. We are also taking steps to more systematically integrate a Human Rights Based Approach and support the transition from projects to programmes throughout our work.

As an integral part of its results-based management, IDLO's Strategic Results and Resources Framework, or SRRF, translates the Strategic Plan into a set of development and organizational results.

Over the past year, IDLO made progress on operationalizing the SRRF, including the first round of data collection and the dissemination of updated monitoring Guidelines to support integration of SRRF indicators in projects.

Cross-departmental "Thematic Clusters" are continuing to strengthen thematic focus and cross-organizational collaboration in priority areas.

As a specialized, knowledge-based organization, IDLO's main asset is our people.

This year, we launched a comprehensive Human Resources Strategy that provides a map for the management of human resources in the coming years to strengthen our capacity to attract, develop and retain high-performing staff.

We are making progress on its implementation.

I have made it a priority to improve gender parity. Women now comprise 50% of the senior leadership team and 45% of the IDLO workforce worldwide.

Two thirds of our staff are in the field and our average age is 40 years.

In 2022 we developed a new cloud-based recruitment platform, which improves user experience and streamlines the hiring process, and began work on a competency framework.

A revised code of conduct and a more transparent and streamlined grievance handling procedures have been issued.

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I have also introduced a systematic change management process to strengthen the management culture, and enhance staff engagement organization-wide.

My foremost concern is ensuring our staff's safety and wellbeing while they carry out their critical work in some of the most challenging operating environments around the world.

At a time of elevated risks and instability, IDLO continues to monitor the situation in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Somalia, Ukraine, Afghanistan and other contexts, and has implemented country-specific mitigation measures to safeguard our staff and operations.

I am grateful to staff and management for their continued commitment to our mandate, and for working around the clock to ensure the safety and wellbeing of IDLO colleagues.

In line with IDLO's commitment to improve organizational efficiency and coordination, we have invested in updates to systems and business processes to better align them with institutional needs and priorities.

Following a pilot period in select countries, a new procurement module has been integrated within IDLO's Enterprise Resource Platform, to support greater transparency and accountability.

A weeklong training was conducted in Rome for staff from fifteen country offices as well as Headquarters, the Hague, Geneva, and New York to strengthen compliance on HR, finance, procurement, and legal issues.

IDLO has updated its Financial Management Framework and strengthened its policies on ICT security, procurement, and working with implementing partners.

As an independent, mid-sized intergovernmental organization, I believe that partnerships are a crucial way for IDLO to pool expertise and resources, enhance our convening power, and leverage our impact.

Strengthening IDLO's outreach to key partners, including Member Parties and partner countries, the UN system, civil society, academia, and the private sector, has been a major priority.

Throughout the year we have engaged with Ambassadors and representatives of IDLO Member Parties, as well as other current and prospective partners.

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I am grateful to members of the Standing Committee, the Audit and Finance Committee and in particular to our bureau, Pakistan, the United States, and our host country Italy, for their support during a challenging time.

The IDLO Board of Advisers held its first in-person meeting since 2019 at Headquarters in September, during which we discussed ways in which the Board can assist the Organization in delivering on its priorities and strengthening its partnerships.

I would like to thank Mr. Stefano Manservigi, Chair of the Board, and through him the Board members, for their commitment to support the organization.

We strengthened our links with many organisations working to advance the rule of law, access to justice and human rights, and liaised with the broader international community through our presence in Rome, New York, Geneva, and the Hague.

We also built stronger partnerships with the United Nations system through bilateral engagement and cooperation with UN Secretariat, UN Funds, and Programmes and specialized agencies. These include UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, OHCHR, UN Women, UNHCR, WHO, UNAIDS, UNODC, WIPO, ILO, FAO and IFAD.

During missions to New York to represent IDLO at Commission on the Status of Women, the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, and the high-level week of the General Assembly, I met with government representatives, heads of UN entities and other senior UN officials, representatives of other international organizations, and civil society.

While in New York, I had discussions with the State Department's Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement, and the State Department's Coordinator on Global Anti-Corruption.

I also met with the President of the Economic and Social Council to discuss ways to strengthen cooperation and highlight justice issues during the 2023 High Level Political Forum.

We will hear from her later today at the Partnership Forum.

During a meeting with the new Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the former Ambassador of China in Rome, we agreed on the importance of continuing close

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collaboration with DESA, including on the annual SDG16 Conference, in collaboration with the Italian government.

In Geneva, we continued to engage with UN Human Rights bodies as well as other governmental and non-governmental organizations.

In Rome, we strengthened our engagement with Rome-based agencies, particularly around food security.

At UNIDROIT's invitation, IDLO joined the UNIDROIT-FAO-IFAD project on the Legal Structure of Agricultural Enterprises, as an observer.

We also participated in the Second National Conference on Development Cooperation, organised by the Italian Development Cooperation Agency, and partnered with CESPI and the Swiss Embassy to co-sponsor a panel discussion to mark the 30th Anniversary of the Rome Statute.

With the easing of travel restrictions, we hosted at IDLO headquarters the Chief Justice of Indonesia, the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs of Somalia, and a delegation from the Armenian Prosecutor General's Office, to discuss justice priorities and explore ways to strengthen our partnerships.

In October, I led IDLO's delegation to the first United States - IDLO Strategic Dialogue in Washington, D.C.

The Dialogue and related engagements were an opportunity to meet with many geographic and thematic bureaus within the State Department, as well as other government entities, to review progress in key areas, and explore opportunities for future engagement.

In The Hague, I was pleased to meet with the Deputy Director-General for Development Cooperation at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, as well as the Minister of Justice of Niger, and the Secretary-General of International IDEA.

IDLO continues to pursue a strategic partnership with the European Union (EU) through the completion of a pillar assessment.

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Over the past year, an external auditor conducted the pillar assessment, which highlighted that IDLO met the required standards in all material respects. It is hoped that the EU will finalize the assessment shortly.

Later today, IDLO will renew its longstanding partnership with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development through signing a new, comprehensive framework agreement to strengthen our joint work to promote rule of law-based solutions to development challenges.

In addition to the initiatives I have already highlighted, IDLO also engaged in several major policy advocacy initiatives to mobilize political and financial support for the rule of law.

The most significant of these was the third global SDG 16 Conference, organized in partnership with the UNDESA and the Government of Italy.

Held here at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Conference focused on 'People-centred governance in a post-pandemic world' and provided a timely multi-stakeholder platform to discuss ways to accelerate progress on SDG 16 and the 2030 Agenda, despite current challenges.

High-level speakers—including senior government officials, executive heads of UN entities and other multilateral organizations, policymakers, and representatives from civil society, academia, and youth organizations—participated in broad-ranging discussions.

The Conference also included a dedicated civil society track, which resulted in the elaboration of the [2022 Rome Civil Society Declaration on SDG16+](#).

The deliberations informed discussions at the 2022 HLPF where, at the invitation of the President of ECOSOC, I moderated a session on SDG 17.

IDLO also partnered with Namati, the TAP Network, and other civil society organizations to co-organize a side-event on 'SDG16+ in Peril'.

I joined Italy's Director-General for Development Cooperation and the Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination from DESA, to share some insights from the SDG 16 Conference with participants.

IDLO continued to highlight the importance of justice, rule of law and human rights in many multilateral forums.

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In February, IDLO contributed to the General Assembly's second thematic consultation on the "Our Common Agenda" report and welcomed the Secretary-General's call for a new, people-centred vision for the rule of law.

We also continued our engagement with the Human Rights Council in Geneva.

In March, I addressed the high-level segment of the Council.

My [statement](#) highlighted the mutually reinforcing relationship between human rights, sustainable development, and the rule of law, and underlined the importance IDLO places on putting people and their rights at the centre of our work.

In June, I participated in a panel on 'Good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights during and after the COVID-19 pandemic', at the invitation of the President of the Council.

In the Hague, IDLO was a co-producing partner of the World Justice Forum, organised by the World Justice Project.

The event, which convened high-level experts, scholars, and justice practitioners from around the world, covered three intersecting themes: access to justice, anti-corruption and open government; and equal rights and non-discrimination.

IDLO supported the development of the Forum's programme and outcome document, and participated in several Justice Week activities.

These included a roundtable on justice in Niger, and Working Sessions on 'People-Centred Innovations in Community Justice' and 'Customary and Informal Pathways to People-Centred Justice.'

I was invited to be a judge of the World Justice Challenge, a global competition to identify and promote good practices and high-impact projects that protect and advance the rule of law. It was encouraging to see the innovative actions of young people from all regions.

IDLO has continued to engage with the Justice Action Coalition, a group of like-minded countries and international organizations working to promote people centred justice, including through participation in ministerial and senior level meetings of coalition members.

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We have also strengthened our engagement with the OECD, participating in the ministerial meeting on Rebuilding Trust in November, and moderating a session on Responsive and Effective Justice Systems for a Changing World at the Global Roundtable on Access to Justice held in Riga.

The East Africa Justice Week in October was a good illustration of how we turn policy into practice, building on IDLO's long term support and network of trusted relationships in the region.

We organised the Justice Week, held in Kampala, around three major events:

A High-Level Regional Conference on Land, Governance and Conflict in the East and Horn of Africa, co-organized with IGAD; the annual meeting of the International Association of Women Judges Africa Regional Conference; and the East Africa Court of Justice Judicial Conference.

The week brought together Ministers, senior government officials, chief justices, judges, legal professionals, and experts from 17 countries, with the President or Vice President of Uganda present at all three conferences.

The goal was to promote dialogue on the region's need for effective pathways to reduce land resource-related conflict, promote equal access to justice, and elevate women's leadership in the judiciary.

The week produced several important outcomes including a joint ministerial communique from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda, agreeing to a "Transformative Agenda" to reduce conflict, secure land rights", and the induction of the National Association of Women Judges of Uganda into the International Association of Women Judges.

IDLO continues to prioritize efforts to secure recognition of its legal status as an intergovernmental organization, including through Host Country Agreements or HCAs.

HCAs are indispensable in facilitating our operations in a country and provide a solid basis for expanding IDLO's partnerships. I welcome the opportunity to provide an update on progress made.

IDLO has HCAs with fourteen countries, and other mechanisms of recognition of legal status in several others.

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With respect to new agreements, IDLO and Tunisia have successfully concluded the negotiation stage, and we are finalising the agreement for signature.

Working with the Philippines, we have recently reinvigorated the negotiations, and we anticipate good progress.

Negotiations continue with several other countries, including Armenia, the Bahamas, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Moldova, and Ukraine.

IDLO is also focused on ensuring full and effective implementation of HCAs. For example, with Kenya, where our HCA has been in force on a provisional basis since 2016, IDLO is awaiting the final step of gazetting the agreement.

I am grateful for the interest of Member Parties on issues related to our legal status, and their efforts to support us.

Turning to financial results, I am pleased to report that IDLO is on track to meet the targets for programme and unrestricted revenue adopted by the Assembly last year.

This reflects IDLO's ability to adapt to challenging conditions in many of our countries of operation.

However, our financial position has been impacted by the global financial downturn, resulting in depreciation in our investment portfolio.

We are closely monitoring the situation and making necessary adjustments.

I would like to thank all our development partners for their financial support for IDLO and its mandate at a critical time.

And I would like to ask all our member parties to consider contributing to the organisation, particularly to the core funding. It is this funding that enables us to invest in our people and our systems and develop a sustainable platform for growth.

STATEMENT

This would also help us to diversify our resource base. Financial investment in IDLO by member parties is a sign of confidence in the organisation which will strengthen my ability to approach prospective partners.

The proposed 2023 Operating Budget has been developed in line with the draft Management Plan for 2023-2024, and takes a prudent approach.

I look forward to presenting both documents to the Assembly under the next agenda item.

In conclusion, the multiple intersecting crises we face demand concerted global action.

The challenges are too big and too complex for anyone to solve alone.

Conflict, climate change, inequality, and their effects are interlinked and cannot be tackled in isolation.

In the words of the Secretary General, at the Alliance of Civilizations this month, and I quote:

“The ‘what’ is not the challenge. The ‘how’ is.

How to secure cooperation.

How to raise ambition.

How to marshal resources.

How to mobilize political will.

How to catalyse actions at all levels – from the global to the local.” [end quote]

To meet the challenge of “how,” our actions must be grounded in multilateralism, the rule of law and human rights.

These are the guiding principles behind IDLO’s work.

STATEMENT

Let us rededicate ourselves to the values of the UN Charter and collaborating to address our common problems.

Working together we can help to build a world that is more peaceful, just, green and sustainable.