

PROCEEDINGS
MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES
November 23, 2021

1. The 2021 Annual Meeting of the Assembly of Parties (the Assembly) of the International Development Law Organization (IDLO), was held on 23 November 2021 in hybrid modality, with Member Party representatives and a limited number of additional delegates attending in person at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and other participants joining online.
2. Thirty-five IDLO Member Parties attended the meeting, a majority at ambassadorial level.
3. The documentation for the meeting is available online at [this link](#).

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING

4. The President of the Assembly, H.E. Jauhar Saleem, Ambassador of Pakistan to Italy, welcomed Member Party representatives and other participants.
5. He thanked the Italian Government for its hospitality and expressed gratitude for the efforts to ensure that health and safety protocols were in place to provide for a safe and successful meeting at the Farnesina premises.
6. The President then gave the floor to H.E. Marina Sereni, Italian Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, to deliver the opening statement.

AGENDA ITEM 1A: STATEMENT BY H.E. MARINA SERENI, VICE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF ITALY

7. The Vice Minister began by saying how pleased she was to welcome all those present back to the Farnesina for an “in person” meeting, following another challenging year marked by the pandemic. She underlined how the rule of law is now “more essential than ever” and that the values and principles of SDG 16 are crucial to recovery from the crisis.
8. Observing that the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms are at the heart of Italy’s policy and actions, she highlighted some of the Government’s key priorities including supporting strong institutions, reducing inequalities, and promoting sustainable development.
9. Referring to Italy’s Presidency of the Council of Europe, she stressed the importance of multilateral cooperation and in this context she reiterated

Italy's strong support for IDLO's role and unique mandate among international organizations and multilateral bodies.

10. She welcomed IDLO's increased visibility and the key role played by the Organization in implementing and promoting the 2030 Agenda and specifically SDG 16.
11. She expressed Italy's support for IDLO's work in the area of gender equality and her government's appreciation for the Director-General's participation in the G20 Ministerial Conference on Women's Empowerment.
12. The Vice Minister congratulated IDLO for its COVID-19 response, including IDLO's collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on mitigating the impact of the pandemic on access to food, as well as the collaboration with the World Health Organization to strengthen legal and policy frameworks on pandemic preparedness and response.
13. She ended by expressing her appreciation for IDLO's growing partnerships with the UN system, noting that IDLO is an important part of the Rome international organization hub, and recalled that Italy had invited IDLO to attend the G20 Anti-corruption Working Group.
14. The full text of Vice Minister Sereni's statement is available on the IDLO website at [this link](#).
15. The President thanked the Vice Minister for her opening remarks.
16. The President then outlined housekeeping rules for the meeting and for participants joining online.

AGENDA ITEM 1B: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (AP/2021/1.1)

17. The President referred to the provisional agenda (AP/2021/1.1) which had been circulated to Member Parties on 3 November 2021. There were no comments by Member Parties and the agenda was adopted by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM 1C: PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT

18. The President began by saying that Pakistan was proud to preside over IDLO during one of the most challenging periods in the Organization's history, acknowledging how well IDLO had risen to the challenges and continued to deliver on its mandate.
19. Noting how the Organization had expanded its footprint in international fora during 2021, he cited in particular IDLO's contribution to the UN General Assembly, the Food Systems Pre-Summit and Summit, the Human Rights Council, the G20 meeting, and the UNFCCC COP-26, as well as the organization of the SDG 16 Conference.

20. The President drew attention to the growing recognition of IDLO's expertise and experience in a range of areas including legal governance, digital innovation, mitigating the legal impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, economic development, climate justice, food security, and anti-corruption. He also commended IDLO for achieving gender parity in its senior management team.
21. Referring to management issues, he described how transparency, efficiency, results-oriented management and accountability were defining principles of IDLO's organizational structure, and welcomed the development during 2021 of a Strategic Results and Resources Framework to help implement the Strategic Plan.
22. Acknowledging the important contribution and oversight role of the Standing Committee, he thanked his fellow Committee members, as well as those of the Audit and Finance Committee, for their active participation during the past year.
23. He commended the Director-General for her commitment, initiative and outreach, which had helped raise IDLO's profile in international arena, as well as her efforts to make the Organization more transparent and accountable to Member Parties.
24. He concluded by referring to the ongoing challenges posed by the pandemic and the need to work together to combat corruption and find solutions in people-centred justice systems.
25. He then passed the floor to the Director-General to present her report.

AGENDA ITEM 2: DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S REPORT (AP/2021/2.1)

26. The Director-General began by thanking Vice Minister Sereni for her inspiring opening remarks.
27. She went on to describe how IDLO was able to achieve significant results during the first year of implementing its new Strategic Plan, despite the many challenges posed by the ongoing pandemic. She underscored how these achievements would not have been possible without the support of partners and the dedication of IDLO colleagues around the world.
28. The Director-General reported that increased global fragility had compounded the devastating impact of COVID-19 and made IDLO's operating environments more volatile. Such trends emphasised the continued relevance of IDLO's mission, even as the rule of law continued to come under pressure in many parts of the world.
29. She set out her key priorities for 2021, namely: to maximise IDLO's contribution to peace, sustainable development and progress on Agenda 2030 through the rule of law; to develop a geographically diverse and thematically balanced portfolio of integrated programmes, research, policy and advocacy;

to strengthen organisational resources, systems and capacities to deliver on the Organization's Strategic Goals in an uncertain operating environment; and to position IDLO as a partner of choice on SDG 16 and generate greater political and financial support for the rule of law. Furthermore, the three cross-cutting principles of inclusion, integration, and innovation had continued to guide IDLO's efforts.

30. The Director-General outlined how, since the pandemic began, contributing to a rule of law-based response to COVID-19 had been a major priority for IDLO and would remain a priority in the new strategic cycle. This included targeted initiatives that contributed directly to the crisis response and recovery, as well as broader support under each Strategic Objective to meet emerging justice needs.
31. The Director-General described how Strategic Goal 1 (*Justice systems are more effective and responsive to people's needs*) had historically represented the majority of IDLO's work. While this trend continued in 2021, IDLO had also invested in building up the Organization's work in newer areas under Strategic Goal 2 (*Rule of law drives peace and sustainable development*). Greater thematic expertise was developed in key areas including climate justice, anti-corruption, and digital innovation, and reforms initiated to strengthen programme quality, improve coordination, and enhance IDLO's ability to drive and measure results.
32. The Director-General presented examples of new and existing programmatic work to empower justice seekers in the **Sahel, Myanmar, Uganda, Kenya and Somalia**, among others.
33. She highlighted IDLO's [report](#) on "Community Paralegals and Customary and Informal Justice", published in August, as a demonstration of IDLO's integrated approach whereby research draws on country-level experience and is disseminated through multi-stakeholder advocacy at global and national levels.
34. She further described how IDLO had organised and contributed to major global policy dialogues on anti-corruption, including reaffirming the Organization's commitment to combatting corruption through the rule of law at the Special Session of the UN General Assembly Against Corruption in June.
35. Under its third Strategic Objective, IDLO promoted gender equality by pursuing it as a stand-alone goal, as well as by mainstreaming it throughout the Organization's work. IDLO's programming on justice for women and girls continued to draw on, and be informed by, its research and policy advocacy.
36. At the 65th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, she reported that she had highlighted the fundamental importance of rule of law in the pursuit of gender equality. At CSW IDLO had also organised two high-level side events on "[Women Delivering Justice: Achieving Gender Parity in the Justice Sector](#)", and on "[Eliminating Discriminatory Laws: Achieving Gender Equality on Paper and in Practice during Challenging Times](#)".

37. At the Generation Equality Forum, hosted by the governments of Mexico and France and convened by UN Women, IDLO made [commitments](#) to accelerate progress on gender equality as part of Action Coalitions – Gender-based Violence, Economic Justice and Rights, Feminist Action for Climate Justice, and Feminist Movements and Leadership.
38. At the invitation of the Italian Ministry for Family and Equal Opportunities, the Director-General also participated in the first-ever G20 Ministerial Conference on Women’s Empowerment, while IDLO provided a [written contribution](#) to highlight the Organization’s work to reduce the justice gap for women and girls.
39. The Director-General emphasized how IDLO’s work under its fourth Strategic Objective (*inclusive economic development*), remained particularly relevant in the context of the economic crisis unleashed by COVID-19, providing examples of activities carried out during 2021 in several countries, including **Montenegro** and **Serbia**. In addition, IDLO’s Investment Support Programme for Least Developed Countries (ISP/LDCs), developed in collaboration with the UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS), continued to expand its activities during the past year to benefit stakeholders in Ethiopia, The Gambia, Liberia, Malawi, and Uganda.
40. With climate change representing the single largest threat to peace and sustainable development, the Director-General emphasised that scaling up work on climate justice was a major priority in the new strategic cycle and she highlighted IDLO’s recently launched [Climate Justice](#) policy brief, which proposed seven recommendations to advance transformative climate action grounded in the rule of law and human rights, as well as her participation in the meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 26) in Glasgow.
41. In outlining IDLO’s growing portfolio related to climate and the sustainable use of land and natural resources at the country level, she gave examples from **Kenya** and **Rwanda** and noted that IDLO had also initiated a research project on the climate, security and justice nexus in **Honduras, Indonesia, Rwanda, Somalia, and Uganda**.
42. In relation to food security, she reported that IDLO was working with FAO to strengthen the legal environment for food security and nutrition of vulnerable groups in **Honduras** and **Uganda** as part of the pandemic response and recovery.
43. IDLO had participated in the pre-Summit meetings in Rome, organised a pre-Summit [Independent Dialogue](#) on “The Rule of Law and Food Systems Transformation in the Sahel: Addressing the Conflict-Climate-Food-Security Nexus”, and attended the Summit Meeting in New York in September.
44. At a time when health issues were a global priority, she reported that IDLO was promoting rule of law solutions for greater access to health services, supporting pandemic preparedness, and strengthening capacity to prevent

and manage non-communicable diseases (NCDs). IDLO's Pandemic Preparedness and Response Project (PPRP), developed in collaboration with WHO, which aims to strengthen legal and policy frameworks to prevent, detect and promptly respond to Public Health Emergencies of International Concern and other public health risks, including COVID-19, was now being piloted in Uganda and Zambia.

45. Under IDLO's Global RECAP Programme, which aims to strengthen the capacity of countries to promote healthy diets and increase physical activity for the prevention of NCDs, and which is being implemented with WHO and the International Development Research Centre, she reported that IDLO had developed toolkits on regulatory approaches to promoting healthy diets and physical activity to sensitise legal and public health scholars in **Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania**.
46. The Director-General went on to describe progress made against the four Organizational Enablers contained in the Strategic Plan 2021- 2024, including the development of a Strategic Results and Resources Framework (SRRF) to translate the Strategic Plan into a set of development and organisational results; a comprehensive review of the programme cycle to strengthen programme design and development, implementation, evaluation and learning processes; and an update of IDLO's Theory of Change Guidelines.
47. In light of travel restrictions during the pandemic, IDLO had also developed a draft methodological paper on remote data collection to strengthen the evaluation of interventions during travel restrictions and improve quality evaluations using remote data collection.
48. During 2021 IDLO introduced new mechanisms for remote working and was developing a comprehensive human resources strategy with the aim of strengthening IDLO's capacity to attract, develop and retain high-performing staff. IDLO was also finalizing a cross-cutting Gender Action Plan to mainstream gender equality, not only throughout its programmes, research, and advocacy, but also within IDLO. In that context, the Director-General was pleased to report that gender parity had been achieved during the past year in IDLO's senior management with women now constituting 50% of the Senior Leadership Team, compared to 20% in 2020.
49. In terms of human resources, the Director-General reported that IDLO had taken steps during 2021 to strengthen a culture of continuous learning and high performance through the development of a transparent system for salary progression. The Employee Rules were also reviewed to ensure they suited the evolving operational context and amendments were approved by the Standing Committee in July.
50. To improve organisational efficiency and coordination, IDLO had invested in updates to systems and business processes to better align them with institutional needs and priorities, including the rollout of a new procurement module within IDLO's Enterprise Resource Planning system and the piloting of a new budgeting tool. The capacity of existing ICT platforms had been

strengthened to meet additional remote working needs, and a revised Personal Data Protection Policy issued.

51. The Director-General emphasised that IDLO's foremost priority throughout the year was ensuring the safety and well-being of staff. The structure of IDLO's Security Management Team had been updated and country-specific mitigation measures to safeguard staff and operations had been implemented.
52. Regarding Afghanistan, the Director-General reported that operations in the country were currently paused in light of the political and security situation. She underlined the commitment of IDLO management to stay engaged and support the Afghan people to the extent possible.
53. In terms of external engagement, the Director-General stated that strengthening IDLO's outreach to key partners, including Member Parties and partner countries, the UN system, civil society, academia, and the private sector, remained a key priority for her.
54. Links with the UN system have grown through bilateral engagement and cooperation with FAO, IFAD, OHCHR, UNDP, UNICEF, UNICRI, UNHCR, UNODC, UN Women, WFP and WHO on programming, research and policy advocacy. An MoU signed with UNODC in June would help reinforce complementary mandates to advance justice and the rule of law.
55. IDLO had also scaled up global partnerships with organisations working to advance the rule of law, access to justice and human rights, including the American Bar Association, the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF), the International Anti-Corruption Academy, the International Bar Association Human Rights Institute, the Pathfinders Initiative, and the World Justice Project.
56. The Director-General took the opportunity to thank IDLO's financial partners, in particular Italy, the United States, the Netherlands, Sweden, and Kuwait, for their generous support. She noted that in July IDLO had signed a new multiyear agreement with the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) to support implementation of the Strategic Plan 2021-2024, while a new multiyear agreement with the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Netherlands had been concluded and pending signature. In September, the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Partnerships had given formal approval for IDLO to undergo a Pillar Assessment, which is expected to take place in 2022.
57. During 2021 policy advocacy initiatives further positioned IDLO as a thought leader and champion of SDG 16 as an enabler of peace and sustainable development. Most significant was the organization in May - in partnership with UNDESA and the Government of Italy - of a second global SDG 16 Conference, at which IDLO launched its [Roadmap for a Rule of-Law Based Recovery](#), followed by the [16 Voices for SDG 16](#) advocacy campaign. The outcomes of the SDG 16 Conference later served as an input to the 2021 High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

58. IDLO's [Crisis Governance Forum](#) series continued to serve as an important advocacy forum. Engagement with the human rights community in Geneva continued through IDLO's liaison office, and in July the Director-General was invited by the President of the Human Rights Council to chair the 2021 Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and Rule of Law.
59. The high-level week of the United Nations General Assembly in September had provided an opportunity for the Director-General to meet with government representatives and senior officials of the UN and other organisations. IDLO welcomed the acknowledgement in the UN Secretary General's "Common Agenda" report of the need for a "new vision" for the rule of law. At the Meeting of the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly on the theme of the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, IDLO expressed commitment to cooperating with Member States and the UN to help shape and promote the development of a new vision.
60. With respect to IDLO membership, the Director-General was pleased to inform the Assembly that Mauritania became the newest Member Party in August and that membership discussions had advanced during the year with other countries.
61. Responding to the request by the Assembly of Parties in 2020 (via Resolution 3/2020), the Director-General provided an update on the subject of securing appropriate recognition of IDLO's legal status including through Host Country Agreements (HCAs). She reported that an agreement had been concluded with the Government of Armenia and that negotiations on HCAs were at various stages with the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Moldova, Rwanda, Tunisia, the Philippines, and Ukraine. Noting the publication of HCAs with Niger and Uganda in their respective national gazettes, she pointed as well to progress on ensuring the effective implementation of previously concluded HCAs, including in Burkina Faso, Kenya, and Mongolia.
62. Regarding IDLO's financial situation the Director-General noted that while financial results for 2021 had been affected by evolving COVID-19 restrictions and increased volatility in countries of operation, particularly in Afghanistan, healthy financial reserves, careful financial management, and the Operational Fund established by the Assembly of Parties, had enabled IDLO to be on track to end the year with a positive operational result.
63. Looking ahead, the Director-General cited the UN Secretary-General speaking at the High-level meeting she had attended in September that the world was "on the edge of an abyss and moving in the wrong direction". In order to step back from such a precipice, she argued that bold, urgent and transformative measures were needed. It was essential, she said, to put people at the centre of justice systems in order to rebuild trust, promote equality and close the justice gap. It was equally important, she added, that such efforts be grounded in the principles of rule of law, solidarity and sustainability. The Director-General concluded her report by reiterating IDLO's commitment to working together with its Member Parties every step of the way to create a culture of justice and build a more peaceful, just and inclusive future for all.

64. The President thanked the Director-General for her report, noting how much had been achieved by the Organization during the past year under her leadership.
65. He then opened the general debate, inviting Member Parties to take the floor.
66. The Assembly heard interventions by the representatives of Afghanistan, China, Ecuador, El Salvador, Italy, Liberia, Mauritania, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Senegal, Sweden, the United States and Vietnam.
67. The full text of all statements delivered and subsequently shared with the IDLO Secretariat are available online at [this link](#).
68. In their interventions, Member Parties congratulated the Director-General for her report, which demonstrated the valuable and extensive contribution made by IDLO during the past year to promoting rule of law and sustainable development, despite the ongoing challenges posed by the pandemic.
69. Representatives welcomed in particular IDLO's unique contribution to the global response to the COVID-19 crisis.
70. Member Parties congratulated Pakistan for its leadership role as President of the Assembly of Parties and Chair of the Standing Committee and expressed a warm welcome to Mauritania as IDLO's newest Member Party.
71. Representatives of States where IDLO operates, including Afghanistan, Liberia, Montenegro and the Philippines, all expressed their appreciation for IDLO's work in their respective countries.
72. Several members drew attention to IDLO's work in the area of anti-corruption and in this context the representative of Italy thanked IDLO for its meaningful contribution to the work of the G20 Anti-corruption Working Group during the Italian Presidency.
73. IDLO's work in the area of women's empowerment was also the focus of a number of interventions, as was the topic of climate change. In relation to the latter, the representative of Italy described climate justice as the "next frontier" and congratulated IDLO for its recently launched Policy Brief on "Climate Justice: a Rule of Law Approach for Transformative Climate Action", while the representative of China highlighted a recent intervention by the Director-General at the "Green Development and Global Trade under Climate Change" session of the Fourth Hongqiao International Economic Forum.
74. Several representatives spoke about the importance of more effective multilateral mechanisms and welcomed IDLO's increased focus on expanding and strengthening partnerships. The representative of the Netherlands said she was pleased to announce that her government had recently reached a new four-year partnership agreement with IDLO to further their joint goals of legal empowerment and people-centered access to justice, with a particular focus on women and girls. The representative of the United States welcomed IDLO's joint programmes with FAO and the WHO and urged IDLO to continue using

the Operational Fund to launch such initiatives. The representative of Sweden drew attention to the Partnership Forum being organized by IDLO on the afternoon of the Assembly, describing it as an important step in anchoring a rule of law-based approach as part of multilateral cooperation.

75. Following the interventions by IDLO Member Parties, observer organizations were invited to take the floor and representatives of UNIDROIT and IFAD intervened, expressing their appreciation for IDLO's work and their interest in increasing cooperation and collaboration.
76. The Director-General expressed her sincere thanks to Vice Minister Sereni for her participation at the Assembly and her ongoing support to IDLO, and thanked all the Ambassadors participating at the meeting in person. She expressed special appreciation to the representatives of Pakistan as President and the two Vice Presidents Italy and the United States for their strong personal support to her during what had been a very challenging year. Finally, she thanked all the representatives who intervened for their kind words and expressions of support to IDLO and its staff, the majority of whom she reported were working in the field, often in difficult environments. The Director-General said she would be pleased to pass on their messages of thanks and encouragement to the IDLO staff and assured Member Parties that IDLO would follow up on the areas of interest referenced in their remarks.

AGENDA ITEM 3: OPERATING BUDGET 2022 (AP/2021/3.1, AP/2021/3.2)

77. The President introduced the agenda item by drawing attention to the draft Operating Budget (AP/2021/3.1), noting that it had been carefully reviewed by the Audit and Finance Committee and recommended to the Standing Committee for approval. It was subsequently reviewed and approved by the Standing Committee at its meeting on October 23 for onward transmission to the Assembly of Parties.
78. The President gave the floor to the Director-General to present the document.
79. The Director-General began by noting that the proposed Operating Budget for 2022 was prepared taking a prudent perspective given the rapidly evolving environment. She remarked that it reflected IDLO's determination to capitalize on emerging opportunities and respond to partners' needs, while also introducing some innovations geared towards increasing efficiency and effectiveness.
80. It was, she emphasized, a balanced budget with very conservative income projections. The level of unrestricted income was budgeted at the same level as 2021, while programme revenue was projected to decrease by 13%, based on data available as on 1 September 2021 and taking a cautious approach given the uncertainty around COVID-19 and recent events in Afghanistan. It was noteworthy, she added, that some 83% of the budgeted programme revenue was based on secured agreements.

81. The Director-General noted that the document included a broad forecast for 2023 for information purposes, clarifying that approval was being sought only for the 2022 budget.
82. The Director-General went on to provide a breakdown of the expenditures according to strategic objectives (accounting for 81% of the total, while the organizational enablers accounted for the remaining 19%). She indicated that IDLO was not seeking any additional funding for institutional projects as these would be covered by funds already approved in past budgets and carried forward. She stressed the importance of investing in people and noted the modest 8% increase in funding for employee-related costs.
83. In conclusion, the Director-General took the opportunity to thank the members of the AFC and its Chair, Mr. Filippo Alessi, for their hard work and support throughout the year.
84. Concluding the discussion of agenda item 3, the President drew attention to draft Resolution N.1/2021 on approval of the Operating Budget 2022, which had been shared with Member Parties in advance of the meeting.
85. Noting there were no objections or additional comments, the President declared Resolution N.1/2021 (AP/2021/3.2) adopted by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM 4: REPORTS OF THE GOVERNING BODIES

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE (AP/2021/4.1)

86. The President presented the Report of the Standing Committee (AP/2021/4.1), which had been circulated in advance to the Member Parties, sharing a summary of the report's main highlights and details of the three meetings held by the Committee in 2021. He thanked the IDLO Secretariat for its work in preparing for each meeting and for the support extended to him and his staff.
87. He expressed his thanks to fellow Members of the Committee - the Vice Presidents Italy and the United States, and ad hoc members Ecuador, Kuwait, the Philippines and Senegal, for their active participation and contributions throughout the year. He also acknowledged the participation as observers of the AFC Chair, Mr. Filippo Alessi, and AFC members, as well as the new Chair of the Board of Advisers, Mr. Stefano Manservigi, and representatives of IDLO's staff association.
88. The President expressed appreciation for the Director-General's reports to the Standing Committee, focusing on implementation of the Strategic Plan, Management Plan 2021-2022 and the operating budget, as well as regular updates on IDLO's contribution to the global effort to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic and the organization's efforts to safeguard the health and well-being of its staff during the past year.
89. The President drew attention to several highlights from the Director-General's reports and concluded by summarizing the main decisions taken by the

Committee during 2021, including: approval of IDLO's audited Financial Statements for 2020; approval of amendments to IDLO's Employee Rules; approval of the proposed Operating Budget for 2022; and approval of the draft resolutions before the Assembly.

REPORT OF THE AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE (AP/2021/4.2)

90. Mr. Filippo Alessi (Italy), Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee (AFC), provided a summary of the AFC Report to the Assembly for 2021 (AP/2021/4.2).
91. The AFC Chair began by thanking the President and the Director-General for their words of appreciation regarding the work of the AFC. He reported that thanks also to the close cooperation between the AFC and IDLO Management the Committee had continued to monitor the evolution and implementation of IDLO's 2021 budget, in particular with respect to programme revenue which constitutes the bulk of IDLO's income. He noted that during the year IDLO had managed to maintain and even increase its implementation rate which he described as commendable in the current environment.
92. He concluded his remarks by drawing attention to the close links between IDLO's financial stability and programme implementation and underlined the importance for IDLO of securing Host Country Agreements in its countries of operation, as highlighted by the Assembly of Parties during previous meetings.

AGENDA ITEM 5: REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ADVISERS (AP/2021/5.1)

93. Introducing the agenda item, the President congratulated the new Chair of the Board of Advisers, Mr. Stefano Manservigi, and gave him the floor to present the report of the Board.
94. Mr. Manservigi began by saying he was honored to have been appointed as Chair of the Board of Advisers. He went on to describe briefly the activities of the Board, primarily at the two meetings held in March and October 2021.
95. As most of the Board members were newly elected in 2020, their first meeting had included introductions and an exchange of information about their respective areas of expertise, as well as briefings by the Director-General about IDLO's Strategic Plan and key activities.
96. Thematic discussions held by the Board members had highlighted members' expertise in different areas, particularly in relation to two of IDLO's strategic objectives, namely SO5 - the promotion of climate justice and sustainable use of land and natural resources, and SO3 - reducing the justice gap for women and girls.
97. He reported that Board members had expressed an interest and willingness to contribute to IDLO's work and had made practical suggestions for the future

such as toolkits grounded in IDLO's field work to be used at local, national and regional levels, and seminars to present successful practices in tackling climate change through the participation of experts from relevant countries.

98. Finally, he reported that members had welcomed the strengthening of IDLO's resource mobilization function and put forward several suggestions for diversifying IDLO's funding base.

AGENDA ITEM 6: ELECTIONS

99. The President began by summarizing the elections scheduled to take place, namely:
- Two Member Parties to serve as ad hoc members of the Standing Committee
 - Between two (2) and four (4) Member Parties to serve as members of the Audit and Finance Committee; and
 - Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee.
100. He drew attention to the background note on elections which was circulated prior to the meeting (AP/2021/B1), as well as a note (AP/2021/B2) outlining the election procedures and modalities for online voting by members joining remotely, in the event that voting was required.

AGENDA ITEM 6(a): ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE (ADOPTION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 2/2021) (AP/2021/6.1)

101. The President introduced the election, noting that there were two vacancies arising from the end of the terms of Kuwait and the Philippines. He further noted that expressions of interest had been received from Kuwait and the Philippines.
102. The President asked whether any additional Member Parties wished to announce their candidacy for a two-year term on the Standing Committee. Noting that there were no additional expressions of interest, and that there was consensus among the Member Parties, the President declared Kuwait and the Philippines elected to serve as members of the Standing Committee for a two-year term.
103. Resolution N.2/2021 (AP/2021/6.1), recording the result of the elections to the Standing Committee, was adopted by consensus. The President expressed congratulations to the members elected to serve on the Standing Committee.

AGENDA ITEM 6(b): ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE (ADOPTION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 3/2021) (AP/2021/6.2)

104. The President introduced the election, noting that the Audit and Finance Committee is composed of five to seven members and that three of the current

members would remain serving for another year. He further noted that expressions of interest had been received from Italy, Kuwait and Turkey.

105. The President asked whether any additional Member Parties wished to announce their candidacy for a seat on the Audit and Finance Committee. Noting that there were no additional expressions of interest, and that there was consensus among the Member Parties, the President declared Italy, Kuwait and Turkey elected to serve as members of the Audit and Finance Committee for a two-year term.
106. Resolution N.3/2021 (AP/2021/6.2), recording the result of the elections to the Audit and Finance Committee, was adopted by consensus. The President expressed congratulations to the members elected to serve on the Audit and Finance Committee.

AGENDA ITEM 6(c): APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIR OF THE AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE (ADOPTION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 4/2021) (AP/2021/6.3)

107. The President introduced the agenda item, noting that a nomination had been received from Italy to be Chair of the Committee and specifically for Mr. Filippo Alessi to serve in this role.
108. The President asked if any other members of the Audit and Finance Committee wished to be considered for the position of Chair. Noting that there were no additional expressions of interest, and that there was consensus among the Member Parties, the President declared Italy appointed as Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee.
109. Resolution N.4/2021 (AP/2021/6.2), recording the result of the appointment, was adopted by consensus. The President expressed congratulations to Italy and thanked Mr. Alessi for his willingness to continue serving in this role.

AGENDA ITEM 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

110. No Member Parties raised any issues under this agenda item.
111. The President thanked the Member Parties for their active participation and continued commitment to IDLO. He also thanked IDLO' s Director-General and staff for their hard work during what had been an extremely challenging year. He congratulated the newly elected members of IDLO' s governing bodies and Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee.
112. Finally, he reminded Member Parties to join the afternoon session of the Assembly online for the thematic discussion "A New Vision for the Rule of Law to Deliver Our Common Agenda".
113. The President then declared the formal session of the Assembly meeting closed.

ENDS/