

PROCEEDINGS
MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES
30 November 2022

1. The 2022 Annual Meeting of the Assembly of Parties (the Assembly) of the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) was held on 30 November 2022 at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, with all Member Party representatives attending in person.
2. Thirty-four IDLO Member Parties attended the meeting, a majority at ambassadorial level.
3. Following the departure from Italy of the President of the Assembly, Ambassador Jauhar Saleem of Pakistan, and pending the arrival of a new Ambassador, the meeting was chaired by Vice President H.E. Bruno Archi, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Italy to the UN Agencies in Rome (“Acting President”).
4. The documentation for the meeting is available online at [this link](#).

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING

5. The Acting President of the Assembly welcomed Member Party representatives and other participants to the meeting.
6. He noted that he would be chairing the morning session of the Assembly, also drawing attention to the Partnership Forum on “Justice in Crisis” taking place in the afternoon, which would be moderated by IDLO’s Director-General, Ms. Jan Beagle.
7. The Acting President then gave the floor to H.E. Ms. Maria Tripodi, Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, to deliver the opening statement.

**AGENDA ITEM 1A: STATEMENT BY H.E. MARIA TRIPODI,
UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF ITALY**

8. The Undersecretary began by referring to the complex and interconnected challenges of today’s world, including the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and the effects of climate change, emphasizing the key role played by the rule of law in sustaining peace.
9. She noted IDLO’s unique mandate and described its role as of the utmost importance, adding that multilateral cooperation is the only way to overcome crises.

10. She underscored Italy's strong support for IDLO and its activities, highlighting the 2022 global conference on SDG 16 which IDLO had organized with UNDESA and the Italian Government, and which had witnessed an exceptional level of participation, concluding that Italy planned to co-organize another edition of the conference in the spring of 2023.
11. She expressed Italy's appreciation for IDLO's strengthened partnerships with the UN system in Rome and New York, highlighting in particular the programme developed in collaboration with WHO on strengthening legal and policy frameworks for pandemic preparedness and recovery, as well as the joint programme with FAO on mitigating the impact of emergency laws and regulations on global food supplies.
12. The Undersecretary concluded her remarks by referring to the growing recognition of IDLO's important role among the international organizations headquartered in Italy and expressed confidence that Italy's collaboration with IDLO would continue to bear fruit in the years ahead.
13. The full text of Undersecretary Tripodi's statement is available on the IDLO website at [this link](#).
14. The Acting President thanked the Undersecretary for her opening remarks.
15. He then outlined some brief housekeeping rules for the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 1B: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (AP/2022/1.1)

16. The Acting President referred to the provisional agenda (AP/2022/1.1) which had been circulated to Member Parties on 9 November 2022. There were no comments by Member Parties and the agenda was adopted by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM 1C: STATEMENT BY THE ACTING PRESIDENT

17. The Acting President began by saying that Italy was proud to preside over the 2022 Assembly of Parties.
18. Noting how IDLO had successfully delivered on its mandate during 2022, he congratulated the Director-General for her remarkable leadership and commended IDLO's staff around the world for their strong commitment.
19. Describing the rule of law as the base for peace and security, enshrined in SDG 16, he highlighted the tragedy of the ongoing war in Ukraine, describing it as a failure for all, and also underscored the immense challenge of mitigating the effects of climate change.
20. Referring to conflicts, food insecurity and climate change as the perfect storm, he underscored the need to stay united and work in a coordinated manner in order to address such challenges.
21. He concluded his remarks by again commending IDLO for its work and by thanking IDLO's donors for their support, highlighting how IDLO continues

to play an important role at the forefront of multilateral efforts in such important areas as the fight against corruption, climate justice, the right to food, and gender equality.

22. He then passed the floor to the Director-General to present her report.

AGENDA ITEM 2: DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S REPORT (AP/2022/2.1)

23. The Director-General began by thanking Ambassador Archi for chairing the meeting. She also expressed her gratitude to the former Ambassador of Pakistan to Italy, H.E. Jauhar Saleem, for his support to IDLO as President during the previous two years.
24. The Director-General remarked that the meeting was taking place at a time of global uncertainty and upheaval, with the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic intersecting with pre-existing challenges of conflict and climate change exacerbating inequalities, adding that despite these challenges progress is possible when people work together.
25. The Director-General cited the example of COP27 in Sharm-el-Sheikh, which she had recently attended, and where delegates had come together to establish a loss and damage fund for countries most affected by climate change, describing it as a step in the right direction and a foundation to build on.
26. Highlighting that more than half of IDLO's work is carried out in fragile contexts, she reported that IDLO was still able to make significant progress at the mid-point of its current Strategic Plan. She underlined that the achievements presented in her report would not have been possible without the support of IDLO's partners and the dedication of its staff around the world.
27. The Director-General recalled that IDLO's Strategic Plan is anchored in the 2030 Agenda and structured around two Strategic Goals and six Strategic Objectives based on IDLO's commitments to place people's needs at the centre of justice systems. She outlined how the first Strategic Goal is focused on people-centred justice and seeks to make justice systems more effective and responsive to people's needs and respectful of their human rights, while Strategic Goal two seeks to promote the rule of law as a driver of peace and sustainable development.
28. The Director-General also noted that IDLO's contribution to the global pandemic response and recovery was a key element, incorporated throughout the Strategic Plan.
29. She reminded Parties of the three cross-cutting principles of inclusion, integration and innovation, which continue to guide all IDLO's efforts. Referring to Liberia as a good example of where IDLO is putting this into practice, she spoke of her mission to the country earlier in the year to witness first-hand some of the activities IDLO is carrying out alongside its partners to help combat trafficking in persons.

30. A short video featuring IDLO's work in Liberia was then shown to the participants.
31. Following the video, the Director-General continued with her report to the Assembly, drawing attention to the fact that in 2022 the U.S. State Department Trafficking in Persons Report had upgraded Liberia from the Tier 2 watchlist in view of the progress made, and Judge Cornelius Wennah - one of IDLO's partners who was featured in the video – had been recognized as one of six global anti-trafficking heroes.
32. The Director-General went on to provide some other highlights of IDLO's work in 2022, during which IDLO helped make justice systems in all regions more effective and responsive through our programmes, research and policy advocacy.
33. She drew attention to Afghanistan where IDLO had resumed operations in May, with national and international staff returning to the office. She was pleased to report that IDLO had also managed to negotiate the return to the office of IDLO's female national staff with the de facto authorities.
34. She explained that IDLO had pivoted its support in Afghanistan to non-state and community level actors. Activities included a mapping of civil society organizations active in the justice sector; focus group discussions on the formation of a potential Advocates' Union; roundtable discussions with religious experts on improving legal aid services; and the development of an online database – the Afghanistan Rule of Law Observatory (ARLO) – to provide information on new laws and changes in laws and policies to help practitioners navigate the changing justice sector.
35. The Director-General also referred to Uganda where during 2022 IDLO had supported legal aid providers to assist over 10,000 people, including 5,000 women and girls, in more than fifteen districts across the country.
36. Moving to the Sahel Region the Director-General described briefly the work being carried out by IDLO in Burkina Faso, Niger and Mali, including through the Cadres de Concentration, which aim to improve respect for human rights and increase public trust in the criminal justice chain.
37. The Director-General highlighted IDLO's work on customary and informal justice, citing examples from Kenya, the Sahel, Somalia, and Uganda, flagging also IDLO's membership of the Working Group on Customary and Informal Justice and SDG16+, a global network of over 70 justice organizations.
38. Regarding IDLO's work to help build judicial independence and legal capacity, the Director-General noted that during 2022 IDLO had supported people-centred reforms in Armenia, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Honduras, Indonesia, Kenya, Liberia, the Philippines, Somalia, Uganda and Ukraine.
39. She highlighted the work in Ukraine, where IDLO has been drawing on its longstanding relationships to support partner institutions, including the Office of the Prosecutor General, in their efforts to promote accountability for violations of international criminal and humanitarian law.

40. She stressed that IDLO's efforts in Ukraine were closely coordinated with other international actors, including through partnership with the Atrocity Crimes Accountability Group, a joint US-UK-EU initiative.
41. Turning to anti-corruption and good governance, an increasingly important area of work for the Organization, the Director-General cited examples of activities in countries including Armenia, The Bahamas, Ecuador, Honduras, Kenya, Moldova, Peru, Rwanda and Somalia.
42. She also reported that IDLO had participated in the 9th session of the Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption, and inter-sessional meetings; as well as the Anti-corruption Working Groups of the G20 and OECD.
43. Referring to IDLO's work to reduce the justice gap for women and girls, the Director-General recalled that IDLO promotes gender equality as a standalone goal and mainstreams it throughout the work of the Organization. She highlighted examples of IDLO work, also in partnership with UN Women, which included legal assessments in Kenya, Mali, the Philippines and Sierra Leone, to identify and combat discriminatory laws and practices.
44. She also flagged IDLO's efforts to combat gender-based violence through programming in Mongolia; joint research with George Washington University on "Survivor-Centred Justice for Gender-based Violence in Complex Situations"; and participation in several global advocacy events including the Commission on the Status of Women and the Generation Equality Forum 2022 Accountability Moment at the UN General Assembly.
45. In the area of economic and commercial law, the Director-General noted that during 2022 IDLO had worked in Armenia, Jordan, Kenya, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and the West Bank and Gaza to promote increased legal capacity related to insolvency, arbitration and mediation and contract issues.
46. She also cited IDLO's Investment Support Programme for LDCs, which during the past year had supported initiatives in The Gambia, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique and Rwanda. IDLO had 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.
47. Turning to climate change, the Director-General noted that the Organization was working to scale up its efforts in a number of countries, through a combination of programming, research and advocacy.
48. Highlighting the need for a gender-responsive approach to climate action, the Director-General reported on the launch during 2022 of gender assessments of climate-related legal and regulatory frameworks in Burkina Faso and the Philippines, as well as the publication of a new issue brief on the challenges that contribute to climate insecurity, based on case studies from Burundi, Indonesia, Rwanda and Somalia.

49. She recalled IDLO's participation at COP27 where she had highlighted in her plenary statement the interlinkages between rule of law, human rights, gender equality and climate action. IDLO had also partnered with Open Society Foundations to organize a discussion on the need for rule of law-based solutions to address climate mobility, and she had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).
50. The Director-General referenced IDLO's engagement at Stockholm + 50, where a side event had been organized on feminist climate justice together with Sida, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru, UN Women and other partners.
51. IDLO would be participating in the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15) in Montreal, chaired by China;
52. Finally, on the subject of climate change, she noted that IDLO is finalizing its climate justice strategy, following a series of expert meetings and consultations.
53. Regarding IDLO's ongoing collaboration with Rome-based Agencies, the Director-General mentioned a global legal assessment and issue briefs on "Food Security and Rule of Law in times of emergencies" being developed in partnership with FAO; a Solutions Dialogue on "Strengthening governance for more just, inclusive and effective food system transformations", also organized with FAO and the Swedish National Food Agency; and IDLO's participation for the first time in the Committee on Food Security's Bureau and Advisory Group and the Committee's annual session.
54. On the subject of health, the Director-General reported that IDLO had concluded the pilot phase of the Pandemic Preparedness and Response Project, developed in collaboration with WHO, to support the Governments of Uganda and Zambia. IDLO had begun the second phase of the Global RECAP programme. Countries that would benefit from the project include Bangladesh, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Uganda.
55. IDLO had participated as an Observer in the UNAIDS Programme Coordination Board.
56. Finally, the Director-General reported that the World Health Assembly had approved an agreement granting IDLO Observer Status in all future Assemblies.
57. Turning to IDLO's four Organizational Enablers, the Director-General highlighted how during the past year IDLO had finalized a review of its programme cycle; moved forward in operationalizing the Strategic Results and Resources Framework (SRRF); established cross-departmental thematic clusters; and launched a comprehensive Human Resources Strategy.
58. She underlined the critical importance of security, reporting that IDLO continued to closely monitor the situation in Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Somalia, Ukraine, Afghanistan and other contexts, and had implemented country-specific mitigation measures to safeguard staff and operations.

59. She expressed her thanks to the Members of the Standing Committee, in particular the Presidency, and to Members of the Audit and Finance Committee. She also thanked the Chair of the Board of Advisers, Stefano Manservigi, and the other Board members, for their commitment to IDLO.
60. The Director-General went on to highlight the importance of partnerships, including as a means to pool expertise and resources and leverage impact, noting that strengthening IDLO outreach to Member Parties and key partner countries, the UN system, civil society, academia and the private sector, remained a top priority.
61. Noting that IDLO was building stronger partnerships with the UN system, through bilateral engagement and cooperation, including with UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, OHCHR, UN Women, UNHCR, WHO, UNAIDS, UNODC, WIPO, ILO, FAO and IFAD, she reported that during her visits to New York and Geneva during 2022 she had met with a wide range of government representatives, heads of UN entities and other senior UN officials, as well as representatives of other international organizations and civil society.
62. She also highlighted the first ever United States-IDLO Strategic Dialogue, which was held in Washington D.C. in October, and included discussions with senior United States officials.
63. She further reported on the progress made in the EU pillar assessment, expressing the hope that the process would be finalized shortly.
64. Referring to IDLO's longstanding partnership with EBRD, she reported that a comprehensive new Framework Agreement would be signed later the same day.
65. In terms of major policy advocacy initiatives, the Director-General highlighted the third global SDG16 Conference organized with UNDESA and the Italian Government, which brought together 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 for broad-ranging discussions.
66. The Conference also included a dedicated civil society track which resulted in the elaboration of the 2022 Rome Civil Society Declaration on SDG16+. Deliberations from the Conference had also informed the discussions at the 2022 High Level Political Forum (HLPF), during which the President of ECOSOC had invited the Director-General to moderate a session on SDG17.
67. The Director-General reported on IDLO's ongoing engagement in Geneva, particularly with the Human Rights Council, and in The Hague, including as a co-producing partner of the World Justice Forum.
68. She briefed the Assembly about the East Africa Justice Week, held in Kampala earlier in November, during which IDLO had co-organized three key events: a high-level Regional Conference on Land, Governance and Conflict in the East and Horn of Africa, together with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD); the annual meeting of the International Association of

Women Judges Africa Regional Conference; and the East Africa Court of Justice Judicial Conference.

69. Underlining once again the importance for IDLO to secure proper legal status in its countries of operation, including through the negotiation of Host Country Agreements (HCAs), she provided a brief update on the current status of HCAs. She also expressed her gratitude to Member Parties for their support for these efforts.
70. Turning to finance, the Director-General reported that IDLO was on track to meet the targets for programme and unrestricted revenue in the 2022 budget. She thanked IDLO's partners and appealed to all Member Parties to consider making contributions, particularly to IDLO's core funding, underlining that this funding enabled investment in the Organization's people and systems. Such support would also strengthen her ability to approach other prospective partners.
71. The Director-General concluded her report with a call to action, grounded in multilateralism, the rule of law and human rights, as the guiding principles behind IDLO's work, and encouraged all to work together to help create a more peaceful, just, green and sustainable world.
72. The President thanked the Director-General for her report, commending IDLO for achieving so much during the past year under her leadership.
73. He then opened the general debate, inviting Member Parties to take the floor.
74. The Assembly heard interventions by the representatives of Austria, Burkina Faso, China, Ecuador, Italy, Kuwait, Mali, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Senegal, Sweden, Sudan, Uganda and the United States.
75. The full text of all statements delivered at the Assembly and subsequently shared with the IDLO Secretariat are available online at [this link](#).
76. In their interventions, Member Parties congratulated the Director-General for her comprehensive report, which demonstrated the valuable and extensive contribution made by IDLO during the past year to promoting rule of law and advancing sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda.
77. Representatives of States where IDLO operates all expressed strong support and appreciation for IDLO's work in their respective countries.
78. The resumption of activities in Afghanistan, including the return to office of its female staff, was also commended by representatives, as was the ongoing support of IDLO to partners in Ukraine.
79. IDLO's work in the Sahel area was highlighted in a number of interventions, with representatives underlining the importance of IDLO's presence in the region and achievements under the programme "Integrated support to criminal justice systems in the Sahel".

80. IDLO's role in continuing to provide support in the fight against corruption was referenced by a number of representatives, who also welcomed the Organization's strengthened engagement with UN entities, including UNODC.
81. Several representatives mentioned the impact of climate change, particularly on the most vulnerable groups and encouraged IDLO to continue working in this crucial area.
82. Members reiterated the importance of IDLO's core work in strengthening capacity building of national legal institutions.
83. The importance of fostering cooperation with the Rome Based Agencies, especially in the context of food security, was also underlined.
84. The need to expand IDLO's donor base in order not to leave the responsibility for funding in the hands of just a small group of donor countries was also emphasized.
85. The Director-General expressed her sincere thanks to all the representatives who intervened for their kind words and expressions of support to IDLO and its staff, the majority of whom were working in the field, often in difficult environments. The Director-General said she would be pleased to pass on their messages of appreciation to IDLO staff and assured Member Parties that IDLO would follow up on the areas of interest referenced in their remarks.

AGENDA ITEM 3: MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR 2023-2024 AND OPERATING BUDGET 2023 (AP/2022/3.1, AP/2022/3.2, AP/2022/3.3)

86. The Acting President introduced the agenda item by drawing attention to the documents circulated to Members in advance of the meeting – the proposed Management Plan 2023-2024 and the proposed Operating Budget 2023. He noted that the Management Plan had been reviewed and approved by the Standing Committee at its meeting on 12 October, while the Operating Budget had been reviewed by the Audit and Finance Committee and recommended for approval, after which it was reviewed by the Standing Committee and approved for consideration by the Assembly.
87. The Acting President gave the floor to the Director-General to present the documents.
88. The Director-General began by recalling that IDLO's Strategic Plan 2021-2024 had been designed to maximize the Organization's ability to address existing global challenges while providing flexibility to tackle new and emerging issues.
89. She drew attention to the fact that despite being almost half-way through the period for implementing the 2030 Agenda, the world was behind on achieving all 17 Sustainable Development Goals.
90. Despite the many intersecting challenges, she reported that IDLO had made significant progress during the first half of its strategic cycle, further noting that the Management Plan 2023-2024 builds on such progress and seeks to continue the same ambitious yet flexible approach.

91. She outlined briefly the three main objectives of the Plan, namely:
 - First, to continue to maximize the contribution of the rule of law to peace and sustainable development;
 - Second, to ensure flexible and efficient systems and processes, supported by strong organizational resources; and
 - Third, to mainstream integration, innovation, and inclusion across IDLO's work to ensure the delivery of high-quality programming, research, policy, and advocacy.
92. Recalling how IDLO's Strategic Plan is based on IDLO's values and comparative advantages and anchored in the 2030 Agenda, she reminded Parties how IDLO's substantive work is structured around two Strategic Goals and six Strategic Objectives.
93. Under Management Plan 2023-2024, for Strategic Goal 1 through which IDLO aims to promote justice systems that are more effective and responsive to people's needs, the Director-General reported that IDLO would place special emphasis on engagement with customary and informal justice systems, as well as on engagement with young people and other traditionally excluded groups. IDLO would continue to support its partners to strengthen national institutions; promote smart legal reform; strengthen criminal justice chains; and enable equitable digital innovation, she added. Finally, IDLO would continue to expand its portfolio of work on anti-corruption, as well as its large body of work in the area of gender justice.
94. Under Goal 2, through which IDLO promotes the Rule of law as a driver of peace and sustainable development, the Director-General noted that a key priority would be the scaling up of IDLO's work on the economic empowerment of women and girls. She also cited climate justice and sustainable use of natural resources as another growing area of work, adding that IDLO would support the realization of environmental rights, with a special focus on the intersection of gender and climate, as well as promote climate-resilient development and access to land and natural resources through the law.
95. In terms of geographic spread, the Director-General noted that IDLO's Africa portfolio would continue to grow, making Africa the largest region of operations, while IDLO would continue to explore where feasible the expansion of activities in other regions where its presence is currently limited, including the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and Latin America and the Caribbean.
96. Sub-regional approaches would also be utilized as appropriate and emphasis placed on engagement with regional organizations, such as the African Union, ASEAN and the European Union, she reported.
97. While Goal 1 would continue to account for the largest portion of IDLO's work, the Director-General drew attention to a shift within the Goal, reflecting increased engagement with civil society.

98. Turning to IDLO's four Organizational Enablers, the Director-General outlined briefly some of the key priorities for the next two years. Under Enabler 1, on enhancing innovation, integration and impact. priorities would include strengthening the links between programmes, research, policy and advocacy; mainstreaming gender equality and a human rights-based approach; increased emphasis on innovation, learning and data; and improving monitoring and reporting, also through the Strategic Results and Resources Framework.
99. Under Enabler 2 she noted that IDLO would continue to invest in developing staff – the organization's most valuable resource – through implementing the new Human Resources Strategy.
100. Under Enabler 3, which focuses on improving systems and processes, she reported that IDLO planned to leverage technology and adopt smarter, greener and more flexible ways of working.
101. Referring to Enabler 4 on partnerships, she informed the Assembly that IDLO would endeavour to strengthen current and prospective partnerships, improve communications, and enhance its advocacy work in support of rule of law.
102. She further reported that IDLO would also aim to diversify its funding base, build funding partnerships with traditional and non-traditional donors, and adopt a more proactive approach to membership expansion.
103. Turning to Operating Budget 2023, the Director-General emphasized how it had been prepared in alignment with Management Plan 2023-2034.
104. She drew attention to the fact that 85% of projected programme funding was already secured through existing agreements.
105. The Director-General concluded that the budget took a prudent approach and was informed by careful analysis, but also reflected IDLO's ambition to capitalize on emerging opportunities, respond to partners' needs and introduce innovation.
106. The Director-General ended her presentation by expressing her hope that though its new Management Plan IDLO could continue making a tangible contribution to peace and sustainable development.
107. Noting there were no comments or questions from Member Parties, the Acting President drew attention to draft Resolution N.1/2022 on approval of the Management Plan 2023-2024 and Operating Budget 2023, which had been shared with Member Parties in advance of the meeting.
108. There were no objections or additional comments and Resolution N.1/2022 (AP/2022/3.3) was adopted by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM 4: REPORTS OF THE GOVERNING BODIES

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE (AP/2022/4.1)

109. The Acting President presented the Report of the Standing Committee (AP/2022/4.1), which had been circulated in advance to Member Parties, sharing a summary of the report's main highlights and details of the three meetings held by the Committee in 2022.
110. He expressed his thanks to fellow Members of the Committee - the President, Pakistan; Vice President, the United States; and the 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 Chair of the Board of Advisers, Mr. Stefano Manservisi, and representatives of IDLO's staff association.
111. The Acting 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 annual operating budget, as well as regular updates on IDLO's contribution to the global effort to respond to the continued aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Organization's efforts to adjust programming in complex situations, including in Ukraine and Afghanistan, while maintaining the safety and well-being of staff as a top priority.
112. 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 2022, including: approval of IDLO's audited Financial Statements for 2021; approval of the proposed Management Plan 2023-2024 and Operating Budget 2023, now approved by the Assembly; and approval of the other draft resolutions before the Assembly.

REPORT OF THE AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE (AP/2022/4.2)

113. Mr. Filippo Alessi (Italy), Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee (AFC), provided a summary of the AFC Report to the Assembly for 2022 (AP/2022/4.2).
114. The AFC Chair reported briefly on the key issues examined by the Audit and Finance Committee throughout the year, in particular the close monitoring of IDLO's financial status and implementation of the 2022 budget, as well as careful review of the 2023 proposed operating budget. He drew attention to the 14% increase in programme revenue in the operating budget 2023, underlining that this represented a return to almost pre-COVID levels of programme implementation.
115. He concluded his remarks by highlighting the constructive participation of IDLO representatives in preparing and facilitating the AFC meetings throughout the year.

AGENDA ITEM 5: REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ADVISERS (AP/2022/5.1)

116. The Chair of the Board of Advisers, Mr. Stefano Manservigi, presented some highlights from the report of the Board, which had been circulated to members in advance.
117. Referring to the in-person meeting of the Board which he had chaired in September at IDLO headquarters, he remarked that the Board had benefited from the participation of the Director-General and a number of senior staff throughout their two days of discussions.
118. He noted that the Board meeting had included updates from the Director-General on the implementation of IDLO's Strategic Plan, and reports from relevant directors on IDLO programming, policy and advocacy, research and learning as well as on IDLO's engagement with partners.
119. The Board Chair described how members had expressed strong support for IDLO's continued contribution to promoting the rule of law around the world, despite the difficult global context, especially in challenging environments such as Ukraine and Afghanistan.
120. Board members had also encouraged IDLO to continue working in the areas of climate justice and customary and informal justice, he added.
121. Support was also expressed for IDLO's efforts to expand its membership and resource base, with individual members offering to help with private sector outreach. Finally, the Board also welcomed IDLO's efforts to engage more with regional organisations, in particular the EU.
122. The Chair of the Board concluded his remarks by referring to the election of two new members which would be considered by the Assembly under the next agenda item, noting that the Board would welcome the addition of both candidates to further diversify the Board and enrich future discussions.

AGENDA ITEM 6: ELECTIONS

123. The Acting 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
 - Up to two individuals to serve as members of the Board of Advisers.
124. He drew attention to the background notes on elections that were circulated prior to the meeting: AP/2022/B1 and AP/2022/B2.

AGENDA ITEM 6(a): ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE (ADOPTION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 2/2022) (AP/2022/6.1)

125. The Acting President introduced the election, noting that there were two vacancies arising from the end of the terms of Ecuador and Senegal. He further noted that expressions of interest for a two-year term on the Standing Committee had been received from Egypt and Paraguay.
126. Noting that there were no additional expressions of interest, the Acting President declared Egypt and Paraguay elected by consensus to serve as members of the Standing Committee for a two-year term.
127. Resolution N.2/2022 (AP/2022/6.1), recording the result of the elections to the Standing Committee, was adopted by consensus. The Acting 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. 3/2022) (AP/2022/6.2)

128. The Acting President introduced the election, noting that the Audit and Finance Committee is composed of five to seven members. He noted that the terms of three of the current members - China, Kenya and the United States - were expiring and that all three had expressed interest in continuing to serve on the Committee.
129. Noting that there were no additional expressions of interest, the Acting President declared China, Kenya and the United States elected by consensus to serve as members of the Audit and Finance Committee for a two-year term.
130. Resolution N.3/2022 (AP/2022/6.2), recording the result of the elections to the Audit and Finance Committee, was adopted by consensus. The Acting President expressed congratulations to the members elected to serve on the Audit and Finance Committee.

AGENDA ITEM 6(c): APPOINTMENT OF UP TO 2 MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF ADVISERS (ADOPTION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 4/2022) (AP/2022/6.3)

131. The Acting President recalled that two nominations had been received for members of the Board:
 - Mr. Diego García-Sayán (nominated by the Republic of Peru)
 - Mr. Ahmar Bilal Soofi (nominated by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan)
132. The Acting President asked if there was consensus among the Member Parties to appoint the two individuals nominated. Hearing no objections, the Acting President declared Mr. García-Sayán and Mr. Soofi elected as members of the Board of Advisers.
133. Resolution N.4/2022 (AP/2022/6.3), recording the result of the appointment, was adopted by consensus. The Acting President requested the Secretariat to

notify the individuals elected of the results and provide them with any information they might need to enable them to serve as new members of the Board of Advisers.

AGENDA ITEM 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

134. No Member Parties raised any issues under this agenda item.
135. The Acting 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 members of the Board of Advisers.
136. Finally, he reminded Member Parties to join the afternoon session of the Assembly for the thematic discussion "Justice in Crisis".
137. The Acting President then declared the formal session of the Assembly meeting closed.

ENDS/