

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ADVISERS

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES

26 November 2024

Board Composition

1. In 2024, the Board of Advisers of IDLO included the following eight members: Mr. Stefano Manservigi (Chair), Dr. Ruth Aura-Odhiambo, Mr. Diego García-Sayán, H.E. Mehmet Hasan Göğüş, Dr. Hoang Ly Anh, Prof. Githu Muigai, Mr. Ahmer Bilal Soofi and Ms. Zhou Xiaoyan.

Board's Advisory Role

2. In accordance with IDLO's governing documents, the Board serves an advisory function to the Organization, with members acting in their individual capacities as experts in rule of law and development.

Board Activities

3. On 13-14 June 2024, the Board held its annual in-person meeting at IDLO headquarters. The Chair and five members of the Board travelled to Rome to participate in the meeting.
4. The main focus of the Board meeting in 2024 was to hold a consultation regarding IDLO's new Strategic Plan 2025-2028. A background note on the development of the Plan, including guiding questions, was shared with Board members in advance of the meeting.
5. In opening the meeting, the Chair noted the challenging global environment, which was also having a negative impact on SDG16. He expressed hope that the Summit of the Future would contribute to rebuilding consensus and renewing multilateralism and underlined that IDLO should play a central role in these discussions.
6. During the meeting, the Director-General (DG) provided an update on IDLO's progress since the last Board meeting, highlighting achievements over the past four years and outlining the main priorities for her second term. Her vision includes strategically positioning IDLO as a leader in thought and policy advocacy by leveraging its programming and research strengths. She emphasized the importance of continuing to support partners in challenging environments while also expanding IDLO's programming in more stable regions. Advancing the organization's commitment to gender equality and closing the justice gap for women and girls remains central, alongside efforts to broaden IDLO's political and financial support base. Additionally, she highlighted plans to invest in people and systems, with a particular focus on "the three I's" – integration, inclusion, and innovation. Staff development and security will continue to be priority areas as part of her comprehensive approach to organizational growth and resilience.

7. Board members congratulated the DG on her re-election and for the impressive results achieved as a result of IDLO's Strategic Plan 2021 - 2024.
8. The Director-General informed Board members of the process by which the new Strategic Plan was being developed, namely through a three-step process, including data collection, extensive consultations with key stakeholders and lessons learned from Strategic Plan 2021 - 2024.
9. Board Members agreed that IDLO's current Plan and focus remained relevant, yet emphasized the importance of newer areas, including artificial intelligence, customary justice, and climate finance.
10. Members acknowledged the challenges IDLO faces working in difficult environments, such as Afghanistan, the Sahel and Ukraine, and underlined the importance of IDLO remaining engaged and demonstrating the added value of multilateral institutions in promoting peace and sustainable development.
11. The Board commended IDLO for its work in strengthening partnerships and enhancing its presence in important multilateral fora. Examples of impressive results included the key outcomes from the 2024 SDG16 Global Conference, as well as IDLO's engagement in the UN Summit for the Future.
12. Strategies for expanding IDLO's membership, particularly from the G7 countries and the Global South, were also discussed, with a specific suggestion to engage regional groups such as MIKTA.
13. The Director-General highlighted to the Board the importance of IDLO securing sufficient funding and political support for its work and urged the Board to also reflect on ways for IDLO to encourage increased core funding.
14. In this context, the Board suggested that IDLO look more into the area of private sector funding, from various sources, including think tanks, large corporations and law firms, noting that the latter often sponsor UN events. IDLO's Investment Support Programme for Least Developed Countries was also referenced as an excellent example through which pro bono support can be provided to the Organization.
15. In his closing remarks, the Board Chair highlighted IDLO's EU pillar assessment success and proposed leveraging the Strategic Plan launch to enhance IDLO's profile, including potentially in Brussels. The DG expressed appreciation for the Board's input, which would inform the Strategic Plan consultations. The Chair concluded by confirming his upcoming participation in the IDLO Assembly of Parties meeting to present the Board's annual report.
16. The Board agreed to reconvene in 2025.

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