



GENERAL DEBATE
IDLO ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES
ANNUAL MEETING 2024
26 NOVEMBER 2024

**WELCOME ADDRESS BY DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN
AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF ITALY**

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES

26 NOVEMBER 2024

Eccellenze, Signore e Signori,

È per me un piacere aprire l'Assemblea delle Parti dell'IDLO.

Occasioni come questa ci permettono non solo di celebrare i risultati raggiunti dalla vostra Organizzazione, ma anche di ribadire la centralità dello Stato di diritto nello scenario internazionale.

La promozione dello Stato di diritto e il rafforzamento delle istituzioni democratiche è una priorità dell'azione internazionale dell'Italia, in particolar modo nel campo della cooperazione allo sviluppo.

Per creare un ambiente favorevole allo sviluppo è infatti necessario avere istituzioni solide, sistemi legali equi ed imparziali, classi politiche competenti, in grado di affrontare sfide complesse e spesso transnazionali.

In Italia è la stessa legge a indicarci che la cooperazione allo sviluppo “contribuisce alla promozione della pace e della giustizia”, tutelando i diritti umani, i principi di democrazia e dello Stato di diritto, il consolidamento delle istituzioni democratiche.

L'Africa è una delle priorità dell'azione italiana di cooperazione allo sviluppo, come emerso chiaramente con il lancio del Piano Mattei.

All'interno di questa cornice, l'Italia promuove iniziative volte a rafforzare l'efficienza, la trasparenza e l'inclusività delle istituzioni dei nostri Partner africani, attribuendo la massima importanza al rafforzamento delle capacità locali.

La tutela e la promozione dei diritti di donne e bambini è un'altra caratteristica fondamentale della nostra azione di cooperazione allo sviluppo. Ne sono esempio le iniziative che sosteniamo in Kenya e in Africa occidentale, volte a rafforzare le istituzioni per migliorare l'accesso delle donne ai servizi di giustizia e per creare sistemi nazionali efficaci per la protezione dei minori.

Vi sono due importanti ambiti di intervento della Cooperazione Italiana sui quali vorrei soffermarmi, in quanto strettamente connessi alla promozione dello Stato di diritto, dei diritti umani e dell'inclusività.

Il primo è l'ambito della digitalizzazione, un elemento di trasformazione e di sviluppo economico fondamentale, che impone di essere monitorato da vicino per far sì che riduca – invece di ampliare – le disuguaglianze.

Per questo motivo l'Italia è in prima linea nel promuovere la trasformazione digitale in Africa, come ribadito anche nel comunicato finale della Riunione dei Ministri G7 dello Sviluppo di Pescara.

Il secondo ambito di intervento sono i giovani. Siamo consapevoli che il raggiungimento degli obiettivi dell'Agenda 2030 dipenderà in maniera decisiva dalla capacità delle società di includerli, rispondere alle loro esigenze, creare opportunità concrete di formazione e lavoro.

Lo è in particolar modo per la nostra azione di cooperazione in Africa, un continente in forte crescita demografica, dove è fondamentale realizzare politiche efficaci in materia di istruzione e sviluppo.

È con questa consapevolezza che a inizio ottobre presso la Reggia di Caserta ho presieduto un evento G7 di alto livello dedicato al dialogo con l'Africa sul tema dell'apprendimento permanente. Il risultato principale dell'evento è stato quello di evidenziare come l'istruzione e l'inserimento professionale siano imprescindibile volano di sviluppo per i partner africani.

Signori e signore,

Le sfide allo sviluppo sostenibile e al rispetto dello Stato di diritto sono molteplici e spesso interconnesse.

Al tempo stesso, l'entità dei bilanci nazionali e degli aiuti allo sviluppo subisce la pressione crescente delle crisi sempre più numerose, siano esse di natura politica, economica o sociale.

Lasciatemi però sottolineare che la risposta non può e non deve essere la riduzione del nostro impegno a sostegno dello Stato di diritto. Al contrario,

una gestione più equa ed efficiente delle risorse pubbliche passa proprio dal rafforzamento delle regole del diritto, della democrazia, dell'anti-corrruzione e della trasparenza.

Siamo consapevoli che il mandato di IDLO, incentrato sulla promozione dello Stato di diritto e la giustizia come mezzo per la pace e lo sviluppo sostenibile, è unico tra le organizzazioni internazionali e gli organismi multilaterali.

Sosteniamo con convinzione il forte impegno dell'Organizzazione per promuovere l'accesso alla giustizia - fattore essenziale per garantire lo Stato di diritto.

L'Italia rimane impegnata a fare la sua parte, a partire proprio dalla continuazione della nostra fruttuosa collaborazione con IDLO.

Vi ringrazio per la vostra partecipazione oggi e auguro a tutti un dibattito produttivo.

PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE PARTIES
26 NOVEMBER 2024

Director-General of IDLO Jan Beagle,

Edmondo Cirielli, Deputy Minister of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation,

H.E. Minister Altangerel Oyunsaikhan, Minister for Justice and Home Affairs of Mongolia,

H.E. Minister Dawda A. Jallow, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Republic of the Gambia

Excellencies,

Distinguished Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The United States is proud to have served as the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) President this first year of our three-year term. Today, we reaffirm our shared commitment to advancing justice, the rule of law and sustainable development across the globe. I am both humbled and inspired by the tireless work and dedication of Director General Jan Beagle, the Secretariat, and all the IDLO Staff. I would like to thank my fellow Bureau members, Italy and Mongolia, for their leadership and advocacy.

In a world marked with profound challenges – armed conflict, climate change, inequality, and the erosion of democratic institutions – the principals that unite us

through IDLO's mission have never been more critical. The rule of law is not merely a framework for governance; it is the foundation upon which inclusive, just and peaceful societies are built.

We, as member parties, know that IDLO is a unique institution, capable of delivering concrete results in challenging environments. Despite the challenges, on-going global crisis, and complex governance environments, IDLO has continued to advance its mission of promoting rule of law and access to justice worldwide.

This year marked the final year of the current Strategic Plan, in which under the leadership of DG Beagle, and the unwavering commitment of staff, IDLO made strides in critical areas. Notably, expanding its work in anti-corruption and good governance, providing vital support to governments and institutions in strengthening integrity, accountability, and transparency. These efforts are pivotal to fostering trust and achieving sustainable development.

As an organization, IDLO has shown exceptional leadership in supporting legal reforms, strengthening institution and promoting justice around the world. Which has made IDLO a trusted global convener, facilitating dialogue and action to advance peaceful, just, and inclusive societies.

We welcome IDLO's Strategic Plan, Management Plan, and Budget. As we prepare for this next year of the new Strategic Plan 2025-2028, we look forward to working closely with all you to consolidate IDLO's achievements, deepen its impact to chart a future in which every person lives with dignity and equality under the rule of law.

I urge member parties to renew our joint commitment to the principals of multilateralism and solidarity, including considering joining the Standing Committee and the Audit and Finance Committee. Let us continue to provide the resources and the political will necessary for IDLO to expand its reach and impact.

STATEMENT OF AFGHANISTAN
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE PARTIES
26 NOVEMBER 2024

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

In the Name of Almighty God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

Mr. President,

Madam Director-General,

Distinguished members of the IDLO Assembly of Parties,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

Today, as I am speaking to you here at IDLO Assembly of Parties, the Afghans are experiencing the worst epoch of their history under the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. Sadly, the current situation in my motherland is nothing short of an unprecedented humanitarian and human rights catastrophe. Among the many tragedies unfolding in Afghanistan, the most alarming is the restrictions imposed on Afghan girls and women from seeking employment, accessing education, moving freely in public spaces, and more recently, with the latest Taliban edict, females are banned from speaking in public and even with other females in the country.

As these deliberate measures by the Taliban are considered a systematic violation of fundamental human rights, it has had the following dire impacts on our female segment of our population in Afghanistan:

1. An Increase in gender-based violence;
2. Increase in rates of early and forced child marriages;
3. Dire psychological effects inside and outside home;
4. Decline in decision making in private and public spheres;
5. Shrinkage of civic space;
6. Decrease in access to health services;

7. Increase in illiteracy rates;
8. Decrease in household income and decline of economy;
9. Increase in Internal displacement and migration of families; and
10. Increase in Jihadist tendencies and Talibanization, especially through the inculcation of the young girls in newly founded Madrasas and Jihadist curriculum in primary schools; and

Unfortunately, as the world watches the Taliban strip our girls and women of their unalienable rights, some members of the international community continue to engage with the Taliban under the new banner of “Normalized Form of Engagement”.

When they are confronted about the success of their normalized form of engagement with the Taliban, they resort to obfuscation. Their mendacious claims go as far as by saying that the Taliban have brought security in Afghanistan by deflecting the current realities on the ground. Some states even in a cursory manner, keep insisting that the Taliban shall eventually change course as it relates to Afghan girls and Women. So far, these mendacious claims have proven to be wrong.

Hence, it is time to end this sort of transactional and reductionist form of engagement under the banner of normalization with the Taliban, because it has emboldened the Taliban and it has sidelined the voice of the true representative of Afghanistan, including of our civil society, our diplomatic and consular missions in Europe, North America and Australia.

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As the time has finally arrived in formulating a robust, constructive and accountable framework when engaging with the Taliban, this places greater responsibility on UN actors, international NGOs, and donors to make sure that the new framework of engagement with the Taliban is based on the international community’s conditions, not of the Taliban.

Hence, we recommend the following:

1. Direct funds for gender equality;
2. Avoid normalizing Taliban discriminatory practices;
3. Prioritize girls and women rights in all official engagements;
4. Utilize the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) by bringing the Taliban before the International Court of Justice (ICJ);
5. Make the US/UN weekly 80 million dollar injection of assistance to Afghanistan conditional;
6. Keep the Afghan Central Bank frozen funds as is;
7. Hold the Taliban accountable for the violation of the US-Doha Agreement; and
8. Support the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan's Diplomatic and Consular Missions in EU Member States, Australia and Canada as they are the last fortress for the protection of Afghan females and minority rights in the country.

As it relates to IDLO, the people of our country are indebted for all the assistance they rendered led during the former Republic in Afghanistan in building an accessible and efficient justice system. As the IDLO's commitment has be renewed with the opening of their offices in 2022 in Afghanistan, a new approach is needed. Here, our Afghan mission's role stationed in Rome, in providing advice in strategy and planning for successful draft, implementation and monitoring of viable initiatives to IDLO as we do provide to other UN agencies such as FAO, is not only part of our defined mandate, but it has been effective is imperative.

Therefore, prioritizing dialogue and seeking advice with all the national stakeholders, including our embassy and mission in Rome is crucial for inclusivity and success of projects in Afghanistan.

At this critical juncture, let us rethink as it relates to our form of engagement with the Taliban by ending to give concessions to the Taliban, which has further emboldened and given them soft recognition. Hence, as we encourage dialogue and peace, we also urge you all, including IDLO to stand with the true representatives of Afghanistan in restoring justice and the rights that belong to Afghans, particularly to the true victims namely girls, women and minorities in Afghanistan.

Thank you.

STATEMENT OF AUSTRIA
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE PARTIES
26 NOVEMBER 2024

**Mr./Mdm. Chairperson,
Distinguished Delegates,**

Against the backdrop of a global trend of declining respect for the rule of law and growing polarization and discreditation of justice mechanisms, IDLO's mission to promote the rule of law to advance peace and sustainable development remains more important than ever.

In this context, we would like to use this opportunity to thank the Director-General for the report on IDLO's activities. Austria remains convinced that IDLO's commitment and work on the ground is making an important contribution to advancing sustainable development and the Agenda 2030 and to helping build more peaceful, inclusive and resilient societies.

We are pleased to hear about IDLO's various activities along its two strategic goals, namely making justice systems more effective and responsive to people's needs, and to promote the rule of law as a driver for peace and sustainable development.

In this context, we particularly commend IDLO for having maintained its operations in Afghanistan in spite of extraordinary challenges in order to support justice seekers, especially female lawyers, assistants and students.

We also particularly welcome the efforts undertaken by IDLO in Ukraine to enhance accountability for violations of international criminal and humanitarian law, and to promote victim and witness protection, as well as law enforcement reform and efforts to combat torture.

Austria also welcomes IDLO's efforts to strengthen engagement with other organisations and UN entities such as UNODC. As IDLO has increased its activities in the area of anti-corruption, Austria encourages close coordination with other actors to avoid overlap and duplication. In this context, we would also like to encourage IDLO to explore further avenues for cooperation with relevant players, such as the International Anti-Corruption Academy.

Looking to the future, we praise the strategic foresight of IDLO and welcome the proposed Strategic Plan 2025-2028. The Strategic Plan will ensure that the empowerment of disadvantaged groups, capacity and institution building in justice systems and the fight against corruption and illicit financial flows will remain priority themes for IDLO also in the future.

In this context, Austria is looking forward to cooperating closely with IDLO, in particular on promoting the rule of law and access to justice in Uganda.

Thank you, Mr./Mdm. Chairperson.

STATEMENT OF CHINA
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE PARTIES
26 NOVEMBER 2024

Mr. President,

Distinguished delegates,

Colleagues,

On behalf of the Gov. of China, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation and thanks to the Director-General of IDLO, Mrs. Jan Beagle, for her positive contributions in the reporting period to promoting the work of IDLO in all aspects, strengthening the ties and cooperation between Parties and IDLO, and promoting rule of law and development. Mrs. Jan Beagle and her great team have made great efforts to promote the rule of law cooperation projects in the fields of climate change, access to justice, inclusive economic development and at the same time strengthened the construction of IDLO itself, which has also played an important role in enhancing the cooperation between China and IDLO.

China will, as always, support the work objectives of IDLO, actively explore possible ways of cooperation, strengthen exchanges and cooperation with IDLO and other parties, and make efforts to jointly promote international rule of law and social development.

This concludes my remarks. Thanks.

STATEMENT OF ECUADOR
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE PARTIES
26 NOVEMBER 2024

**Mr. President,
Director-General Jan Beagle,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honor to address you today on behalf of the Government of Ecuador at this significant gathering of the International Development Law Organization's Assembly of Parties. Allow me first to extend our deepest appreciation to Director-General Jan Beagle and her dedicated team for their work and unwavering commitment to promoting the rule of law worldwide.

We are going through global challenges—ranging from complex conflicts and climate crisis, and threats to democratic governance. In this context, the comprehensive Work Program and the Strategic Plan 2025–2028 that have been presented today are not only timely but also visionary. They aptly define the priorities of our current global context and set a clear roadmap for addressing the pressing issues we face collectively.

The emphasis on the rule of law as a catalyst for peace, justice, and sustainable development resonates deeply with Ecuador's own national agenda. We firmly believe that strengthening legal frameworks and justice institutions is essential.

In this regard, Ecuador particularly celebrates IDLO's decision to implement the regional program "Strengthening Anti-Corruption in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region (SAC-LAC)." This initiative is of paramount importance to us and comes at a crucial moment for our country. Corruption is not just a legal or ethical issue; it is a profound social ill that undermines public trust, hampers economic growth, and erodes the very fabric of our societies.

The SAC-LAC program's intention to conduct a thorough diagnosis of the anti-corruption efforts undertaken by our National Government is very important in charting the path forward. By identifying our achievements and

the challenges that lie ahead, we can develop more effective strategies and policies to combat corruption and transnational organized crime. This diagnostic process will provide invaluable insights into the efficacy of our current measures, highlight areas for improvement, and help us align our efforts with international best practices.

The fight against corruption is a top priority for the Ecuadorian Government. We have taken significant steps to strengthen our legal and institutional frameworks, enhance oversight mechanisms, and promote ethical standards across all sectors. However, we recognize that corruption is a complex and pervasive challenge that requires a concerted and multifaceted response. International cooperation and assistance are therefore essential, and we are grateful to IDLO for standing with us in this endeavor.

Moreover, we believe that the SAC-LAC program will serve as a model for other countries in the region facing similar challenges. By fostering regional collaboration and sharing best practices, we can collectively enhance our resilience against corruption and organized crime, thereby contributing to stability and prosperity across Latin America and the Caribbean.

We look forward to our continued collaboration and to the successful implementation of the SAC-LAC program in our country and the region. Together, we can build a more transparent, just, and prosperous society for all.

Thank you.

STATEMENT OF HONDURAS
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE PARTIES
26 NOVEMBER 2024

Muchas gracias **Presidente**. Tengan buen día excelencias, participantes de esta Asamblea Anual de Partes del IDLO.

Muchas gracias a **la Directora General Jean Beagle** por su exhaustivo reporte sobre las actividades que el IDLO ha realizado todo este año.

En nombre del Gobierno de Honduras y en mi calidad de Embajador, quisiera expresar mi más profundo agradecimiento al IDLO por su compromiso con el fortalecimiento del Estado de Derecho y el acceso a la justicia en nuestra región.

Nos llena de orgullo que Honduras sea la sede de la oficina del IDLO para América Latina y el Caribe. Este gesto refleja la confianza en nuestro país como un punto estratégico para impulsar programas que generan impacto positivo y promueven valores fundamentales como la igualdad, la justicia y los derechos humanos.

STATEMENT OF ITALY
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE PARTIES
26 NOVEMBER 2024

Thank you Mr Chair for giving me the floor and good morning to all colleagues.

Madame Director General,

Italy greatly appreciates your very informative report of the impressive range of activities IDLO has been carrying in 2021-2024 strategic cycle.

We would like to begin by expressing our sincere gratitude to all the staff operating on the ground, particularly in fragile and insecure contexts, and to you, Director General, for always making the security of the staff a top priority.

Italy greatly values the progress made towards the achievement of the 6 strategic objectives.

To name a few, in the field of the empowerment of justice seekers, we are particularly proud of the work IDLO has been developing in Africa in countries like Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali, Somalia, where IDLO is also offering its support to strengthen justice processes and institutions.

We appreciate that anticorruption continues to be a high priority for IDLO and specific programmes in this domain are carried out in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and also Ukraine, where IDLO is supporting, inter alia, the Working Group of the High Council of Justice and the Office of the Prosecutor General.

Moreover, we note IDLO's extraordinary efforts for gender equality and justice, particularly in Afghanistan, where the organization was recently able to extend its project until mid-2025.

Besides climate justice, we welcome IDLO's efforts in promoting rule of law approaches to food security and nutrition and growing cooperation with FAO, including through its advisory role to the group of friends of the right to food, and also in promoting greater access to healthcare and

strengthening capacity to apply rule of law solutions to address public health challenges.

As Deputy Foreign Minister Edmondo Cirielli mentioned earlier on, the partnership between Italy and IDLO is strong and solid. This year we closely worked together. In particular, we would like to recall the annual SDG16 conference held this year in NY for the first time with the participation of our president of the republic Sergio Mattarella.

Under the Italian G7 presidency, IDLO took part to meetings of the G7 working groups on gender equality and women empowerment and on anti-corruption, besides participating to a side-event of the G7 Agriculture Ministerial meeting.

On the financial side, Italy was proud to support IDLO with a 4 million euro contribution, besides the financing of a project to Strengthen anticorruption and promote transparency in the Latin American region.

In conclusion, Italy welcomes the proposed Strategic plan 2025-2028 and the extensive consultation process that was behind it. We share its vision, the outcomes outlined in it and, last but not least, its holistic approach. We recognize the document is both strategic and fit-for-purpose for making the rule of law a powerful tool and for addressing the very complex global challenges over the next 4 years and significantly advancing the promotion of the rule of law worldwide, and more broadly peace and sustainable development.

Thank you, Director General, for your solid leadership and rest assured that we look forward to an even stronger engagement.

Back to you Chair.

STATEMENT OF MONGOLIA

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES

26 NOVEMBER 2024

Your Excellency Mr. Edmondo Cirielli, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Italian Republic,
Your Excellency Ms. Jan Beagle, Director General of IDLO,
President of the Assembly of Parties,
Chair of the Annual Meeting of the Assembly of Parties,
Ambassadors, Permanente Representatives of the Member States,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to address the Annual Meeting of the Assembly of Parties of the IDLO on behalf of the Government of Mongolia.

First of all, I would like to underline that for over 40 years, IDLO has advanced the rule of law as a key enabler of peace and sustainable development.

Director-General Jan Beagle presented to the Annual Meeting the report on the activities of the Organization for a past year. My country fully associates itself with your report. By working together, with actions based on multilateralism, the rule of law and human rights, we can indeed build a more peaceful, just and sustainable world.

Mongolia as Vice-President of the Assembly of the Parties fully supports Director General's actions and activities is ready to continue working together to successfully implement the new Strategic Plan for 2025-2028.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Following the last parliamentary election in Mongolia in June this year, the joint government was formed from different political parties, which illustrates that political pluralism has returned to reality in our young democratic society. The presence of my Minister for Justice and Home Affairs at the opening of the Annual Meeting of the Assembly of the Parties of IDLO testifies Mongolia's interest in continuing all-round cooperation with IDLO.

Mongolia pursues peaceful, open, independent and multi-pillared foreign policy and progressively making a notable success in strengthening human

rights and freedom. Mongolia actively promotes the rule of law at both national and international levels, considering it a fundamental pillar for sustainable development and the maintenance of international peace and security.

As a member of IDLO since 2015, Mongolia seeks to further develop cooperation with the Organization not only in the name of rooting the rule of law in the daily lives of each of our citizens but also in the name of promoting it throughout the world. This noble task is not easy but we can succeed together especially today when the rule of law is in danger everywhere.

IDLO launched a new Judicial Engagement and Transparency project in my country focused at fostering effective and transparent relationships among citizens, civil society, media and justice system actors. This initiative involves close collaboration with the Judicial Disciplinary Committee, Judicial General Council, Supreme Court, Constitutional Court, and local courts of Mongolia. This year IDLO organized a study tour to Switzerland for high-level officials from Mongolia's Criminal Justice System, focusing on best practices in corruption prosecution, asset recovery and cooperation procedures.

In terms of bilateral cooperation, IDLO is implementing its projects in Mongolia, namely the Mongolian Institutional Integrity and Transparency project, Strengthening Commercial Mediation project, Child Protection and Enhancement Project and Strengthening the Response to Gender-Based Violence. All these projects aim to establish legal order in all branches of life of Mongolian society so that justice becomes a real norm that governs all the time and everywhere. Mongolia is proud of this cooperation and I express all the thanks and gratitude of Mongolia to IDLO.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mongolia very much looks forward to today's Assembly of Parties meeting, including discussion of the Strategic Plan, Management Plan, and Budget for 2025-2028; reports of Governing Bodies and Elections to the Standing Committee, Audit and Finance Committee, and Board of Advisors, each on which will play a crucial role in shaping IDLO plans and operations in the years ahead.

By adopting the important documents that are our supreme guide for the years to come, we can all do much at home, in our regions and at the

multilateral level to promote understanding and commitment to the key priorities of our Organization - the rule of law, the fight against corruption, gender equality and inclusive development.

Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you, honourable delegates.

STATEMENT OF MONTENEGRO
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE PARTIES
26 NOVEMBER 2024

**Esteemed Deputy Minister Cirielli,
Esteemed President and Director General,
Dear colleagues,**

We meet once again against the backdrop of complex challenges we are facing in the global arena: the still ongoing Russia's aggression against Ukraine, conflicts in the Middle East, migration crisis and food security challenges. Times like these emphasise the need for solidarity, unity and trust.

With that in mind, I wish to express gratitude for all the efforts invested by the Director General, Presidency, the IDLO Secretariat and its staff, with a view to ensuring the unhampered realisation of the planned activities. Despite the challenging circumstances, human rights and the rule of law principles – from the right to an effective remedy and access to justice, to gender equality and non-discrimination – remain central to the organization's agenda.

Furthermore, the implementation of 2030 Agenda, with an emphasis to the SDG 16 and the implementation of the rule of law, remain pivotal to all dimensions of sustainable development. In this context, I wish to point to the importance of continuous implementation of all the SDGs in securing a better planet and future for us all. The commitment to multilateralism must be the cornerstone of our endeavours, as the best way to work together in finding solutions to joint challenges, strengthening our societies, strengthening the rule of law and addressing climate change.

We commend the efforts of IDLO in promoting climate justice and raising awareness of most climate-vulnerable people and their empowering in realisation of environmental rights.

I would like to use this occasion to reiterate once again that being a member of IDLO, an organisation dedicated exclusively to the promotion of the Rule of Law, bears an additional significance for Montenegro, as an EU candidate country.

Namely, the activities within IDLO's mandate are compatible with our national efforts in implementing reforms on our path to becoming a part of the EU family.

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

I especially wish to underline that this has been an important year for the IDLO's activities in Montenegro and our cooperation. I am glad that opening of the IDLO Office in Montenegro is in its final phase. We are confident that the work of the Office will shore up our ongoing partnership and be conducive to further broadening of our cooperation.

I wish to use the opportunity to reiterate the importance of a new project in Montenegro, initiated in October by IDLO and the Embassy of the USA in Podgorica. Namely the project "Strengthening the capacities of the Centre for Training Judges and Prosecutors in Montenegro", will last for 30 months and represents an important support to further improvement of our judicial system, through sharing of knowledge among legal experts.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As I have commenced the final year of my posting in Rome, I wish to thank the Director General Jan Beagle and her team, for an excellent cooperation throughout past years.

Montenegro will continue to work closely with IDLO, and rely on its valuable expertise. We are confident that our joint activities will significantly contribute to strengthening of the rule of law and achieving the overall democratic development of our society.

Thank you for your attention!

STATEMENT OF THE NETHERLANDS

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES

26 NOVEMBER 2024

Dear excellencies and distinguished representatives of government, international organizations and civil society.

It is an honour to speak at the Assembly of Parties today. The Netherlands congratulates IDLO on its new Strategic Plan for the period 2025-2028.

The Netherlands welcomes the course to be chartered for the next phase in IDLO's development. We recognize the organization's relevant contribution to the Rule of Law globally and appreciate its pioneering work in positioning the Rule of Law as enabler and accelerator for progress in other areas of social and economic development. We are encouraged to see IDLO continuing its important work on the frontier topics of economic development, climate change, environmental governance and public health, initiated during the current strategic plan.

[As we have heard today in various statements and interventions,] the Rule of Law globally is under severe pressure, as a result of democratic backsliding, rising authoritarianism, weakening trust in public institutions, and a continued overall decline in development funding for the Rule of Law.

At the same time, there remains a broad understanding and recognition that the Rule of Law is of paramount importance for building peaceful, just and inclusive societies and for achieving progress on the other Sustainable Development Goals. The Netherlands sees this belief and aspiration reflected in the recently adopted Pact for the Future.

But the Rule of Law must deliver. People need to feel and experience it in their daily lives. For justice systems to be meaningful and impactful in people's lives, they must be people-centred, firmly grounded in the international human rights framework. We recognize IDLO's serious and concerted efforts to articulate intentionally the people-centred approach, as clearly demonstrated through the 'levers of change', outlined in the new Strategic Plan.

The Netherlands has confidence this will enable IDLO to produce results that show the direct, visible and tangible effects of improved Rule of Law and justice delivery in people's lives. These tangible results will, in turn, provide the evidence-base for demonstrating the effectiveness and impact of people-centred justice, and serve as input and inspiration for IDLO's research and advocacy work.

Finally, development budgets are under pressure, with many competing priorities, over limited funding. Unfortunately this is also the case now in The Netherlands, with significant budget cuts to our development funding. The need to work together within the Rule of Law community - building on each other's expertise, experience and practice – should become an imperative for us all. We - both funders and implementers – need to do more and start actively looking for synergies and concrete cooperation at country-level. The Netherlands believes this is the way forward to make the most of the available resources. In this regard, we welcome IDLO's important contributions to the Justice Action Coalition and other multilateral fora.

Together we need to build political and financial support for the Rule of Law. We acknowledge the role IDLO has played in this to date and we encourage its leadership to continue exploring the interface between the Rule of Law and other areas of social and economic development as 'frontier topics' for its work and to keep building bridges with like-minded to strengthen the Rule of Law community.

Thank you.

STATEMENT OF OPEC FUND

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES

26 NOVEMBER 2024

I have the great pleasure and honour to be witness of the development of IDLO for quite some time and, in particular, since 2009. A lot up ups and downs, four Director-General. This long period allows one not to look at the institution on a limited snapshot but monitor the evolvement.

Director-General,

having read your report to this year's assembly, I would like to strongly congratulate you and your great team for all the achievements despite a quite hostile environment in which we are currently in.

Allow me to illustrate the reasons for my statement by just alluding to three items in your report.

Let me start with the example of mediation under the chapter on inclusive economic development. Without listing all, IDLO assisted Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, Uzbekistan and Mongolia in advancing mediation reform, amending commercial mediation, strengthening of pre-litigation mediation etc. Whereas until a few years ago, lawyers and politicians have viewed mediation as just a useless step before litigation or arbitration, it is now a common view that mediation is an essential tool. Firstly, if successful, a mediation process is much cheaper and faster compared to any other dispute resolution process, secondly, in most cases it allows the parties to continue to co-operate – as the process is less confrontational and, thirdly, it assists the local courts by reducing the number of pending cases.

The second area relates to climate justice and sustainable use of natural resources. Among several projects of IDLO, the collaboration with the Government of Vanuatu to host the event on “Climate Justice: The Role of International Courts and Advisory Opinions”, is a topic to the very heart of IDLO, as we are all aware about the importance of advisory opinions in the further development of international law.

The last remark is in relation to staff. The statement that the staff is the most valuable asset of an organization is not a mere simple statement, but management in all institutions, companies etc. cannot achieve strategic goals

without a very motivated team. Consequently, IDLO's initiative to invest in people and the measures taken by IDLO Management and the Standing Committee – as listed under para. 129 to 138 are good examples to promote staff.

In summary, the member parties to IDLO can be very proud of this organization, thanks to the Director-General, the devoted staff and the Standing Committee.

STATEMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES
26 NOVEMBER 2024

Thank you and good morning,

**Mr. President, Madame Director-General
and Excellencies.**

Madame Director-General,

the Philippines deeply appreciates the unwavering commitment of IDLO, with you and your team both here in Rome and those in the field, to advocate for the rule of law for peace and sustainable development, despite the unprecedented challenges.

As a member of the Standing Committee, the Philippines welcomes the regular, comprehensive reports of the Director-General, the transparency of the processes, and the opportunity to provide feedback on IDLO's management and operations. This is especially true also in the preparation of the draft Strategic Plan 2025-2028 and draft Management Plan 2025-2026, as IDLO seeks to ensure that “the rule of law serves as a catalyst for inclusive growth, social cohesion, and human dignity.”

The Philippines fully aligns itself with your report, which shares good practices and lessons learned by IDLO and partner countries in addressing their particular challenges through rule of law, and how IDLO is able to share these experiences with the international community through multilateral platforms as the world is falling short of the attainment of the SDGs. As stated by the DG in her report, “SDG 16 – with the rule of law, human rights, and good governance at its core – is a critical enabler of all the SDGs and central to the transformative vision of the 2030 Agenda.”

We are gathered today as a testament to our shared commitment to ensure the primacy of the rule of law in maintaining peace and security, in achieving sustainable development, and in allowing multilateralism to operate effectively and efficiently.

At the 79th session of the UNGA General Debate, the Philippines underscored that it is imperative that the rule of law and the integrity of the

multilateral system prevail amidst the current global challenges. The Philippines believes that the international community must rise to the challenge by ensuring that it upholds its commitments to international law and rules-based order. As a maritime and archipelagic state with maritime issues, the Philippines takes cognizance of the value of dialogue on dispute settlement.

As one of the staunch proponents of promoting gender equality and strengthening climate and disaster risk resilience, the Philippines also welcomes the Organization's increased focus on climate justice, food security, the protection of women, youth, vulnerable groups and marginalized communities, respect for human rights, and the intersection of these critical issues.

In this light, we welcome the draft Strategic Plan 2025-2028 which underscores that now, more than ever, there is a need to identify the root causes in diverse settings and explore solutions built around the five "levers of change," to develop targeted rule of law solutions suited to the unique justice needs and lived realities in diverse contexts. On the draft Management Plan 2025-2026, the Philippines further welcomes that IDLO takes cognizance of the importance of Climate Justice and Environmental Governance, and aims to contribute to policy dialogues and advocacy on climate justice, and the sustainable use of land, maritime, and other natural resources, including their intersection with gender equality, economic development, health, migration, and conflict.

Madame Director-General, let me conclude by thanking the Organization and the donors for the initiatives in the Philippines. Like others, the Philippines values the work of the Organization, in cooperation with the donors, and reiterates its commitment to intensifying its efforts to strengthen the rule of law in the country.

Thank you.

STATEMENT OF SUDAN

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES

26 NOVEMBER 2024

**Madame Director General, Jan Beagle,
Excellencies and Representatives of Member parties,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It gives me a great pleasure to participate in the Annual Meeting of the Assembly of Parties to this well reputed organization.

I would like, at the outset, to express my sincere appreciation to you (Madame Director General) for your unwavering dedication and the remarkable endeavours you made to further accentuate IDLO's significant role - in such globally challenging times -in promoting and enhancing the rule of law as the way to build more peaceful, and just societies.

I would also like to thank the Director-General for the comprehensive annual report, that clearly illustrated the remarkable efforts and unique approach of IDLO.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In line and in conformity of the IDLO mandate and competence we are looking forward to further enhance our cooperation with the IDLO to cater for the need of our country in this field, the rule of law which is an essential pillar to build safe society. Since the 15th of April 2023, Sudan has been going through an unprecedented violent aggression, targeting its sovereignty, people, and resources. The dissolved Rapid Support Forces militia has terrorized citizens, occupied their homes, destroyed infrastructure (hospitals, medical establishments, public facilities).

In this Regard and based upon the above we solicit the assistance of the international community as a whole and the IDLO to address the issues that has been brought by war through training and capacity building for the concerned ministries. I am confident that the international community and the IDLO will deny us the support needed in this field .

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Sudan has and continues to welcome all calls for dialogue out of concern for the safety of the homeland and the citizens, and there is no clearer evidence of that than Sudan's acceptance of the outcome of negotiations through the Jeddah platform and its commitment since May 2023.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As this year marks the 41st anniversary of the establishment of IDLO, the world realizes day after day and crisis after another, the importance of such international organization for building just, peaceful, and inclusive societies.

That was exactly the principal incentive for Sudan to be- proudly one of the founders of IDLO, 41 years ago, acknowledging its importance in employing law as a tool towards equality and sustainable development.

The rule of law has become more essential, in addressing the root causes of conflicts and to combat impunity, corruption, and to adhere and respect human rights as enshrined in international bills. In this regard, Sudan welcomes all related efforts and initiatives of IDLO and is willing to enhance mutual collaboration.

Thank you and I look forward for a successful completion of the Assembly.

STATEMENT OF SWEDEN

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES

26 NOVEMBER 2024

Thank you, **Madam President**.

First of all, let me extend a sincere and warm thank you to the Director General and all her staff for the comprehensive report presented here today.

We are most grateful to IDLO for the relentless work that the organisation does for the common challenges that we face for the rule of law. We are proud to be a member party since 2017.

Standing up for democracy, human rights and the rule of law is more important than ever. Sweden is steadfast in its defence of a rules-based international order and we maintain our unwavering support for IDLO's work to promote accountability and upholding the rule of law.

An example of IDLO's pivotal support of the rule of law is their work to advance accountability for international crimes and integrity in the justice system in Ukraine as well as to strengthen justice institutions in Moldova. Sweden is proud of our new agreement of 5 million EUR over 3 years in support of these important projects.

In recent years, we have witnessed a push-back against gender equality – including sexual and reproductive health and rights – a trend which is deeply rooted in, and linked to, other challenges we are facing: authoritarianism, violence and extremism.

Sweden stands firm in its commitment to gender equality. Across the globe, discriminatory laws and practices continue to restrict the daily lives and the full enjoyment of human rights of women and girls. The justice gap affecting women and girls is an obstacle for human development, economic growth, and peace. Furthermore, sexual and gender-based violence is devastatingly frequent. More often than not, the perpetrators are not brought to justice. The work of IDLO is crucial also in this area. Upholding the rule of law is vital to enable women to become equal partners in decision-making and development, and in achieving justice. IDLO:s efforts to promote equal, gender responsive-frameworks, including anti-discrimination laws, are

central for reducing the justice gap for women and girls. I also want to commend IDLO's efforts to ensure justice for survivors and victims of sexual and gender-based violence.

Sweden, as one of the main supporters and donors to IDLO, would like to emphasize the capacity building of national legal institutions as one of the primary pillars of IDLO's work, grounded in human rights, including gender equality. Whether it is enhancing integrity and trust in institutions by making justice institutions more transparent, responsive and less prone to conflict of interest in Ukraine, Armenia and Moldova in line with national action plans, or improving access to a fair justice system in Somalia, with a special focus on women, IDLO's efforts are invaluable. Through these and other efforts IDLO adds real value to its member states. To the rule of law. To the benefit of people.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me remind you that the strengthening of the rule of law in all our countries is not just the right thing to do. It's what we *must* do. It's what we are *obliged* to do according to international human rights law.

The importance of IDLO's work is greater than ever. IDLO's presence and voice at the global level reminds us all of the importance of effective and transparent justice institutions for peace, democracy and sustainable development. It is in all our interest to support IDLO's pivotal efforts in strengthening the rule of law. Sweden is proud to provide core funding for IDLO and encourages other member parties to enable IDLO to broaden its donor base to ensure a sustainable financial situation, first and foremost in the form of flexible core funding.

I would once again like to thank IDLO for their remarkable work and their contributions to defending the rule of law. We hope that States and organisations together can keep the momentum and truly anchor a rule of law-based approach in all areas of work, including multilateral and bilateral cooperation.

Thank you!

STATEMENT OF TÜRKİYE

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES

26 NOVEMBER 2024

As the delegation of the Republic of Türkiye, we have the honour to participate in the 2024 Assembly of Parties of the International Development Law Organization.

A member of IDLO since 2011, Republic of Türkiye supports and actively contributes to the work of the organization.

Türkiye is currently a member of the Audit and Finance Committee. We are participating in the work of this committee in our 4th term as a member. In the past, we served as a member of the Standing Committee, between 2018 and 2020.

Türkiye also contributed to the work of the Board of Advisors of IDLO by nominating His Excellency, retired Ambassador Mehmet Hasan Göğüş to the Board in 2020. As Ambassador Göğüş's first term as a board member ends, we have the honor to inform that our authorities have decided to nominate Ambassador Göğüş for another term as a member of the Board of Advisors. We believe that Ambassador Göğüş will continue to provide the Organization with his invaluable expertise. We count on your endorsement and thank all the Member Parties for their support for the re-election of Ambassador Göğüş.

Excellencies,

Our world is going through a period in which the international system is characterized by uncertainties, crises and conflicts. Such developments threaten peace and stability, multilateralism and our shared, universal values. We are facing an unprecedented level of global injustice.

In this context, Türkiye attaches great importance to upholding international law, and promoting democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights worldwide.

With these guiding principles in mind, we congratulate IDLO for its successful efforts and projects to strengthen and promote international law at the global level. We wish to reaffirm our support for the organization and our commitment to its objectives. Thank you very much.

STATEMENT OF THE UNITED STATES
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES
26 NOVEMBER 2024

Madame Director General, Esteemed Colleagues,

2024 has been an important year for IDLO and its work to advance peace, justice, inclusion, and accountable institutions under SDG16.

Accelerating progress on SDG16, Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, is fundamental to successfully achieving all the SDGs and enabling sustainable development in all three dimensions – economic, social, and environmental. Rule of law, anti-corruption, access to justice, gender equality, inclusive development – all of these contribute to and facilitate the economic growth, respect for human rights, and protection of the environment and human health that every person in every country deserves.

IDLO was a powerful voice for these principles in the review of SDG16 at the UN's High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) this summer. IDLO played an active and visible role in meetings and side events. And, given the global attention to SDG16, it was only natural that the annual SDG16 conference took place, on an exceptional basis, in New York. This event primed Member State delegations for the HLPF and helped raise IDLO's profile in the world's primary hub for multilateral diplomacy.

These events were important for building support for advancing SDG16 and showcasing IDLO's impact, but not just that. They were also opportunities for IDLO to gauge progress, understand what remains to be done, and engage with the global community as IDLO worked on its new Strategic Plan for 2025-2028. The United States welcomes the consultative process IDLO used in developing the new strategic plan. In this regard, IDLO led by example, demonstrating that strategic planning is done best when multilateral leaders listen to their members, constituents, communities of experts, and outsiders who can provide independent viewpoints. We believe the new strategic plan will put IDLO on the right path and put SDG16 ever more at the center of sustainable development.

IDLO cannot do it alone; it needs the support of its members, of non-members committed to progress on SDG16, partner organizations, host

governments, and the communities where IDLO works in the field. We applaud those countries that recently concluded their respective Host Country Agreements with IDLO, and we look forward to more such agreements being concluded in 2025.

The United States appreciates and support's IDLO's efforts to broaden its base of political and financial support, its engagement with the UN and other international partners, and its collaboration at the national level with people striving to enjoy the economic, social, and environmental benefits of sustainable development. For our part, the United States remains IDLO's largest source of contributions and increased our voluntary contribution for core funding this year. We urge IDLO members who can, and even non-members who share IDLO's objectives, to recognize the value IDLO delivers and provide generous support.

The United States wishes to thank Director-General Beagle for her leadership and recognize with appreciation IDLO staff members in both headquarters and in the field for their continuous commitment to public service that makes the world a better place. We look forward to hearing what beneficiary countries are able to achieve with IDLO's support in 2025 and years to come.

Thank you.

STATEMENT OF VIETNAM

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES

26 NOVEMBER 2024

**Your Excellency, Madam Director-General and Mr. President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Today, I am honored and delighted to participate in the 2024 Annual Conference of IDLO Member States. This year's conference features an agenda encompassing many significant topics. On behalf of the Vietnamese Delegation, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Madam Director-General and all colleagues for their dedication in organizing this important event, which sets the stage for a new chapter in IDLO's development.

We fully align with the perspectives outlined in the report presented by Madam Director-General. We highly commend the accomplishments and progress made by IDLO over the past year in implementing the Strategic Plan 2021–2024. Notably, we applaud the organization's efforts to enhance its contributions to peace, sustainable development, and the 2030 Agenda through the promotion of the rule of law, gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls, and climate justice.

In an era of globalization and international integration, marked by the transformative impacts of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, we believe that with these tangible achievements, IDLO will continue to reaffirm its role as a pivotal organization dedicated to advancing the rule of law, justice, and the realization of the 2030 Agenda.

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On November 9, 2022, Vietnam adopted Resolution No. 27-NQ/TW, reaffirming its commitment to building and improving the Vietnamese Socialist rule-of-law state in the new era. The overarching goal of this Resolution is to establish a Socialist rule-of-law state of the People, by the People, and for the People, under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam. This vision includes a comprehensive and consistently implemented legal system; strict adherence to the Constitution and laws; respect for, protection of, and guarantee of human rights and citizens' rights.

It envisions unified state power with clearly defined roles, close coordination, and effective control; a professional, rule-of-law-based, and modern administrative and judicial system; a lean, transparent, and efficient government structure; a cadre of qualified, capable, and ethical officials, civil servants, and public employees; modernized and effective national governance; and a framework that supports the country's rapid and sustainable development.

A key task outlined in the Resolution is to strengthen and expand international cooperation, actively contribute to the international legal framework, and play a proactive role in multilateral international legal institutions.

With a spirit of innovation and proactive adaptation, Vietnam looks forward to deepening our cooperation with IDLO and learning from its expertise in legal reform and judicial improvement. These efforts will support the development of a robust rule-of-law system and contribute to building a developed economy rooted in inclusivity, ensuring no one is left behind. We also hope IDLO will continue to collaborate with developing countries like Vietnam in these areas, fostering equitable, inclusive, and sustainable development at the global level.

Last but not least, please accept my sincere thanks for your support in allowing Ms. Hoang Ly Anh, a representative of Vietnam in BOA, to successfully complete her term. Once again, we would like you and other member states to support and elect Ms. Hoang Ly Anh to continue a new term in BOA of IDLO.

Thank you very much!

STRATEGIC PLAN & MANAGEMENT PLAN
DISCUSSION
IDLO
ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES ANNUAL MEETING
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26 NOVEMBER 2024

STATEMENT OF SWEDEN

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES

26 NOVEMBER 2024

Thank you, **Madam/Mr President**.

Sweden would like to state its full support for the proposed new strategic plan for IDLO 2025-2028 as presented to us and which is the fruit of a well-designed consultation process. We welcome the new plan format, linking vision, mission and strategic goal directly to 6 specific outcomes using both top-down and bottom-up levers of change. The environment in which IDLO operates is also well analysed and the plan builds on lessons learned from the previous period.

We particularly appreciate the fact that the plan continues to be well anchored in a human rights based approach and that gender equality is well integrated, as well as the specific outcome 3 of reducing the justice gap for women and girls.

Corruption undermines public trust in institutions and thereby also in the rule of law and democracy and we therefore very much appreciate IDLOs continued focus on public integrity and anti-corruption, clearly set out in outcome 2.

We also welcome the explicit inclusion of digital solutions as part of achieving the outcomes. The new UN global digital compact may indeed serve as a common reference for us all in this regard.

Sweden also welcomes the first management plan 2025-2026 as proposed. Mobilising political and financial support for the plan is key to sustaining our joint efforts through IDLO. We welcome the ambition to continue developing integrated country programs which we believe may strengthen resource mobilisation as well as facilitating coordination and partnerships among donors and stakeholders at country level.

We would also like to take this opportunity to encourage other member parties to consider flexible or core funding in support of the *entire* strategic plan. Such funding is necessary to enable IDLOs ability to adapt in quickly changing contexts, continued institutional development and voice in global processes at the UN and elsewhere.

We also welcome the plans in terms of continued focus on developing organizational systems and capacities, including robust systems for results based management, investing in staff, internal financial control, risk management, security of staff (our most valuable resource!), information and other IDLO assets.

Finally, we find that the budget is well in line with the plans. Sweden is now preparing for a new 4 year agreement on sustained core funding while there are also country specific partnerships formed between Swedish Embassies and IDLO country offices, most recently in Moldova. We welcome the good news of renewed or increased flexible contributions from the Netherlands, the US and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development and all other contributions to the IDLO strategic plan.

Madam/MR President,

Let me end by expressing Sweden's appreciation for the excellent work undertaken to implement the previous strategic plan, for the leadership of the current DG Jan Beagle and to all of IDLOs staff, in every office around the world. Your relentless efforts to seek solutions to rule of law challenges we all face are well recognized and much appreciated.

Thank you.