

## Conference

### ACHIEVING A TRANSFORMATIVE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA: THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE RULE OF LAW TO EQUITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

21 July 2014

Red Room, FAO Headquarters, Rome

The rule of law is increasingly emerging as a central issue in the process of framing the Post-2015 development agenda. In 2012, the Outcome Document of the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development stated:

“Democracy, good governance and the rule of law, at the national and international levels, as well as an enabling environment, are essential for sustainable development, including sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development, environmental protection and the eradication of poverty and hunger.”

In 2012, the Declaration of the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels recognized:

“The advancement of the rule of law at the national and international levels is essential for sustained and inclusive economic growth, sustainable development, the eradication of poverty and hunger and the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, all of which in turn reinforce the rule of law.”

In the Declaration, UN Member States further stated that “for this reason we are convinced that this interrelationship should be considered in the post-2015 international development agenda”.

The challenge ahead for the international community is to design a strong post-2015 development agenda, built on the foundations laid by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that both complete the unfinished business and respond to new challenges.

The post-2015 development agenda has generated an unprecedented level of attention to the most pressing economic, social and environmental issues of our time. Furthermore, there has been ardent discussion as to the contributions that the rule of law can make in realizing sustainable development, including pathways that lead to inclusive economic development, equitable social development and robust environmental stewardship.

The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in the context of Italy’s Presidency of the Council of the European Union, together with the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) will convene a conference to deepen the understanding of the contributions of the rule of law in the post-2015 development agenda.

#### Objective

The conference will address how the rule of law can play a role in serving as a driver to promote inclusive sustainable development.

The event will provide an opportunity for participants to:

- Discuss the role that the rule of law plays or can play both in support of other development goals and as an outcome of development in itself;
- Identify practical, constructive solutions afforded by the rule of law to address multiple and intersecting development objectives;
- Explore how the rule of law works as a cross-cutting issue that impacts on other topics being discussed in the post-2015 agenda, in particular food security.

## Format

The conference, organized by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs – Directorate General for Development Cooperation and IDLO, will take place on 21 July at FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy. The conference will consist of a high-level opening session, followed by two interactive, multi-stakeholder panel discussions and a closing session.

The panel discussions will focus on:

- the role of the rule of law in the post-2015 development agenda
- food security and the rule of law

A summary document will be issued and subsequently be made available to all participants.

In addition to Ambassadors of Rome-based missions to the UN, experts leading on the post-2015 development agenda discussions are encouraged to participate from EU Member States and other capitals.

Representatives of international organizations based in Italy and other relevant stakeholders are also invited to attend.

*The International Development Law Organization (IDLO) enables governments and empowers people to reform laws and strengthen institutions to promote peace, justice, sustainable development and economic opportunity.*