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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY STRATEGIC PLAN 2013–2016



IDLO's Strategic Plan for 2013 – 2016 is based on wide-ranging consultations with over 600 stakeholders from about 50 countries. The Plan sets the direction of IDLO's work and guides IDLO's development and resource mobilization.

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## THE STRATEGIC PLAN SEEKS TO ACHIEVE

- › Focus – making hard choices based on IDLO's comparative advantage to achieve clear and measurable results;
- › Reform – improving IDLO's organizational systems and structures so that it can do more and better with less; and
- › Resources –broadening IDLO's donor base and increasing its predictable and flexible income to achieve financial sustainability.

**IDLO'S VISION:** A world where every person lives in dignity and under the rule of law.

**IDLO'S MISSION:** To enable governments and empower people to reform laws and strengthen institutions to promote peace, justice, sustainable development and economic opportunity.

The rule of law is about substantive justice as well as procedural fairness. It helps to create more equitable and inclusive societies in which there is greater opportunity for all and where every individual can lead a decent life free from fear and want.

## CONTEXT OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN

### TRENDS, OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES:

- › Rising citizen power
- › Shifting global power
- › Fundamental challenges in "fragile" states
- › Increasing regionalism
- › Expanding corporate power
- › Pressure on natural resources
- › Gender injustice
- › Growing inequality
- › Opportunities of information technology
- › More competition and collaboration
- › Decreasing international aid

### BEST PRACTICE:

- › Focus on the end user of justice
- › Promote empowering solutions
- › Engage with informal as well as formal legal systems
- › Explore regional & sub-regional opportunities
- › Be innovative and collaborative

### COMPARATIVE STRENGTHS:

- › IGO with exclusive mandate on rule of law
  - › Able to find tailor-made solutions to local needs
  - › Committed to legal pluralism, non-partisan & non-prescriptive approach
  - › Broad convening capacity
  - › Proven experience in "fragile" states
  - › Known for innovative legal solutions to complex justice/development issues
  - › Network of experts, partners and IDLO-trained alumni
  - › Flexible and fast
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## IDLO'S STRATEGIC AIM IS TO CONTRIBUTE TO CREATING A CULTURE OF JUSTICE

### SUBSTANTIVE OUTCOMES WE SEEK

- › Well-functioning, responsive legal institutions
- › Citizens who are empowered and aware of their rights
- › Legal systems that enable fair, sustainable development outcomes

Drawing on our diverse experience, our substantive goals seek to bring focus, clarity and direction by selecting only three goals that play to our comparative advantage and respond to the needs and demands of the external world.

### OUR SUBSTANTIVE GOALS

**Goal 1: IDLO will help to build confidence in the justice sector by supporting legal and institutional reforms and promoting good governance (especially in countries emerging from conflict or moving towards democracy).**

We will seek to:

- 1.1 improve the capacity, quality and integrity of institutions in the justice sector;
- 1.2 assist constitution making and legal reform;
- 1.3 promote good governance through transparency and accountability.

**Goal 2: IDLO will enhance access to justice by enabling governments to uphold human rights and empowering people to claim them.**

We will:

- 2.1 promote gender equality and uphold the rights of women and girls;
- 2.2 expand legal services for poor and marginalized communities;
- 2.3 use law to advance the right to health.

**Goal 3: IDLO will facilitate innovative legal approaches to support sustainable development and economic opportunity.**

We will:

- 3.1 enhance legal preparedness of countries to deal with climate change, green economy and clean technologies;
- 3.2 help to improve management of natural resources, focusing on water and energy in the first instance;
- 3.3 support capacity development for economic opportunity (in trade, IT, IP intellectual property).

### INSTITUTIONAL AIMS TO WHICH WE ASPIRE

- › A thought leader on the rule of law
- › A partner of choice for international and national actors
- › A center of excellence for legal technical assistance and capacity development

Our proven growth rate and institutional resilience show the potential and the possibility we have to achieve our institutional aims. With some modest investment in capacity, capabilities and systems, we can achieve our institutional aims and become organizationally and financially sustainable.

### OUR ORGANIZATIONAL GOALS

**Goal 4: IDLO will seek to establish itself as a thought leader on the rule of law through advocacy, knowledge generation, collaboration and improved communications.**

We will seek to:

- 4.1 advocate, engage and convene multi-stakeholders;
- 4.2 become a learning organization;
- 4.3 explore strategic partnerships;
- 4.4 strengthen our communications to enhance our brand.

**Goal 5: IDLO will seek to strengthen its competencies, capacity, systems and structure in order to enhance impact, accountability and efficiency.**

We will seek to

- 5.1 improve our organizational policies and systems;
- 5.2 strengthen the quality and impact assessment of our programs;
- 5.3 re-align our structure to make it more flexible, function- and field-oriented.
- 5.4 invest in staff development, change management and leadership skills.

**Goal 6: IDLO will achieve financial sustainability by strengthening donor relations and broadening its donor base.**

**Goal 7: IDLO will strengthen its engagement with Member Parties and pursue a balanced membership growth to ensure political and financial support for its mandate.**

