

PROCEEDINGS
MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES
November 24, 2020

1. The 2020 Annual Meeting of the Assembly of Parties (the Assembly) of the International Development Law Organization (IDLO), was held on 24 November 2020 in virtual modality, due to restrictions related to the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Thirty-five IDLO Member Parties attended the meeting, a large majority at the Ambassadorial level.
3. The documentation for the meeting is available online at [this link](#).

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING

4. The President of the Assembly, Ms. Jennifer Harhigh, Deputy Permanent Representative of the United States Mission to the United Nations Agencies in Rome, welcomed Member Party representatives and other participants.
5. She recalled with appreciation the gracious hospitality that the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation had extended in previous years to the Assembly, while noting that current circumstances had necessitated holding this year's meeting online.
6. The President gave the floor to H.E. Emanuela Del Re, Italian Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, to deliver the opening statement.

AGENDA ITEM 1A: STATEMENT BY H.E. EMANUELA DEL RE, VICE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF ITALY

7. The Vice Minister began by highlighting the essential contribution that the rule of law makes to combating the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, by supporting the capacity of public institutions to provide transparent, effective, and accountable policies and actions.
8. Citing a recent intervention by IDLO's Director-General in the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, she stated: "the rule of law can play a key role in sustaining peace by helping to address the root causes of conflict and insecurity, which often lie in issues such as discrimination and marginalization, lack of respect for human rights, corruption and impunity."
9. Recalling IDLO's unique mandate among international organizations and multilateral bodies, she observed that its actions were increasingly important

in the current context, adding that Italy was advocating for increased investments in the rule of law and access to justice sectors.

10. She continued by outlining Italy's main priorities during its current membership on the Human Rights Council, noting that the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms is enshrined in the Italian Constitution.
11. She also referred to Italy's key role in the fight against corruption, including in the context of the upcoming Italian Presidency of the G20 and highlighted that the Ministry had invited IDLO to participate in the work of the G20 Anti-corruption Working Group.
12. Underlining the importance that Italy places on its collaboration with IDLO, she informed the Assembly that a special invitation had been extended to the Director-General to address the forthcoming session of the Development Cooperation Joint Steering Committee.
13. She further referred to the candidature of Mr. Stefano Manservigi, presented by Italy for IDLO's Board of Advisers, noting how his extensive experience would increase IDLO's international relevance and the quality of its activities.
14. She also especially welcomed IDLO's growing partnerships within the UN system, and its increased collaboration with FAO in the area of food security and with WHO on pandemic preparedness.
15. The Vice Minister concluded by reiterating Italy's strong political and financial support for IDLO and called on other Members to join Italy in committing to support the Organization in delivering on its mandate to achieve sustainable development. The full text of Vice Minister Del Re's statement is annexed to this report.
16. The President thanked the Vice Minister for her inspiring opening remarks.

AGENDA ITEM 1B: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (AP/2020/1.1)

17. Before turning to this agenda item, the President called attention to a number of housekeeping rules for the conduct of the meeting in its virtual modality.
18. The President then referred to the provisional agenda (AP/2020/1.1) which had been circulated to Member Parties on 3 November 2020. Absent any comments by Member Parties, the agenda was adopted by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM 1C: PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT

19. The President began by saying that the United States was proud to have supported IDLO as President of the Assembly for the past three years, which she described as an extremely productive period for the Organization. During this time, she said, IDLO had welcomed new Member Parties, opened new field offices, signed Host Country Agreements, and elected and successfully transitioned to a highly effective new Director-General.

20. She commended IDLO for responding so capably through high-quality programs to the growing demand for its services and for its impressive achievements, in spite of the constraints brought about by the pandemic.
21. She remarked on how IDLO's successes and the Director-General's interventions in international fora were helping to elevate the rule of law in global policy discussions.
22. The President went on to express her thanks to the other members of the bureau of the Assembly – Mozambique and Italy – for their leadership and advocacy in support of the Organization, and to all the other members of the Standing Committee and the Audit and Finance Committee for their contributions. She underlined the importance of the work of these committees in ensuring Member Parties' input to, and oversight of, IDLO operations and encouraged all members to participate actively in the governance of the organization by joining one of these committees in the years ahead.
23. The President conveyed the support of the United States for the ambitious performance targets laid out in IDLO's new Strategic Plan, Management Plan and Budget. Noting how the COVID-19 pandemic had highlighted existing inequalities, she stressed that any sustainable recovery would have to be founded on justice and the rule of law. She concluded by underscoring the importance of the Assembly's role in helping to set IDLO, a "one-of-a-kind intergovernmental organization," on the right path to make the greatest possible impact in the years ahead.
24. She then gave the floor to the Director-General to present her report.

AGENDA ITEM 2: DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S REPORT (AP/2020/2.1)

25. The Director-General began by thanking Vice Minister Del Re for her opening remarks and for her strong commitment to IDLO. She also thanked the President for her leadership, the Vice-Presidents and all the members of the Standing Committee and the Audit and Finance Committee for their ongoing support during her first year in office. She also paid tribute to IDLO's staff around the world for their hard work and resilience during what had been an incredibly challenging year, noting that none of IDLO's achievements would have been possible without the commitment and dedication of its staff.
26. The Director-General stressed how the ongoing pandemic had aggravated global fragilities and inequalities and was threatening to reverse hard-won advances towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.
27. She underlined the crucial importance of a rule of law-based response in managing the crisis and laying the foundations for a just, inclusive and sustainable post-COVID-19 recovery.
28. She reported that IDLO's work during 2020 had focused on three key objectives: ensuring mission continuity while protecting the health and well-being of staff; contributing to the global response to the pandemic, and to the

Decade of Action to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda; and developing a forward-looking Strategic Plan for the next four years.

29. The Director-General outlined some of the key measures adopted by IDLO at the onset of the COVID-19 crisis, including the establishment of a Crisis Management Team, the development of Business Continuity Plans for all IDLO offices, and the establishment of a hotline available to all staff. As the situation evolved, each IDLO office had developed “return to office” plans, taking into account local contexts and guidance from host governments. She emphasized that, throughout, the situation in all IDLO duty stations was being monitored closely and plans remained flexible to allow for adjustments as needed. She commended IDLO staff for their resilience and ability to adapt working modalities, which enabled IDLO to continue delivering on its mandate in some of the most complex and challenging environments in the world.
30. Despite restrictions affecting almost all countries of operation, IDLO had responded quickly to the emerging needs of its program countries, leveraging programmatic and policy expertise and drawing on its ability to mobilize multi-stakeholder coalitions.
31. She went on to describe the three strategic areas on which IDLO focused its contribution to the global response to COVID-19, namely:
 - promoting enabling legal and policy frameworks;
 - mitigating the impact of the crisis on justice systems and justice seekers; and
 - advocating for continued investment in a culture of justice.
32. The Director-General drew attention to the launch of IDLO’s Policy Brief on “Rule of Law and COVID-19”, which identifies eight specific actions to support policymakers in mitigating the impact of the pandemic.
33. She also referenced two recent innovative projects: the first, developed in collaboration with FAO, which aims to enhance food security, especially for vulnerable groups, and will be piloted in Honduras and Uganda; and a second, developed in collaboration with the World Health Organization, which focuses on pandemic preparedness and response, and aims to support countries to strengthen their legal and policy frameworks to manage public health emergencies such as COVID-19. In the same context, the Director-General referred to IDLO’s participation—together with WHO, UNDP, UNAIDS, IPU and the O’Neill Institute of National and Global Health Law—in the “COVID-19 Law Lab”; and to IDLO’s involvement in discussions on the legal aspects of equitable access to future COVID-19 vaccines in low- and middle-income countries.
34. The Director-General further reported on developments in IDLO’s work on “inclusive economic development,” citing examples from a range of countries where IDLO supported the strengthening of legal capacity to address pressing economic issues in the context of COVID-19, such as insolvency, antitrust, public procurement and dispute resolution.

35. She also highlighted progress in the implementation of IDLO's Investment Support Programme (ISP/LDCs) which provides legal advice and capacity-building support to Least Developed Countries on investment-related matters at no cost to beneficiaries, citing a recent achievement in The Gambia where IDLO assisted the government in negotiating a favorable settlement in an international arbitration case related to off-shore petroleum licensing.
36. Turning to the second focus area - mitigating the impact of the crisis on justice seekers - the Director-General provided examples of activities in the area of customary and informal justice as well as illustrations of IDLO's work to promote access to justice for vulnerable groups, combat gender-based violence, and support justice institutions to deliver essential services.
37. She cited examples of access to justice programming in several countries, including Afghanistan, Honduras, Liberia, Myanmar and Uganda. In Uganda, following signature of a Host Country Agreement, IDLO had begun implementing a Community Justice Programme to help increase grassroots access to legal aid, information, and justice services, including through digital platforms.
38. On the subject of gender-based violence (GBV), the Director-General cited examples from Mongolia, Somalia and Tunisia, where IDLO had managed to adapt its programming to respond to the increased demand for support during the pandemic by enhancing the gender sensitivity of justice institutions to GBV response and recovery; supporting survivors in seeking legal redress; and promoting legal and policy frameworks to counter and prevent GBV.
39. The Director-General reported on IDLO's engagement with justice institutions in many countries, including Afghanistan, Indonesia, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, the Philippines, Rwanda and Yemen, in order to support them in carrying out key functions remotely through the development and use of e-justice tools and mechanisms. She noted that IDLO had recently received the inaugural USAID Digital Project Award in recognition for its work in Kyrgyzstan.
40. She reported on the successful 2020 launch of a major new program in the Sahel to strengthen criminal justice chains in the border areas of Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger.
41. On the subject of informal and customary justice, she provided a number of examples of IDLO programming in Kenya, Uganda, the Sahel and Somalia.
42. Moving to the third area of focus - advocating for continued investment and support for the rule of law - the Director-General observed that financial support for the rule of law, despite a growing recognition of its importance in achieving global development goals, had declined in recent years, and that the global pandemic was likely to exacerbate this trend.

43. She went on to describe IDLO advocacy efforts during 2020 through online dialogues, webinars and other platforms, collaborative initiatives with multi-stakeholder coalitions and the production of a number of key research and knowledge products. She referred in the same context to her own participation in high-level intergovernmental meetings, including the 75th session of the UN General Assembly and associated events and the High-Level Segment of the 43rd Human Rights Council.
44. She also mentioned the successful launch on 1 July of IDLO's Crisis Governance Forum, a series of online dialogues on governance challenges related to COVID-19 which provide a platform to share insights and good practices among policymakers and other key stakeholders.
45. Pointing to justice for women and girls as an area of special emphasis in IDLO's advocacy work, she called attention to a key publication launched during the year on "Justice for Women Amidst COVID-19", developed in partnership with UN Women, UNDP, UNODC, the World Bank, Pathfinders and The Elders, which provides an assessment of challenges and recommendations on how to mitigate the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on women and girls.
46. On the overall issue of partnerships, the Director-General highlighted the importance she places on expanding their scope and reach, and as a crucial way of enhancing IDLO's convening power, leveraging its impact, and positioning the Organization as a leading change agent in the field of rule of law and access to justice.
47. In this context she noted that, prior to restrictions imposed by the pandemic, she had been able to meet with key stakeholders in Rome, The Hague, Geneva and New York, and with the heads of most of IDLO's United Nations partners. These included the executive heads of UN Women, UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA, as well as the heads of UN political and peacebuilding, peacekeeping, humanitarian and development departments within the United Nations.
48. The Director-General also reiterated in this regard her commitment to further strengthening IDLO's collaboration with Rome-based organizations, including FAO, IFAD, WFP and UNIDROIT. She further underlined the importance of enhancing collaboration with regional organizations and reported that, along with pursuing a strategic partnership with the EU, IDLO was developing plans to strengthen cooperation with the African Union and ASEAN, among others.
49. Referring to IDLO's global network of alumni as a significant source of expertise and support, the Director-General indicated that she had prioritized outreach to them, including through the launch of a new newsletter, "Alumni Voices."
50. She added that the consultation process for IDLO's Strategic Plan 2021-2024 had provided an excellent opportunity to connect with IDLO's many partners.

51. Turning to management issues, the Director-General highlighted a range of digital innovations that had been introduced to strengthen internal communication and integration and improve operational capacity and staff development. She referred in this context to the introduction of periodic Town Hall meetings with the participation of IDLO staff in all locations. She also described how upgrading core ICT services to cloud-based platforms had allowed IDLO staff to use online services and maintain operations during long periods of teleworking, as well as facilitating online professional development through webinars and a new e-learning platform.
52. Finally, on the subject of finances, the Director-General noted that IDLO had started 2020 in a sound financial position with healthy reserves and an Operational Fund, which gave it confidence to navigate a fast-changing financial environment. She highlighted IDLO's achievement of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) within its financial structures, including producing for the first time IPSAS-compliant financial statements for 2019. She was pleased to report that the Organization was on track to meet its revenue targets for 2020, as budgeted. She also highlighted IDLO's conservative yet flexible approach to the development of a balanced Operational Budget for 2021.
53. The Director-General concluded by citing the UN Secretary-General on the importance of inclusive multilateralism in building societies that are more just, peaceful and inclusive, and reaffirming IDLO's belief that the rule of law is the surest means to build such societies.¹

GENERAL DEBATE

54. The President thanked the Director-General for her comprehensive and inspiring report, noting how much had happened since the Assembly's last meeting in November 2019 and commenting on how remarkable IDLO's recent achievements were under the leadership of the new Director-General.
55. She then opened the General Debate, inviting Member Parties to take the floor.

The Assembly heard interventions by the representatives of Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, China, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Italy, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mozambique, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Senegal, Sudan, Sweden, Turkey, Uganda, the United States and Vietnam.

56. The full text of all statements delivered and subsequently shared with the IDLO Secretariat are annexed to this report and available online at [this link](#).
57. In their interventions, Member Parties voiced their shared appreciation to the Director-General for her report and for IDLO's achievements during her first year in office, in spite of the challenging circumstances resulting from the pandemic.

¹ The full text of the Director-General's report to the Assembly is available online at [this link](#).

58. Representatives shared IDLO's conviction that the rule of law is central to managing the COVID-19 crisis and to promoting resilience against future shocks.
59. They also highlighted IDLO's unique mandate and its leadership role in promoting the rule of law and advancing its contribution to achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda.
60. Representatives of States where IDLO is currently operating expressed appreciation for IDLO's work in their respective countries. IDLO's new program in the Sahel received particular attention in a number of interventions. The representatives of Burkina Faso and Mali welcomed the launch of the program in support of the region's criminal justice chains, and the representative of France stated that his country was keen to explore heightened cooperation with IDLO in the Sahel, where France has a strong presence.
61. The Director-General thanked the Ambassadors and other representatives for the kind words addressed to her and to IDLO's staff, and for their support for IDLO's mandate and their commitment to multilateralism. She concluded by expressing the hope that people-centered justice would become the "new normal."

AGENDA ITEM 3: STRATEGIC PLAN 2021-2024, MANAGEMENT PLAN 2021-2022 AND OPERATING BUDGET 2021 (AP/2020/3.1, AP/2020/3.3 and AP/2020/3.4)

62. The President introduced the agenda item by drawing attention to the background documents: the draft Strategic Plan 2021-2024 (AP/2020/3.1), draft Management Plan 2021-2022 (AP/2020/3.3) and the draft Operating Budget for 2021 (AP/2020/3.4).
63. She noted that the draft Strategic Plan 2021-2024 had been reviewed and endorsed by the Standing Committee at its meeting on October 19 for onward transmission to the Assembly of Parties; the draft Operating Budget for 2021 had been carefully reviewed by the Audit and Finance Committee and recommended for approval by the Standing Committee; and the draft Operating Budget and the draft Management Plan 2021-2022 had been subsequently reviewed and approved by the Standing Committee, also at its October 19 meeting.
64. The President further noted that all documents had been circulated to Member Parties in advance of the meeting, and then gave the floor to the Director-General to present the documents.
65. The Director-General began by remarking that she would address some of the issues raised by Member Parties during the General Debate as part of her current presentation.
66. Referring first to the draft Strategic Plan 2021-2024, the Director-General recalled that the Plan had been developed during a period characterized by

great disruption and in a fast-changing global environment. IDLO had approached the task with the intent of turning challenges into opportunities, balancing prudence with ambition and building on the organization's established strengths, while at the same time investing in new areas where it has the ability to make a distinct contribution.

67. The Plan's overall objectives, she said, were to set out IDLO's overall strategic direction for the next four years; define IDLO's contribution to global efforts to sustain peace and development, in line with its mandate and comparative advantages; and identify areas where IDLO needs to invest to strengthen the overall contribution of the Organization.
68. At the same time, she continued, IDLO had developed for the first time a two-year Management Plan geared to implement the first half of the new Strategic Plan. The Management Plan sought to present a diverse and well-balanced portfolio of programs, research, and advocacy activities to maximize IDLO's contribution to peacebuilding and sustainable development, and, in that context, to the global response to COVID-19. It also set out the priority reforms identified under the Strategic Plan that will be initiated in the next two years to support IDLO in achieving the results envisaged in the Management Plan.
69. The 2021 Operating Budget, she added, would implement the first year of the Plan, balancing caution with ambition within a rapidly evolving environment.
70. The Director-General noted that the consultations undertaken in connection with the elaboration of the Strategic Plan had been the broadest ever for IDLO and had included some 90 in-person interviews; 20 focus group consultations with stakeholders in Rome, Geneva, New York, The Hague, as well as in IDLO country offices; and a wide circulation of online surveys.
71. By listening to IDLO's partners and conducting a review of the previous Plan, IDLO had identified achievements as well as key challenges faced during the previous cycle and the resulting lessons to be learned.
72. Commenting on the key trends that had emerged from the consultations, she observed that the COVID-19 pandemic had in many ways been a wake-up call, exposing the international community's vulnerability and lack of preparedness for shocks and crises.
73. She reiterated that the Strategic Plan was firmly rooted in the 2030 Agenda and its framework for renewed multilateralism and international collaboration on shared challenges.
74. Drawing attention to a section in the Plan on IDLO's comparative advantages as identified by stakeholders, she stressed how important it was to have clarity in this regard in an ever more crowded development sector with multiple actors working on interrelated issues.
75. She also highlighted IDLO's vision and mission statements, as well as the eight core values lying at the heart of its work, as outlined in the document.

76. Introducing the substantive components of the Strategic Plan 2021-2024, the Director-General described the document's two new overarching Strategic Goals and six Strategic Objectives, and presented plans for their achievement over the next two years under the 2021-2022 Management Plan.
77. The Director-General also highlighted the three essential, cross-cutting principles – inclusion, integration and innovation – that would underpin all of IDLO's work.
78. Commenting on Goal 1 of the Plan (“justice systems are more effective and responsive to people's needs”) the Director-General noted that “people-centered justice” was a key concept underlying the plan as a whole. She went on to present the three Strategic Objectives under Goal 1, namely: empowering justice seekers to claim their rights; making laws and institutions work for people; and reducing the justice gap for women and girls. For each Strategic Objective, the Director-General provided examples of the types of activities that would be undertaken during the first two years covered by the Management Plan.
79. Turning to Goal 2 of the Strategic Plan (“rule of law drives peace and sustainable development”), the Director-General referred to SDG16 and SDG5 as a prism through which the rule of law can help drive and accelerate progress throughout the 2030 Agenda and across different dimensions of peacebuilding and sustainable development.
80. The Director-General went on to present the three Strategic Objectives included under Goal 2, namely: rule of law drives inclusive economic development; rule of law promotes climate justice and sustainable use of land and natural resources; and rule of law advances healthy lives and well-being for all.
81. As she had done in relation to Goal 1, the Director-General provided a range of examples of the types of activities IDLO would carry out under each of the Strategic Objectives of Goal 2.
82. The Director-General noted that in 2021 the three objectives of Goal 1 would account for the bulk of IDLO's program portfolio.
83. Goal 2 for its part sought to open up promising new opportunities in key areas of peacebuilding and sustainable development where the rule of law can play an important catalytic role and where IDLO enjoys a comparative advantage and a track record but has had relatively limited programming to date. She pointed to inclusive economic development, climate justice, sustainable use of land and natural resources, food security and health law as areas in which IDLO would aim to increase its presence and leverage its mandate over the next two years.
84. Geographically, Africa would continue to be IDLO's largest region of operations, accounting for just over a third of program revenue. At the same time, she said, IDLO would continue efforts to diversify and expand its presence globally, including strengthening its operations in the MENA region.

85. The Director-General reiterated in this context the intention of increasing engagement with regional organizations such as the African Union, ASEAN and the European Union.
86. Underlining the importance of having systems, processes, capacities and a resource base that are fit for purpose to deliver on the goals of the Plan, the Director-General went on to present the four organizational Enablers that had been identified in this light in the Plan namely: enhancing innovation, integration, and impact; investing in people; improving systems and processes; and strengthening partnerships.
87. On resource mobilization, she observed that under the new Plan IDLO would seek to build funding partnerships with both traditional and non-traditional donors, including not only governments but also private sector organizations and foundations.
88. A strategic approach would also be taken to increase IDLO's membership, with a focus on achieving a balanced and representative expansion and giving priority to countries with an active interest in IDLO's mandate and programming.
89. The Director-General reported that IDLO would also further develop a cross-cutting Gender Action Plan, geared to reinforcing gender equality across the Organization, as well as mainstreaming a gender focus throughout IDLO's work.
90. Turning to the Operating Budget, the Director-General reiterated that it was a balanced budget prepared in a rapidly evolving environment, and provided an overview of its key components, stressing the cautious approach that had been adopted when forecasting levels of revenue for 2021.
91. Summing up the thrust of the new Strategic Plan, the Director-General presented its main purpose as that of leveraging IDLO's programs, research, policy and advocacy to advance people-centered justice and the contribution of rule of law to the promotion of peace, human rights and sustainable development.
92. With regard to the Management Plan 2021-2022, she reiterated that it was intended to be ambitious but realistic, and to build on current strengths while also furthering IDLO's ability to seize and be responsive to new opportunities. Finally, she described the Operating Budget 2021 as reflecting IDLO's conservative and flexible approach to budgeting and financial management in a challenging global environment.
93. She concluded by remarking that building a culture of justice requires time, effort and sustained commitment, but that "it is the best investment we can make in our collective future."

94. The President thanked the Director-General for her presentation and opened the floor for interventions from Member Parties.
95. The Assembly heard interventions by the representatives of Italy, Kuwait, Mozambique, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Peru and the United States.
96. Representatives conveyed strong support and endorsement of IDLO's new Strategic Plan 2021-2024, which they viewed as an excellent roadmap to guide the Organization during the next four-year cycle. They also expressed full approval of IDLO's Management Plan 2021-2022 and the 2021 budget.
97. Representatives also commended the extensive and inclusive consultative process that had taken place for the development of the Plan, welcoming its focus on people-centered justice and its close alignment with the goals of the 2030 Agenda.
98. Several representatives also expressed particular appreciation for the clear way in which the Plan set forth IDLO's comparative advantages and built on strengths and lessons learned from the previous plan, while opening opportunities for new activities in important thematic areas, such as climate justice, health law and e-justice.
99. Representatives also welcomed the emphasis in the Plan on further strengthening IDLO's partnerships, particularly with the UN system, Rome-based agencies and regional organizations.
100. The representative of the United States welcomed the establishment of the new Department of External Relations and Partnerships and said that his Mission looked forward to engaging with the new Department and to lending whatever assistance it could in identifying new sources of political and financial support, as well as new partnerships. He also called on other Member Parties to further strengthen their engagement with IDLO, since each has a unique perspective to offer in reinforcing the institution.
101. The Director-General expressed her appreciation for all Member Parties' interventions, thanking them for their endorsement of the new Strategic Plan and approval of the Management Plan and Budget, and for their support for the people-centered approach to justice that guided these documents. On the subject of partnerships, which she reiterated was one of her major priorities, the Director-General highlighted the planned participation of the Director-General of WHO, the Administrator of UNDP, the President of ECOSOC and other high-level speakers in the Assembly's thematic afternoon session.
102. She also called attention to IDLO's plans to develop regional and country strategies, as part of the effort to move from a project-based approach to a programmatic one.
103. Commenting further on IDLO's work on anti-corruption, she reported that an effort was already well underway to strengthen IDLO's relationship with UNODC, and that IDLO was participating in preparatory work for the 2021 UN General Assembly special session on anti-corruption and would be

collaborating with the Working Group on anti-corruption during Italy's forthcoming G20 presidency.

104. She thanked once again Member Parties for their political and financial support, particularly during such challenging times, and said she looked forward to continuing to work with all of them in building a global culture of justice.
105. Concluding the discussion of agenda item 3, the President drew attention to the draft Resolution N.1/2020 endorsing the proposed Strategic Plan 2021-2024, which had been shared with Member Parties in advance of the meeting.
106. Noting there were no objections or additional comments, the President declared Resolution N.1/2020 (AP/2020/3.2) adopted by consensus.
107. She then drew attention to Resolution N.2/2020 approving the Management Plan 2021-2022 and Budget 2021, a draft of which had also been shared in advance with members. Noting there were no objections or additional comments, the President declared Resolution N.2/2020 (AP/2020/3.5) adopted by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM 4: HOST COUNTRY AGREEMENTS

108. The President introduced this item by referring to the Report, prepared by the Secretariat (AP/2020/4.1) at the request of Member Parties at last year's Assembly of Parties. She also drew attention to the draft Resolution N.3/2020 submitted to the Assembly for its approval. She then gave the floor to the Director-General to introduce the report.
109. The Director-General began by emphasizing the importance of Host Country Agreements for ensuring the safety and security of IDLO staff, adding that she regards finalizing such agreements as a major priority.
110. She recalled the key features of the resolution on HCAs adopted by the Assembly in 2019 and went on to describe HCAs as essential to IDLO's ability to operate effectively and securely, noting that in countries where IDLO did not have agreements in place it faced a range of challenges including political, reputational, logistical and financial risks.
111. She expressed satisfaction at having signed four HCAs during 2020, with three Member Parties — Burkina Faso, Mongolia and Uganda – and with Niger, and said she looked forward to concluding more such agreements in the year to come. She then asked IDLO's General Counsel to briefly summarize the HCA report.
112. The General Counsel provided an overview of the progress made during 2020, the various challenges faced by the Organization both in securing agreements and in operating in countries without such agreements, as well as what was planned in terms of next steps. He also drew attention to the annex to the report, which provides the state of play with regards to the recognition of IDLO's legal status in its countries of operation. Noting that the recognition of

IDLO's legal status was identified as a priority in both the Strategic Plan and Management Plan, he concluded by underlining the importance of Member Parties' support in supplementing IDLO's efforts to conclude such agreements.

113. Following the presentation of the Report, the President opened the floor for comments.
114. The representative of Burkina Faso expressed satisfaction for the conclusion during 2020 of an HCA with IDLO. Referring to the start-up of the Sahel program he said that Burkina Faso was keen to collaborate with IDLO and described IDLO's assistance as instrumental to progress in the region.
115. The representative of the United States thanked IDLO for the HCA report, noting that it clearly illustrated the benefits of such agreements in terms of protecting IDLO personnel, programs and budgets. He endorsed the call for more active involvement of Member Parties, particularly those that benefit from IDLO programming, and said the United States welcomed the Director-General's engagement on the issue and its continued prioritization. He expressed hope that additional agreements would be concluded in the future and welcomed guidance from the IDLO Secretariat on the kind of support it required in this effort.
116. The representative of Uganda referred to the signature of the HCA between IDLO and her Government, describing it as a reflection of her country's commitment to IDLO. She referred to the legal steps required to formalize the implementation of the agreement and said that the authorities in Uganda were working hard to ensure that this would be done as soon as possible.
117. The President invited the Member Parties to consider the proposed Resolution which had been submitted for approval by the Standing Committee. Absent any objections, Resolution N.3/2020 (AP/2020/4.2) was approved by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM 5: REPORTS OF THE GOVERNING BODIES

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE (AP/2020/5.1)

118. The President presented the Report of the Standing Committee (AP/2020/5.1) which had been circulated in advance to the Member Parties, providing a summary of the report's main highlights and details of the three meetings held by the Committee in 2020.
119. She acknowledged the efforts of IDLO's staff in preparing effectively for each virtual meeting of the Standing Committee to ensure they ran smoothly.
120. She also referred to a special briefing and consultation on the new Strategic Plan, which the Director-General held with Standing Committee members following the Committee's first meeting in April 2020.

121. The President expressed appreciation for the Director-General's reports to the Standing Committee, including her regular updates on IDLO's contributions to the global effort to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic.
122. Finally, the President reviewed the main decisions taken by the Committee during 2020, including: approval of IDLO's audited Financial Statements for 2019, which for the first time were compliant with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS); approval of projects funded from the Operational Fund; endorsement of IDLO's Strategic Plan 2021-2024; approval of the draft Management Plan 2021-2022 and proposed Operating Budget 2021; and approval of the draft resolutions before the Assembly.

REPORT OF THE AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE (AP/2020/5.2)

123. The President then gave the floor to Mr. Filippo Alessi (Italy), Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee (AFC), to provide a summary of the AFC Report to the Assembly for 2020.
124. The AFC Chair began by noting that 2020 had been a busy year for the AFC with five meetings being held, all virtually due to the pandemic restrictions.
125. He referred to the expansion of the AFC's membership from five to seven members following a reform agreed upon in 2019 as a very positive development and said that he looked forward to the Committee continuing to operate with the same number of members as a result of the upcoming elections.
126. He noted that a key priority for the AFC during 2020 had been to monitor the impact of the global pandemic on IDLO finances and expressed appreciation for the regular updates provided by the Secretariat in this regard throughout the year.
127. He welcomed the close collaboration between IDLO's Finance and Programs Departments, also in light of the high percentage that program revenue represents in IDLO's budget.
128. He noted that while the COVID-19 pandemic had undoubtedly complicated program delivery in the field, a number of new program agreements had been signed during the year, helping to mitigate the effects of delays in implementing ongoing programs. As a result, he said, the end of year figures forecast for 2020 were in line with those budgeted for the year.
129. The AFC Chair concluded by thanking members for their active participation during 2020 and saying that he looked forward to continuing his positive engagement with the AFC during 2021.
130. There were no comments from Member Parties on the reports of the Standing Committee and the Audit and Finance Committee.

AGENDA ITEM 6: REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ADVISERS (AP/2020/6.1)

131. The President noted that the IDLO Secretariat had not received a report from the Board of Advisers for the current year.
132. She further observed that this was a period of significant transition in the membership of the Board of Advisers and referred in this context to earlier comments by Member Parties that had submitted nominations for candidates to fill vacant positions on the Board. She concluded by saying that she looked forward to a reinvigorated Board of Advisers moving into the next year to help support IDLO's good work around the world.
133. There were no comments from Member Parties on this agenda item.

AGENDA ITEM 7: ELECTIONS

134. The President began by summarizing the different elections scheduled to take place, namely:
 - One Member Party to serve as President of the Assembly of Parties
 - One Member Party to serve as Vice-President of the Assembly of Parties
 - Two Member Parties to serve as ad hoc members of the Standing Committee
 - A minimum of one (1) and a maximum of three (3) Member Parties to serve as members of the Audit and Finance Committee; and
 - A minimum of three (3) and up to seven (7) individuals to serve as members of the Board of Advisers.
135. She drew attention to the background notes on the elections which were circulated prior to the meeting (AP/2020/B1 and AP/2020/B2), as well as a note (AP/2020/B3) outlining the election procedures and modalities for online voting in the event that voting was required.

AGENDA ITEM 7(a)1: ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

136. The President recalled that the United States, having served as President of the IDLO Assembly of Parties for a three-year term, could not be re-elected to that position. She noted that Pakistan had expressed interest in the position and asked if any other Member Parties wished to announce their candidacy. Noting there were no requests for the floor and that there was consensus of the Member Parties on Pakistan's candidature, the President declared Pakistan the new President of the Assembly of Parties and gave the floor to the Ambassador of Pakistan to provide remarks.
137. The Ambassador of Pakistan thanked Member Parties for their support and confidence in electing Pakistan as President, saying that he felt humbled and honored to serve in this position.
138. He recognized the contribution of the United States as outgoing President and expressed his appreciation to the Director-General and IDLO staff.

139. Commending the work of IDLO, the Ambassador said that Pakistan fully shared IDLO's belief that many of the root causes of conflict and instability stem from a lack of rule of law and its vision of a culture of justice as an essential foundation to sustain peace and development.
140. He noted that Pakistan has been consistently engaged in IDLO's governance since joining the Organization in 2015, having served on the Standing Committee as well as the AFC.
141. Acknowledging the many challenges to achieving a global culture of justice, the Ambassador said that Pakistan looked forward to working closely with IDLO management and its Member Parties to broaden IDLO's scope of work, increase its membership and geographical diversification, and achieve its main policy and program objectives.
142. The President expressed congratulations once again to the newly elected President and said she looked forward to working under Pakistan's able leadership.

AGENDA ITEM 7(a)2: ELECTION OF VICE-PRESIDENT

143. Noting that the United States was a candidate for the position of Vice-President, the President gave the floor to Italy, as *de jure* Vice-President, to conduct this election.
144. The Vice-President recalled that the United States had expressed interest in the position of Vice-President and asked if any other Member Parties wished to announce their candidacy. Noting there were no requests for the floor, and that there was consensus among the Member Parties, the Vice-President declared the United States elected as the new Vice-President of the Assembly of Parties and conveyed Italy's congratulations to the United States on its election.
145. Resolution N.4/2020 (AP/2020/7.1), recording the result of the election of the President and Vice-President, was then shared on screen by the IDLO Secretariat and subsequently adopted by consensus. The Vice-President returned the floor to the President to resume chairing the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 7(b): ELECTION OF TWO AD HOC MEMBERS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

146. The President introduced the election, noting that there were two vacancies arising from the end of the terms of Ecuador and Turkey. She further noted that expressions of interest had been received from Ecuador and Senegal.
147. The President asked whether any additional Member Parties wished to announce their candidacy for a two-year term on the Standing Committee. Noting that there were no additional expressions of interest, and that there was consensus among the Member Parties, the President declared Ecuador and Senegal elected to serve as members of the Standing Committee for a two-year term.

148. Resolution N.5/2020 (AP/2020/7.2), recording the result of the elections to the Standing Committee, was shared on screen and subsequently adopted by consensus. The President expressed congratulations to the new members elected to serve on the Standing Committee.

AGENDA ITEM 7(c): ELECTION OF ONE TO THREE MEMBERS OF THE AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

149. Noting that the United States was also among the candidates for the Audit and Finance Committee the President again gave the floor to Italy as *de jure* Vice-President to conduct this election.

150. The Vice-President recalled that the AFC can have between five and seven members and that four of its current members could serve for another year. She noted that there were therefore a minimum of one and a maximum of three seats available on the Committee, and that China, Kenya and the United States had all expressed interest in being elected to the Committee.

151. The Vice-President asked if any other Member Parties wished to announce their candidacy for the AFC. Noting there were no requests for the floor, and that there was consensus of the Member Parties, the Vice-President declared China, Kenya and the United States elected to serve on the AFC for two-year terms.

152. Resolution N.6/2020 (AP/2020/7.3), recording the result of the elections to the Audit and Finance Committee, was shared on screen and subsequently adopted by consensus. The Vice-President expressed congratulations to the new members elected to serve on the Committee and returned the floor to the President to resume chairing the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 7(d): ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF ADVISERS

153. The President introduced the election, noting that the Board of Advisers should have at least six and no more than ten members and that six of the current members were completing their terms of office. On behalf of the Member Parties, she thanked the outgoing members of the Board for their service to IDLO during the past eight years.

154. She further noted that the Assembly was called upon this year to elect at least three and no more than seven members, including one Italian citizen. She advised that the following five nominations had been received in advance of the meeting and that information on the nominees, including their CVs, had been shared:

- Dr. Ruth Aura-Odhiambo (nomination by the Republic of Kenya);
- Ambassador Mehmet Hasan Gögüş (nomination by the Republic of Turkey);
- Dr. Hoang Ly Anh (nomination by the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam);

- Mr. Stefano Manservisi (nomination by the Republic of Italy); and
 - Prof. Githu Muigai (nomination by the Republic of Kenya).
155. She asked if any Member Parties wished to submit additional candidates for the Board. Noting there were no such requests, and that there was consensus for the five nominees submitted, the President declared the five aforementioned candidates elected to serve on the Board of Advisers for a four-year term, ending in 2024.
156. Resolution N.7/2020 (AP/2019/7.4), recording the result of the election, was subsequently shared on screen and adopted by consensus. The President asked the Secretariat to notify the newly elected members to the Board of the result and to provide them with any relevant information in relation to their membership and service.

AGENDA ITEM 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

157. No Member Parties raised any issues under this agenda item.
158. The President thanked the Member Parties for their active participation and continued commitment to IDLO. She also thanked IDLO's Director-General and staff for their hard work, particularly during what has been an extremely challenging year. She congratulated the new President of the Assembly and the newly elected members of IDLO's governing bodies and of the Board of Advisers.
159. Finally, she reminded Member Parties to join the afternoon session of the Assembly for the thematic discussion "Partnering to Advance the Rule of Law in Challenging Times: Launch of IDLO's Strategic Plan 2021-2024."
160. The President then declared the formal session of the Assembly meeting closed.

ENDS/



GENERAL DEBATE

IDLO

ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES MEETING 2020

24 NOVEMBER 2020

**Welcoming address by Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs
and International Cooperation of Italy
H.E. Emanuela Del Re**

**MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2020
24 NOVEMBER 2020**

Madame President, (USA Jennifer Harhigh)

Madame Director General, (Jan Beagle)

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to open IDLO's Assembly of Parties. Although Italy traditionally hosts this event at the Farnesina, we unfortunately had to organize it online this year for the reasons we all know.

So far, 2020 has been a year like no other in our lifetime. As Covid-19 sweeps through every corner of the world, affecting everyone and exacerbating inequality and deprivation, world leaders are called to act swiftly to contain this unprecedented threat in order to promote a fast and sustainable recovery.

To do this, the rule of law becomes more essential than ever as the effectiveness of government measures to contain the virus and "Build Back Better" depends on the capacity of public institutions to provide transparent, effective, and accountable policy and actions.

As stated last week by Director General Jan Beagle in her appreciated statement at the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Italian Chamber of Deputies: "the rule of law can play a key role in sustaining peace by helping to address the root causes of conflict and insecurity, which often lie in issues such as discrimination and marginalization, lack of respect for human rights, corruption and impunity".

In my previous decades-long work experience in conflict areas, I could see first-hand how legal empowerment can help reducing inequalities by enabling poor, marginalized and vulnerable groups access essential public services like justice, health and education.

Today, in my position as the Italian Vice Minister in charge of development cooperation, I strongly believe that Sustainable Development, as an enabler of peace, justice and inclusion, can help promote stronger institutions, more successful government action and reduced inequalities to prevent and mitigate disease outbreaks such as COVID-19.

The values and principles expressed by SDG16 become crucial to overcome the ongoing crisis and ensure a just, equitable and sustainable recovery for all.

In this context, IDLO's action is increasingly important, especially if we consider that its mandate – supporting the rule of law and promoting justice as a means for sustainable development – is unique among International organizations and multilateral bodies.

IDLO is contributing to global efforts to promote peace and development through the rule of law, protect the most vulnerable, and move towards more inclusive, sustainable and resilient societies.

Italy, as an active member of the international community and within the European Union, is pushing for increasing investments in the rule of law sector and access to Justice, as a fundamental component of sustainable development, especially at these challenging times.

Protecting and promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms, in accordance with our Constitution, has always been at the heart of Italy's policy and action, both at the national and international level.

As a member of the United Nations' Human Rights Council for the 2019-2021 mandate and as a candidate country for the next term, Italy is particularly committed to the fight against all forms of discrimination; the promotion of the rights of women and children and the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities; the establishment of a universal moratorium against the death penalty; the protection of freedom of religion or belief and the rights of persons belonging to religious minorities; the fight against human trafficking and the protection of human rights defenders.

Italy is also playing a leading role in the fight against corruption, especially in the context of the upcoming Italian G20 Presidency. As leaders of the G20 Anticorruption Working Group, we will adopt a holistic vision for the fight against corruption by focusing on new forms of corruption that are emerging in the global economy, especially if we consider the new risks linked with the health crisis.

As we play a primary role in capacity building, institution building, law enforcement and consensus building initiatives, we are convinced that strengthening multilateral cooperation is the only way to overcome the current crisis. This is why we have invited IDLO to attend the G20 Anti-corruption Working Group that will be held under our leadership.

Considering the importance we bestow on our collaboration with IDLO, we invited its Director General, Ms. Jan Beagle, to open –as guest speaker- the 5th session of the Development cooperation joint steering committee that will take place on the 14th of December.

Furthermore, as you already know, Italy presented the candidature of Mr. Stefano Manservigi as Italian delegate of the Board of Advisers, in view of the elections that will take place later. I am convinced that Mr. Manservigi's valuable and extensive experience in the field of development cooperation will confer an added value to IDLO activities, programs and international relevance.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In recent years we have worked together to consolidate IDLO's role and activities and we now see its increasing relevance as an important component of Rome's international organizations' hub.

We welcome the ever-stronger partnerships IDLO has been building in recent years with the UN development system, both in Rome and in New York, with our active support.

We are also pleased with the Covid-19 response IDLO is providing, in partnership with FAO, with a project aimed at mitigating the impact of emergency laws and regulations on access to food, particularly for marginalized and vulnerable groups.

This is consistent with IDLO's commitment to strengthen legal and policy frameworks on pandemic preparedness and response to public health emergencies in collaboration with the World Health Organization.

It also runs in parallel with IDLO's efforts to enhance justice for women and girls, especially in the context of COVID-19, by supporting access to justice to overcome ongoing restrictions on

mobility and improve efficiency and transparency in the administration of justice in Countries like Afghanistan, Kenya, Somalia, and Tunisia.

Besides these positive trends, in order to achieve its mandate IDLO needs a renewed commitment, both financial and political, from all of us.

We have already confirmed our substantial financial contribution to the Organization for 2020 and we hope that other Members will join us, in accordance with their respective capacity, by ensuring their active support to IDLO's core functions, as well as to the implementation of the important projects it carries out on the ground.

Let us join our forces to achieve sustainable development and peace through accountable Institutions and universal access to justice everywhere: supporting IDLO can really make a difference.

I wish you a very fruitful and constructive debate.

Thank you.

PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT

**MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2020
24 NOVEMBER 2020**

The United States is proud to have helped guide the International Development Law Organization as President over the past three years. These have been extremely productive years for IDLO. IDLO has added four new member parties, elected and successfully transitioned to a new and highly effective Director General, and brought on dynamic new staff members.

Programmatically, IDLO has responded to increased demand for its high-quality programming to advance the rule of law and access to justice for all. Operationally, IDLO has opened new field offices; increased its collaboration with other UN agencies, especially those here in Rome; and concluded Host Country Agreements with Burkina Faso, Mongolia, Niger, and Uganda that provide IDLO staff and partners with appropriate legal protections. And IDLO has achieved much of this during a global pandemic, rapidly adopting new modes of communications and outreach while ensuring the well-being of its most important asset, IDLO staff.

IDLO's trajectory is therefore very clear and very encouraging – IDLO is on pace for continued growth and an ever-greater impact globally. At the same time, IDLO's successes, combined with the high-level interventions by Director-General Jan Beagle, are helping to elevate the rule of law in global policy discussions around sustainable peace and economic development. IDLO's partnerships with the Rome-based UN agencies are having the same effect, producing concrete results via joint programming, events, and the Director-General's participation in the UN Security Management Team for Italy.

IDLO's growth has meant more work for us member parties, especially those of us that actively participate in IDLO governance committees. Here, I would like to thank my fellow Bureau members Italy and Mozambique for their leadership and advocacy. I would also like to recognize fellow Standing Committee members Turkey, the Philippines, Kuwait and Ecuador. The Audit and Finance Committee, ably chaired by Mr. Filippo Alessi of Italy, has succeeded because of the active participation of Turkey, Senegal, Peru, Pakistan, and Kuwait. These committees play an essential role in ensuring member party input to and oversight of IDLO operations. I strongly encourage all member states to consider joining one of these committees in the years ahead.

Looking forward, the United States welcomes the ambitious performance targets laid out in IDLO's Strategic Plan, Management Plan, and Budget. We wholly agree with the assessment that COVID-19 has shown a light on existing inequalities worldwide in access to justice, exacerbated persistent problems such as gender-based violence, and made clear the need for innovative solutions including e-justice. We also wholly agree that any sustainable recovery must be based on justice and the rule of law for all. Today's discussions are therefore extremely important, in setting this one-of-a-kind intergovernmental organization on a course to make the greatest possible impact in the years ahead.

STATEMENT OF BURKINA FASO

**MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2020
24 NOVEMBER 2020**

Monsieur le Président de l'Assemblée des Parties,

Madame la Directrice Générale,

Excellences mesdames et messieurs les délégués,

Je voudrais adresser de nouveau mes vives félicitations et mes encouragements à Madame Jan BEAGLE, qui est à sa première Assemblée des Parties en qualité de Directrice générale.

Malgré le contexte sanitaire actuel, vous avez réussi à organiser cette importante rencontre dans les meilleures conditions possibles de manière virtuelle. Tout au long du processus de préparation, la dynamique équipe de l'OIDD n'a ménagé aucun effort pour mobiliser l'attention et la participation des membres afin d'assurer le succès de cette Assemblée des Parties.

Madame la Directrice Générale,

Je retiens de la présentation de votre rapport le grand travail qui est engagé pour ancrer définitivement l'OIDD comme une organisation internationale majeure en matière de promotion de l'Etat de droit, de la bonne gouvernance et de la justice sociale.

Je me réjouis particulièrement du lancement du Programme d'« Appui intégré aux systèmes de justice pénale au Sahel » . Ce soutien qui sera apporté à la chaîne pénale des pays bénéficiaires que sont le Mali, le Niger et le Burkina Faso, est une contribution essentielle à la dynamique d'ensemble des acteurs étatiques et des partenaires divers en vue d'apporter la sécurité et le développement dans cette région.

Mesdames, messieurs,

Le contexte mondial actuel est marqué par l'apparition de nouvelles crises aux dimensions multiples. Elles augmentent les dangers sur les populations les plus vulnérables, sans une protection interne et internationale adéquate. C'est dans ces moments de difficulté que le respect de la règle de droit est particulièrement mis à rude épreuve. Je me permets ainsi de souligner de nouveau la pertinence de la stratégie de l'OIDD de mieux se déployer sur le terrain, dans un cadre formel accepté par les Etats parties.

Je voudrais donc encourager les Etats membres à faciliter l'ancrage formel des interventions de notre organisation commune dans nos pays.

Je ne saurais terminer sans me féliciter de la signature d'un Accord de siège entre l'OIDD et mon pays en octobre dernier. Cet Accord permettra à l'équipe de l'OIDD d'accomplir avec sérénité ses activités sur le terrain.

Je voudrais enfin réaffirmer la disponibilité du Burkina Faso à accompagner l'OIDD dans sa vision et ses actions en faveur de l'Etat de droit.

Je vous remercie.

STATEMENT OF CHINA

**MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2020
24 NOVEMBER 2020**

Thank you, Mr/Madame President.

I would like to thank Madame Director-General for all the work she has led her team since she took office. Especially in this special period of global crisis, IDLO not only did a good job in epidemic prevention and control, ensured the continuity of work, but also helped relevant countries to improve their ability to respond to the crisis by promoting various law projects, while improving internal management and strengthening external cooperation. IDLO has made significant contributions to the promotion of international rule of law and development. China appreciates Madame Director-General's efforts to make all this happen.

Madame Director-General actively promotes the cooperation between China and IDLO, including the JPO project. China will continue to support IDLO, and actively explore possible cooperation means in accordance with the strategic goals and objectives set in the new strategic plan released after our discussion today. China will strengthen exchanges and cooperation with IDLO and other parties, and Chinese legal experts will also share their professional experience and expertise, to contribute to the international rule of law and development.

Thank you.

STATEMENT OF EGYPT

**MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2020
24 NOVEMBER 2020**

Thank you Mr. Chairperson
H.E. Emanuela Del Re, Vice minister for Foreign affairs,
Madame Director General Jan Beagle,
Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen

We would like once again to congratulate the Director General, we are confident that her capabilities and experiences will lead the organisation towards maximising its engagement and contribution to the rule of law and justice.

Egypt as one of the principal founders of the organisation, believes in the synergetic relationship between sustainable development and the realization of peace and security. Both are interlinked. We can't achieve sustainable development if our world continues to suffer from the threats of terrorism, conflicts and hunger. The rule of law is at the center of the agenda 2030. It is inconceivable to envision that these universal objectives could be achieved without a collective effort to uphold the rule of law in all sectors.

In this regard, Egypt reconfirms the commitment to support all international efforts contributing to the achievement of these objectives.

We commend the efforts exerted to put the organization into a sustainable growth trajectory especially in an increasingly changing international environment.

The world is facing a new challenge manifested in the Covid-19, our goal is to maintain the efforts, and to overcome the repercussions. IDLO can prove to be an important response to safeguard the equitable, just and sustainable recovery. Also it is vital to exert more efforts towards addressing the specific challenges facing the developing countries, with special attention to women empowerment.

In conclusion, We would to express our thanks to the United states for their leadership during their presidency of the assembly, also express our support to Pakistan nomination as the new president, and the United States as the new Vice-President.

Egypt expresses support to the nomination of Senegal for the membership of the standing committee on representing Africa, with full confidence that their membership will represent an essential contribution in the standing committee.

Thank you

STATEMENT OF FRANCE

**MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2020
24 NOVEMBER 2020**

La France est fondamentalement attachée à l'accès à une justice impartiale et à des institutions judiciaires transparentes, efficaces et indépendantes, qui sont au fondement de l'État de droit et représentent un vecteur essentiel pour le développement durable.

La France souligne toute l'importance de l'État de droit à l'international, comme socle de la protection des droits humains, de la sauvegarde des libertés civiles, de la gouvernance démocratique, de la prévention des conflits violents et de la pérennisation de la paix.

La pandémie de la Covid-19 a exacerbé les inégalités, les tensions sociales, la discrimination et les injustices, notamment pour les populations les plus vulnérables, et a porté un coup sévère au respect des droits humains et à l'accès aux droits. La promotion de l'État de droit et d'une justice juste et équitable est fondamentale dans ce contexte. La France salue les efforts engagés en ce sens par l'OIDD pour s'adapter et répondre à ce nouveau contexte, à travers son action en faveur du renforcement des cadres juridique et politique pour la gestion de la Covid-19, de l'atténuation de l'impact de la crise sur les systèmes judiciaires et les personnes vulnérables en quête de justice et son plaidoyer pour souligner le caractère crucial de l'État de droit pour protéger les droits et la dignité des personnes partout dans le monde.

L'affermissement de l'État de droit et le renforcement des institutions de justice sont des éléments catalyseurs pour relever les défis partagés. A cet égard, la France encourage les actions de l'OIDD en faveur de l'ODD 16, dans le cadre de son plan stratégique 2021-2024. Au vu des enjeux communs en matière de développement et d'État de droit, les cibles stratégiques retenues par l'OIDD sont pertinentes et il est important d'intervenir en faveur d'une justice efficace et équitable pour les femmes et les hommes, d'une justice climatique, et d'un meilleur accès aux droits – notamment sanitaire – comme catalyseurs de la paix et du développement durable.

La France apprécie par ailleurs les efforts déployés au cours des dernières années pour développer son action au Sahel, qui permettent d'envisager la mise en œuvre d'une coopération plus étroite entre la France et l'OIDD dans la région.

STATEMENT OF ITALY

**MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2020
24 NOVEMBER 2020**

Dear Director General, dear colleagues, I would like to express our greatest appreciation to all the efforts made by IDLO to support its partners to tackle their most pressing justice needs and address some of the underlying causes of exclusion, inequality and injustice.

We are strongly confident that good governance and the rule of law are central to managing the COVID-19 crisis and promoting resilience against future shocks.

Referring more specifically to the interactions between IDLO, Italy and the Rome Based Agencies, and in particular FAO, we are very glad that Idlo joined us in supporting the Italian proposal of a “Food Coalition”, recently launched by Fao.

The Food Coalition is an alliance among Countries united by the will to prevent the health crisis from turning into a food crisis.

It is also a system of national expertise based on a large pool of specialists, from institutions, research centers, universities and civil society.

It is a coalition of the willing aimed at sharing practices to mitigate the effects of the crisis, building on the existing collaboration against hunger and malnutrition, to ensure access to food for ALL. Hopefully, all the Parties attending the Assembly today will enter the alliance in the days to come.

Having the support of IDLO and in general from the RBA, can help us to make the difference. We are strongly confident that IDLO has an important role to play.

Moreover, I would like to express my congratulations for the excellent results of the hearing of the Director General Beagle at the Committee on Foreign Affairs and European Affairs of the Italian Chamber of Deputies. The hearing was requested by the current President to improve and strengthen the interaction between the Italian Parliament and all the international actors working daily in the 2030 Agenda framework.

We have very much appreciated the statements delivered by the DG about our common values and principles.

STATEMENT OF LIBERIA

MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2020

24 NOVEMBER 2020

Madam Director General

Distinguished Member Parties

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am honoured but humbled to make this statement on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Liberia on the occasion of the Annual Meeting of the Assembly of Parties taking place in Rome. This Meeting is taking place at a time when the world is faced with a global pandemic occasioned by uncertainties and challenges such as being unable to meet physically today. I wish to pay tribute to the host country, Italy for the human and other losses it has and continue to endure as a result of this pandemic. Allow me, therefore, Madam Director-General to thank you and your staff both at headquarters and country offices for your resilience and hard work that ensured that this Meeting is held today despite the challenges.

This year's Annual Meeting marks the second year in which the IDLO has had its formal footprint in the Republic of Liberia, following the accession of Liberia to the IDLO on the 7th May of the previous year.

On formally partnering with Liberia, the IDLO's commitment was to advance the rule of law, especially for the most vulnerable of its societies. The work that is done and the strides achieved by the office of the IDLO in Liberia are a testament to the IDLO's dedication to achieving this commitment. This is so much more evident that despite the COVID 19 Pandemic, which has left the Rule of Law compromised and has pushed marginalized groups further outside the peripheries of the Rule of Law, the IDLO remain committed to ensuring they are brought back within the protective framework of the Rule of Law.

I am particularly pleased to have the IDLO tackle highly sensitive subjects under the broad framework of access to Justice. It is no secret that the most marginalized of society feel and most times are often not within reach of the protections that are guaranteed by our countries Justice system and due to various constraints the Justice system itself is often unable to reach the farthest corners of society. This is what makes the work of the IDLO indispensable in the Liberian context.

The IDLO's work therefore in the aspect of Trafficking in Persons (TIP), is a crucial intervention in the Liberian context. Given that the scourge of human trafficking the world over is significant and highly devastating in its effects. Yet the intricacies involved in the trafficking trade are highly sophisticated and require specialized knowledge to counter. Thus the Government's effort can only go so far given the resource constraints we have as a country. Therefore, as a Government, we sincerely thank and appreciate the IDLO for an intervention of this nature.

We carry the same sentiment for the significant work done on Gender-based Violence (GBV). It is trite that Gender-based violence amongst our societies remains a pertinent issue and it continues to be a global call to end GBV. Thus we cannot downplay the significance of the work done in this area by the IDLO and we appreciate it profoundly as a Country.

Lastly, we take this opportunity to appreciate the IDLO's new Strategic Plan 2021-2024 which has been presented here today. We note that the plan is indeed anchored in the 2030 Agenda. We appreciate IDLO's approach to the rule of law as both an outcome and enabler of peace and sustainable development. As the Republic of Liberia, the concept of "people-centred justice" on

which the plan is built, resonates with us and we support the IDLO unconditionally as the strategic plan is pursued.

In closing, Madam Director-General, may we express our continued unconditional support to the IDLO in its positive work in the Republic of Liberia and we count on the continued collaboration as we continue to pursue the ends of both Access to Justice and the Rule of Law together.

I thank you.

STATEMENT OF MALI

MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2020

24 NOVEMBER 2020

Madame la Présidente de l'Assemblée Générale des Parties ;
Madame la Directrice Générale de l'OIDD ;
Excellences Mesdames et Messieurs les Ambassadeurs ;
Mesdames et Messieurs.

Bonjour à toutes et à tous,

Nous voudrions tout d'abord, remercier Madame la Directrice Générale de l'OIDD pour toutes ses initiatives afin de relever les défis d'organisation de cette Assemblée Générale des Parties en dépit de la COVID-19.

C'est aussi pour nous l'occasion de féliciter toute l'équipe en charge de l'organisation de cette Assemblée Générale de l'OIDD pour l'accompagnement des pays membres dans pratiquement tous les domaines, notamment ceux de l'Afrique.

Aussi, nos encouragements vont à l'endroit de l'OIDD pour sa réaction inlassable face à la pandémie de COVID, en témoigne la croissance continue que connaît de nos jours les activités de l'Organisation.

De même, nous apprécions les efforts de l'OIDD dans le domaine de l'introduction de l'état de droit dans les discussions politiques notamment avec les Agences des Nations Unies basées à Rome.

Nous adressons nos vifs encouragements à Madame la Directrice Générale de l'OIDD pour la poursuite de ses échanges au niveau des Nations Unies.

Nous prenons acte de l'appel de la Directrice Générale de l'OIDD aux Etats membres pour participer aux différents comités de l'organisation.

Enfin nous remercions l'OIDD pour toutes ces actions au sahel et sa participation remarquable à la 9ème réunion des représentants spéciaux pour le sahel notamment son appel vibrant en faveur de la justice et de l'état de droit.

Nous saluons les efforts de l'OIDD quant à son appui à la justice pénale au niveau du sahel notamment au Mali, au Burkina Faso et au Niger.

Pour conclure Madame la Directrice Générale, nous souhaitons pleins succès aux travaux de l'Assemblée Générale des Parties, tout en vous réitérant notre engagement à vous accompagner dans la réussite de votre mission.

Merci de votre aimable attention.

STATEMENT OF MOZAMBIQUE

**MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2020
24 NOVEMBER 2020**

Thank Mr. President for giving me the floor,

On behalf of the Republic of Mozambique, I would like to express our sincere thanks to Director General and her team for the very comprehensive report of IDLO activities.

As mentioned in the report, since its outbreak, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has a multiplying impact on a number of challenges that beset our world today, and highlighted the prevailing conditions of inequalities, discrimination, insecurity and injustice, particularly of the most vulnerable people.

In this regard, we welcome IDLO contribution to the global response to the COVID-19, particularly the initiatives undertaken to highlight the importance of SDG16 contribution in the context of 2030 Agenda. It is through peace, justice and strong institutions that we can make tangible progress and achieve sustainable development.

We are happy to see that in the course of the year, IDLO not only was engaged with partner organizations for coordinated crisis response and preparedness to mitigate the adverse impact of COVID-19, but also implemented a number of programs aimed at promoting inclusive economic development, access to justice, fighting gender violence, capacity building, just to mention a few.

We are also happy to note and commend IDLO work in promoting inclusive economic development through the investment support programme for least developed countries with projects in a number of countries including some African states.

With these comments, Mozambique endorses the DG report.

Thank you

STATEMENT OF THE NETHERLANDS

**MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2020
24 NOVEMBER 2020**

As the Netherlands, we are pleased to participate in this Assembly of Parties. We are grateful to IDLO for making this happen and your tireless efforts to prepare for today's Assembly.

This year has been a year of change for IDLO. A new Director General, development of your new Strategic Plan and of course adaptation of your work to respond to the COVID crisis.

The Netherlands is pleased with progress made and remains committed to its partnership with IDLO. We commend IDLO, as well as the various committees present here today, for your continuous efforts at country and global levels, as well as your leadership in drawing attention to the impact of Covid-19 on the rule of law and justice. Your work on the ground, as well as your voice and presence at the global level make a great contribution to improving justice.

And improving access to justice – to PEOPLE-CENTRED justice – has now become even more important, so we welcome your explicit focus on people-centred justice. We hope to see this focus integrated into all your thematic focus areas and concretized further on the ground. Innovation, and a robust role for women and youth, should all be part of this.

In our Dutch Access to Justice Strategy, we seek to promote people-centered justice at country levels, based on evidence of successful approaches and data of justice needs. We want to reach at least 200.000 people a year, 50% of which must be women.

We built in a special focus on 'those furthest behind', including children, women, IDPs, refugees and migrants, detainees and victims of massive human rights violations. Too long, justice systems have been serving the few, rather than the many. These groups often face structural injustices, which have to be addressed.

Lastly, we aim to continue to build a global community of countries that commit to promoting SDG 16.3 and to make people-centered justice the new normal.

We already work with many partners to promote national action and leadership for justice at the local, national, regional and global levels. We will continue these efforts and welcome other countries to join us. Also, collaboration and coordination amongst donors, international organizations and NGOs supporting justice is important. Almost 20 years after the Accra Agenda for Action and Paris Declaration, support is all too often still provided in silos without joint efforts to maximize impact.

We also hope that more funding will be made available for this important area, both at national levels through state governments and through assistance of international organizations, bilateral

donors and the World Bank. We are for example very pleased to see that the World Bank has included justice as an area of focus in their new Fragility, Conflict and Violence strategy.

We believe that this gathering today, with IDLO and its Member Parties, forms an opportunity to join forces to promote SDG 16.3 and call for more political and financial commitments at country and global levels. And we look forward to working with you in advancing these goals.

STATEMENT OF PAKISTAN

**MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2020
24 NOVEMBER 2020**

Thank you Chair,

I would like to thank the Director General for a comprehensive and insightful report covering IDLO's functioning and performance in a most turbulent year, as well as for laying a roadmap for the future.

We are all well aware of the challenges that Ambassador Beagle had to face in her first year on the job, and the tremendous effort put in by her and IDLO's team during the Covid-19 pandemic; inter alia, to support the global endeavors for addressing this grave challenge, by helping formulate legal and policy framework that would enable an organized response to public health emergencies.

IDLO's ongoing collaboration with WHO on non-communicable diseases and pandemic preparedness & response lays significant groundwork for establishing legal mechanisms to cope with future crises.

Excellencies

We take a positive note of IDLO's continued quest for promoting rule of law, and a culture of justice, to support sustainable development goals, employing its core strategy of inclusion, integration and innovation.

The ongoing pandemic underlines the need for inclusion, to ensure equity for an increasing segment of world's vulnerable population, that has now been left more exposed than ever.

The constantly changing global dynamics are indicative of the need for innovative approaches in reaching out to the vulnerable populations across the globe.

Similarly, the increasing economic marginalization for some of these populations, underscores the need for integrating them in the process of development. Because only a sustainable development for all could be sustainable in the long term.

Excellencies,

The Director General has rightly pointed out that this is the Decade of Action for achieving Sustainable Development Goals. To play its due role in supporting SDGs in the coming years, IDLO, would have to broaden its horizon, so to help remove obstacles to progress, and promote an enabling environment for development. Besides promoting access to justice and inclusivity in the economic domain, we could envisage making interventions for strengthening the legal mechanisms against corruption and lack of transparency, as well as against rent-seeking and systemic inequities; and for promoting meritocracy and accountability.

Here, I would like to appreciate IDLO's partnerships with different governments on socio-economic development. These projects, covering a wide spectrum of subjects - ranging from anticorruption to sustainable agriculture, transparent commercial law system to capacity building in anti-trust and antimonopoly - are all steps in the right direction.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is heartening to see the dedication with which the management and personnel of IDLO have been working towards our shared goals, amid an array of fresh challenges. The growing scope of their global engagement is reflective of their commitment and dedication.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire IDLO team for the excellent work during these extraordinary times, and wish all success for the challenging tasks ahead.

Thank you.

STATEMENT OF PERU

**MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2020
24 NOVEMBER 2020**

Gracias señora Presidenta por concederme el uso de la palabra,

Es grato iniciar esta intervención felicitando la labor realizada por la señora Jan Beagle durante su primer año de mandato como Directora General. El reto asumido en 2019 no vislumbraba la magnitud de la crisis producida por la pandemia de COVID-19, la que ha generado desafíos sin precedentes.

No obstante, el Perú reconoce que la IDLO, bajo la dirección de la Sra. Beagle, ha sabido desplegar con rapidez una respuesta integral para garantizar la continuidad de sus programas, adaptándose a los contextos cambiantes, valiéndose de la gran red de socios y empleando la tecnología a disposición para fortalecer su gestión.

Por ello, el Perú recibe con satisfacción el comprensivo informe materia de debate y destaca las áreas estratégicas formuladas para dar respuesta a la crisis, que se enfocan en fortalecer los marcos jurídicos y normativos, mitigar el impacto de la crisis en los sistemas de justicia y defender el Estado de derecho.

Señora Presidenta,

El Perú se encuentra en vísperas de conmemorar el Bicentenario de su Independencia y tiene como una de sus banderas la defensa de los valores democráticos y la promoción del Estado de derecho. Recientemente, mi país sufrió momentos de inestabilidad política que se sumaron a la agobiante crisis producida por la COVID-19. Dicha situación ha sido felizmente superada, empleándose para ello los mecanismos previstos en la Constitución, que permitieron la sucesión presidencial del señor Francisco Sagasti como Jefe de Estado transitorio hasta entregar la presidencia a un nuevo Mandatario, como resultado de elecciones generales a realizarse en abril de 2021.

Ello es una muestra de los grandes desafíos que aún enfrenta el Perú, a pesar de su convicción democrática y vocación de respeto irrestricto por el Estado de derecho; por lo que se siguen desplegando esfuerzos hacia el fortalecimiento de sus instituciones.

Desde inicios del 2020, El Perú viene impulsando una reforma del Sistema de Justicia, con el objetivo de fortalecer la institucionalidad, la transparencia y la lucha contra la corrupción. En ese contexto, la modernización del sistema de justicia y el uso de las tecnologías de la información para la implementación de procedimientos electrónicos, tienen como finalidad ampliar y mejorar el acceso a la justicia.

Asimismo, durante el tiempo de la pandemia, el Perú ha brindado especial importancia a la transparencia y acceso a la información, así como al acceso a la justicia, mediante la atención virtual, garantizando la prestación de servicios legales a personas de escasos recursos; habilitando un canal de comunicación para denunciar actos de corrupción; y, velando por la protección de los grupos más vulnerables.

Señora Presidenta,

A lo largo de estos últimos años, el Perú ha desempeñado funciones en los órganos de la IDLO, y reconoce que su gestión fue acompañada por el equipo de profesionales que integra esta organización. A ellos un especial agradecimiento.

El Perú ve con satisfacción el crecimiento de la IDLO, luego de su proceso de reforma, en el que fuimos participantes activos, que permitió brindar una mayor apertura a la participación de sus miembros en la toma de decisiones, así como el fortalecimiento de la confianza hacia la organización.

Hoy celebramos un nuevo proceso de elecciones en la composición de los órganos de gobierno de IDLO y el Perú es un convencido de la importancia de la alternancia entre todos los miembros. Por ello, expresamos nuestro respaldo a los países que serán elegidos hoy y a los esfuerzos que desplegarán para seguir fortaleciendo tan valorada organización.

Muchas gracias señora Presidenta.

STATEMENT OF SWEDEN

**MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2020
24 NOVEMBER 2020**

Thank you, Madam President.

First of all, Sweden would like to express a sincere welcome to Director General Jan Beagle on her first Assembly of Parties. We look forward to engaging and cooperating with you and the whole team in the years to come.

We are happy you have been able to meet with our Minister for Development Cooperation digitally, but we do hope to be able to welcome you in person here in Stockholm.

Allow us also to express our gratitude for the work conducted by IDLO during these last four years, and we trust that the achievements made in the current strategy will be brought forward in the implementation of the new one. The covid-19 pandemic represents extraordinary challenges globally, and we appreciate IDLO's dedication in promoting a rule of law-based approach to the response of the pandemic.

As we keep emphasizing - human rights, democracy and the rule of law are areas to which Sweden is very dedicated. And this is true for all areas of our foreign policy. The link between them is crucial and strong which is why Sweden addresses them comprehensively, including through our Drive for Democracy and Feminist Foreign Policy.

This is why we are happy to see a continued focus on empowering individuals to claim their human rights, on enabling governments to uphold their commitments, and on strengthening institutions to realise them, as well as on gender equality in the draft strategy that will be presented later in this meeting. SDG 16 as a precondition for the achievement of the entire Agenda is also fundamental for the work of IDLO.

The importance of the Global goals cannot be overestimated in the totality of IDLO's work. We highly value the unique mandate of IDLO, as an authority for the rule of law. Building up democratic institutions at local and national level, through a human rights-based approach, is absolute key for peaceful and inclusive societies, and for sustainable development.

Without a rules-based order we will not be able to achieve all that we have set out to do in the Agenda 2030. We encourage IDLO to continue strengthening its cooperation with other actors and focusing on its key strengths and added value, for strengthening respect for the rule of law globally, as well as building capacity to uphold it.

Thank you.

STATEMENT OF TURKEY

**MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2020
24 NOVEMBER 2020**

Esteemed Director-General,

Excellencies,

Distinguished participants,

It is a pleasure to participate in the meeting of the Assembly of Parties of IDLO, even though it is a virtual gathering due to the pandemic.

The pandemic, which created unprecedented challenges affecting all spheres of life, is also adversely affecting our mutual efforts towards creating a more just, more equal, more developed world where no one is left behind.

IDLO's programs in various regions, which are making substantial contributions to people's lives, have gained more significance during this critical period.

While rapidly adjusting itself to this "new normal", IDLO continued to support countries for ensuring rule of law by using digital technologies, organizing webinars and introducing e-justice tools to countries' justice systems.

IDLO also worked successfully towards the goals of supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged groups including women and girls who are disproportionately affected from the pandemic.

Esteemed participants,

It was an honor for Turkey to serve as a member of the "Standing Committee" for the last two years and we will remain in the "Audit and Finance Committee" until 2021.

We have deeply appreciated the cooperation amply demonstrated by the distinguished members of the committees and the worthy contributions of the Board of Advisors.

In this regard, I would like to recall that Turkish Ambassador Ertuğrul Apakan's 8 year long successful tenure at the Board of Advisors, is coming to an end this year.

While thanking Ambassador Apakan and all other distinguished Board members for their invaluable efforts, I also wish to announce that Turkey has nominated Ambassador Hasan Göğüş, a prominent Turkish diplomat with vast knowledge and experience in multilateral affairs for the membership of the Board.

Before concluding, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to Director General Jan Beagle, all the staff of IDLO and all member states and institutions for their efforts and contributions to IDLO. We will continue supporting IDLO for carrying out its lofty objectives.

Thank you.

STATEMENT OF UGANDA

MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2020

24 NOVEMBER 2020

The Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy,

The President of IDLO,

The Director General of IDLO,

The Heads of Delegation,

Distinguished Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to extend my appreciation to the Director General on the extensive report she has just presented. I would like in the same vein to congratulate her on what she has been able to accomplish and for steering the organization forward during her first year in office that has obviously been challenging with the Covid-19 pandemic. This virtual Assembly is a manifestation of the good strides and organization flexibilities in delivering on its mandate.

Uganda's relationship with IDLO started before we became one of its signed-up members.

We have been working with IDLO in improving provision of inclusive justice to all Ugandans with funding from the Government of Sweden, and Uganda is currently implementing the five-year Euro 15 Million Community Justice Programme (CJP). In spite of the fact that the roll-out of the CJP was affected by the delay in the conclusion of the Host Country Agreement and the COVID-19 pandemic, steady progress is being made in its implementation. As part of this roll-out, IDLO is the process of signing of the Cooperation Agreement with the Government of Uganda that will enable the provision of technical and financial assistance, amounting to about Euro 6.85 Million, through the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs (MOJCA) to support key state institutions within the Uganda Justice, Law and Order Sector (JLOS), in various areas aimed at strengthening the provision and access of justice to all categories of people of the Ugandan society. The list is long but we would like to register our gratitude to Sweden and IDLO for this assistance.

We continue to register our gratitude to IDLO because it has also since July 2020 been providing financial support under the Community Justice Programme to three non-state legal aid service providers, Uganda Law Society, International Association of Women Lawyers-Uganda Chapter and the Legal Aid Service Providers Network (LASPNET) to provide legal aid services in 11 districts across the country and also engage in legal aid-related policy reform processes. An additional 7 other civil society organisations are being assessed for similar sub-granting support under the CJP from the 1st quarter of 2021. IDLO has also since September 2020 been providing technical support to the National Association of Women Judges in Uganda (NAWJU) in strengthening capacities of women judges and other judicial officers to dispense gender responsive and sensitive justice and to strengthen overall participation of women in justice dispensation in Uganda.

As indicated report, only recently, as part of the global COVID-19 response, IDLO on 8 October 2020, hosted key East African justice actors in a regional webinar in which Uganda's, Director of Public Prosecutions and the President of Uganda Law Society participated and shared how they have ensured sustenance of justice services in the country following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. IDLO provided them with this platform in which they shared with other participants from the East African region how they have innovatively adopted the use of ICT in

enhancing access to justice during the lockdowns including e-filing of cases, audio-visual court proceedings, web-based legal aid tools and strengthened coordination among the justice actors. We are grateful for this intervention from IDLO for availing this support to state and non-state justice actors to respond to the evolving justice challenges brought about by the pandemic in Uganda.

Our relationship with IDLO is vibrant and growing from strength to strength. IDLO has in the past enabled Uganda to participate in the May 2019 Global Forum on SDG 16 ahead of the UN High-Level Political Forums (HLPFs) in Rome, Italy, in which the Government Chief Whip, the then Deputy Chief Justice (now the Chief Justice) formally represented Uganda.

IDLO is also currently developing the “Strengthening Food Security for Vulnerable Groups, Women and Girls as part of the Covid-19 Response” Project towards contributing to enhancing food security and access to food for vulnerable populations, women and girls in times of emergency response and recovery, including in the context of COVID-19. Future programming in such areas as protection of biodiversity including through strengthening of legal framework for land and natural resources management, shall also be explored in line with the new IDLO Global Strategy.

We remain committed to continue working with IDLO its endeavour to support Uganda in the implementation of the provision and access of justice to all her citizens.

I thank you for your attention

STATEMENT OF THE UNITED STATES
MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2020
24 NOVEMBER 2020

First, I would like to welcome the Director-General to her first Assembly of Parties. Director-General Beagle, the United States appreciates your leadership and strategic vision for IDLO. In particular, we applaud your demonstrated commitment to open dialogue with IDLO member parties, as well as your tireless promotion of the rule of law and access to justice as essential components for sustainable development and lasting peace.

I would also like to recognize today's high-level representation by member parties. I have first-hand experience of just how busy your schedules are: many of you are working to find solutions to reverse troubling trends in hunger and malnutrition; others oversee bilateral relations with our extremely dynamic host country; and some of you somehow manage to do both. Your presence here today reflects the fundamental truth that sustainable development and lasting peace depend on the rule of law, now more so than ever.

With respect to the DG's report, the United States commends IDLO on its adherence to its core principles of Inclusion, Integration, and Innovation during this year of unprecedented challenges. As the only intergovernmental organization exclusively dedicated to the rule of law as an enabler of peace, sustainable development, and human rights, IDLO is uniquely positioned to build judicial capacity in challenging operating environments. We commend IDLO for its rapid shift to today's realities through greater use of webinars, for example, and your success in utilizing technology to sustain a busy schedule of trainings and project oversight work. As a result, IDLO has managed to largely keep pace with its pre-pandemic objectives without compromising the safety and wellbeing of its staff and partners.

The United States welcomes IDLO's work to promote inclusive economic development. I cannot stress enough the importance of this work. All countries are facing immense popular pressure to accelerate their nation's economic recovery. Experience shows us, however, that this pressure can compel states to pursue shortcuts and/or fall victim to predatory loans and investments, undermining the prospects for economic growth and political stability for years to come. IDLO's capacity building and anti-corruption programs help level the economic playing field. Economic justice, at the individual and societal levels, is a non-negotiable requirement for sustainable, long-term economic growth.

Ultimately, the proof is in the pudding. The wide range of activities captured in the DG's report to this Assembly accurately captures IDLO's unique mandate and capabilities. Each of these areas – from increasing access to justice for vulnerable populations, to combating gender based violence, to improving justice sector effectiveness – urgently demands the world's attention.

We, IDLO's 37 member parties, also have our work cut out for us. We need to work together to promote IDLO's impact amongst policymakers in our capitals, and in the capitals of our neighbors and partners. We need to introduce IDLO to non-governmental organizations, including the large foundations and corporate social responsibility entities that could bolster IDLO's work with resources and expertise. We should all be encouraged by rapidly growing global demand for capacity building in the justice sector. We need to work together to enable IDLO to expand its impact to meet this demand, while also ensuring that IDLO's growth does not come at the expense of the organization's excellent communication with member states and sound oversight processes.

With that, the United States very much looks forward to today's Assembly of Parties meeting, including discussion of the Strategic Plan, Management Plan, and Budget; an update on progress made securing Host Country Agreements, which protect our collective investment in IDLO's work; 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.

**STRATEGIC PLAN & MANAGEMENT PLAN
DISCUSSION**

**IDLO
ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES MEETING 2020
24 NOVEMBER 2020**

STATEMENT OF ECUADOR

**MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2020
24 NOVEMBER 2020**

Señora Presidenta

Señores y señoras

Muchas gracias por la gran labor reflejada en su informe y en la construcción del Plan Estratégico 2021 – 2024, el cual pone de manifiesto las prioridades del mundo actual que, con la pandemia que vivimos en estos momentos, ha visibilizado aún más a los sectores más vulnerables de nuestras sociedades.

Es así como el imperio de la ley y su cumplimiento constituye una herramienta adecuada para cubrir esas necesidades y nos permite trabajar por un mundo más justo e igualitario. Temas como el acceso universal a la justicia, la adaptación al cambio climático, la revolución tecnológica y la equidad de género harán de nuestras sociedades conglomerados sociales más completos y adaptables a nuevas realidades y desafíos.

El hecho de centrar nuestro trabajo en las personas y en lograr alianzas estratégicas con todos los actores sociales hará que se devuelva la confianza en los estamentos gubernamentales a través de la transparencia y de la rendición de cuentas.

En este tema, el Ecuador ha trabajado frontalmente en contra de la corrupción y de la impunidad. Estamos orgullosos de los resultados de la aplicación objetiva de la justicia en casos emblemáticos que nos han devuelto la esperanza. Sabemos que no se trata de un trabajo finalizado y es por ello que requerimos siempre de la experiencia de IDLO en procesos como el acceso a la justicia mediante los llamados jueces de paz, por citar un ejemplo concreto. Hacemos votos por que la relación de cooperación técnica entre el Ecuador y el IDLO se fortalezca en este año que está por llegar.

Al mismo tiempo, y sobre la base de una equidad geográfica, esperamos recibir de los Estados miembros su decidido apoyo para la postulación del Ecuador para formar parte por dos años más del Comité Permanente de IDLO. Señores representantes, tengan la certeza de que nuestros esfuerzos y voluntad estarán siempre comprometidos con los objetivos comunes que compartimos en este foro.

Sin más por añadir, deseo que esta jornada que nos reúne sea positiva para todos y nos marque muchos desafíos para el futuro.

Muchas gracias.

STATEMENT OF ITALY

**MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2020
24 NOVEMBER 2020**

I would like to express our appreciation to all the efforts IDLO has made to go on with the development of the Strategic plan 2021-2024 and the Management Plan. Inclusion, integration and innovation are indeed crucial priorities of the Italian Foreign Policy too and we are absolutely on the same page.

The strategic plan clearly shows many IDLO's comparative advantages on the international arena.

Just to mention one, IDLO is supporting legal and institutional reforms and promoting good governance, working directly with local partners. Being a relatively small International Organization, with a very well structure in terms of effectiveness of its actions, IDLO has the necessary flexibility in order to design tailor-made solutions to all the issues it deals with.

In this context, we appreciate that IDLO is further strengthening its relations with strategic partners, such as relevant international and regional organizations and civil society organizations.

Finally, we appreciate that IDLO is prioritizing equality and inclusion by fighting discrimination and promoting fair laws, effective and accountable institutions and the empowerment of people. We believe that IDLO has a crucial and important role to play both on the RBAs level and in a broader UN perspective, and we appreciate all its efforts in this direction.

STATEMENT OF KUWAIT

**MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2020
24 NOVEMBER 2020**

Madame Chair, Director-General Beagle, Excellencies and distinguished representatives.

I thank management for these highly informative presentations on IDLO's new Strategic Plan 2021-2024, Management Plan 2021-2022 and Operating Budget 2021. Much appreciation and gratitude also goes out to IDLO's staff and the secretariate for their excellent work and dedication during these extraordinary times, and for their continues support.

As a member of the Standing Committee, this Chair followed closely the development of IDLO's new Strategic Plan, and we are aware that IDLO has also conducted very wide-ranging consultations as part of this process and we commend Madame Beagle and her staff for doing so.

Kuwait fully supports IDLO's new Strategic Plan, with its strong focus on people-centered justice and the promotion of the rule-of-law, and we strongly believe that it is an excellent roadmap to guide the organization during the coming four years.

We also appreciate IDLO's efforts in producing the first ever two-year Management Plan, which we were pleased to approve for transmission to the Assembly at the Standing Committee meeting on October 19.

We are pleased to see the continued focus on geographic diversification of programming, including a commitment to scale up IDLO's presence in the MENA region, through the development of a regional strategy and new programs.

We also express our full support for IDLO's Operating Budget 2021 which we believe reflects IDLO's cautious approach to programming, in light of the current global circumstances.

Kuwait Fund looks forward to continuing to work with IDLO in the coming years, as a program partner as well as an active member of the governance structure of this esteemed organisation.

Thank you

STATEMENT OF MOZAMBIQUE
MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2020
24 NOVEMBER 2020

Thank you, Mr. President, for giving me the floor to share some comments concerning the Strategic Plan 2021-2024.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend IDLO for coming up with a Strategic Plan that not only take in consideration achievements of previous strategic cycles but also identifies new areas and programs aimed to strengthen the centrality of IDLO as the main International Organization devoted to promoting the rule of law and sustainable development.

We note that the Draft Strategic Plan before us is aligned to IDLO vision of making justice and the rule of law most effective particularly in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Mozambique further appreciates the fact the Strategic Plan was developed out of an extensive consultation with various stakeholders, including Member Parties, International Organization, and many others.

Mr. President,

The new Strategic Plan with its people centred approach to human rights, rule of law, inclusive development and through innovative programs and objectives such as promotion of justice systems responsive to people needs, inclusive economic development, e-justice, climate justice and sustainable use of natural resources, access to health services will surely strengthen IDLO role as an Organization capable to lead the international efforts towards a peaceful, prosperous and inclusive future.

In conclusion Chairperson, we fill that the Strategic Plan is a well-designed strategy, which if executed well could be instrumental for the Organization but most importantly increase the role IDLO and its contribution to global efforts to sustain peace and achieve sustainable development in the context of 2030 Agenda.

With these comments, Mozambique endorses the Draft Strategic Plan 2021-2024.

STATEMENT OF THE NETHERLANDS
MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2020
24 NOVEMBER 2020

Thank you for having presented your Strategic Plan, Management Plan and Budget. We have also appreciated the extensive consultation process in compiling it.

There are many synergies between IDLO's Strategic Plan and our own Access to Justice Strategy. We welcome your people-centred focus in the Strategic Plan. We see many specific strengths that IDLO brings to the table, for example:

Your diverse membership

Your specialized mandate and strong expertise in a number of crucial areas, including for instance in health and the law (particularly important now in the context of Covid19), in gender, and in informal justice systems.

We know you are aiming to move away from a project-based organization to larger, longer-term programmes and engagement. A key step forward to accomplish this is to increasingly work on the basis of regional and country-specific overarching strategies, based on solid data, that can guide project development at country levels. As donors, we also carry a responsibility here. We should seek coherence and coordination in our initiatives and avoid operating in silos. Country strategies developed in consultation with host governments, justice stakeholders, communities, civil society and other international rule of law actors can facilitate this.

We welcome the enablers presented in your management plan.

Your focus on digitalization and innovation are important and we will be interested to collaborate on this.

Efforts to increasingly work through evidence-based approaches and with a focus on results and impact are welcomed. We consider this very important and look forward to working with you on this.

Partnerships are very important. We are encouraged by the increasing collaboration between IDLO and the UN, including the UN Peacebuilding Fund and there are other positive examples such as the collaboration between IDLO and UNDP in Somalia. However, there also still seem to exist obstacles to work closely together and it does not always succeed. We believe such cooperation should become the norm instead of the exception.

We would also encourage IDLO to continue to join forces with actors like Pathfinders, CIC, and the UN to keep drawing global attention to the need for political and financial commitments to SDG 16.

As the Netherlands, we are happy to engage in consultations with you to initiate an overarching strategic partnership, which can guide and include assistance at country levels. We look forward to working with you on this, as well as engage with other Member Parties and donors of IDLO.

STATEMENT OF PAKISTAN

**MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2020
24 NOVEMBER 2020**

Thank you Chair,

The strategic plan discussed here comprehensively charts out IDLO's goals and targets, along with a concrete plan of action. I notice that the plan builds upon organization's experience from strategy 2020, aligning IDLO's aims; not just with its core mission, but also with Sustainable Development Agenda 2030.

It is appreciable that IDLO has framed its three-year strategy taking into account core shared values; such as promoting rule of law, sustainability, human rights, gender equality, legal pluralism and inclusivity. The organization's focus on justice, capacity building and local ownership, with a people-centric approach, aimed at closing the justice gap -- so as to provide easy access to justice for all; especially to the most marginalized and vulnerable populations; is commendable.

It is evident that this strategy is a product of a broad-based consultative process; including input of member parties, governing bodies, governments, host country partners, international organizations, academia, media, employees and justice seekers.

I am particularly pleased to note that the Strategic Plan envisages renewed focus on creating a culture of justice, by strengthening institutions, building capacity and providing technical and legal support. The plan has been clearly prepared in light of the new challenges confronting the world -- in particular the ongoing pandemic -- and aims to address the widening justice gap, impact of climate change, technological advances, gender inequality and economic crises.

The strategy has set two main goals. First to work for justice systems more responsive to people's needs, and second to pursue sustainable development through promotion of rule of law. We believe this is very much in keeping with IDLO's mission to improve access to justice through institutional and legal reforms, that in turn empower justice seekers, especially those marginalized by gender, lack of resources, conflict and crises. It also aims to drive economic development, address climate change and cater to public health emergencies, by fostering and solidifying the legal and institutional frameworks.

IDLO has an impressive record in supporting institution building and legal reforms to strengthen rule of law and improve access to economic opportunity, despite political uncertainties and lack of political will in some instances. It is now expanding its horizon, taking on a larger role in re complex dynamics of sustainable development Its increasing collaboration with governments and international organizations in a wider range of areas; such as health, climate change, food security and economic development, reflects the success and significance of its vision.

While the broader role set out by IDLO for itself is praiseworthy, the road ahead would not be an easy one. As a result of the pandemic, we are now faced with growing inequality and deprivation to which no country or society is immune. Then there are the challenges posed by ongoing conflicts, natural disasters, impact of environmental degradation and lack of resources, that hinder access to justice to a significant proportion of the world's population. These marginalized segments have to be IDLO's real target area in the upcoming plan. And we agree with the management that now, more than ever, there is a need to invest in capacities and resources to move forward, so as not to squander all the hard work done in the past.

One area where I would invite particular attention is the need to combat corruption, lack of transparency and inadequate accountability. This is hurting the process of development and empowerment of vulnerable populations in many parts of the world in myriad ways. In Pakistan,

while we endeavour to root out this menace as per our Prime Minister's vision and agenda, so that precious national resources could be used for common good of the people -- rather than being monopolised by those who exploit their positions of power and influence -- we have come to understand how challenging the process is, and how wide ranging are the reforms required.

While we need to promote transparency and accountability at the national levels; we also need to foster greater international cooperation to ensure that any ill-gotten or unidentified wealth could not be parked overseas, or in any off shore havens beyond the reach of national authorities.

It is only by promoting rule of law, equal rights, economic opportunity & access to justice on the one hand, and combating corruption, lack of transparency, gender or resource based vulnerabilities and extremist ideologies, on the other, that we can truly promote democratic culture and sustainable development for the mankind.

We wish IDLO continued success in its great endeavour.

Thank you.

STATEMENT OF PERU

**MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2020
24 NOVEMBER 2020**

Gracias señora Presidenta,

Del Plan Estratégico 2021-2024, que se presenta hoy para debate y aprobación, el Perú destaca que los valores que rigen a la organización son importantes pilares para el desarrollo de su labor y felicita su coherencia con los objetivos y metas de la Agenda 2030, destacando que los dos objetivos y las seis metas estratégicas están interconectadas y poseen como elementos transversales fundamentales: la inclusión, la integración y la innovación.

En relación al objetivo estratégico 1, el Perú destaca el enfoque “ascendente” y “centrado en las personas” para apoyar a quienes demandan justicia, dotándolos de conocimientos y herramientas necesarios para acceder a los sistemas de justicia, principalmente los más vulnerables.

De igual manera, el Perú pone de relieve la labor que IDLO realiza en relación al acceso a la justicia de los usuarios de sistemas consuetudinarios. Ello tiene una importante connotación para el Perú, debido al aporte de la organización en el desarrollo de directrices referentes al acceso a la justicia y protocolos de atención y orientación legal con enfoque intercultural.

Por otro lado, el Perú resalta la importancia que la organización acompañe y apoye los procesos de reformas de los sistemas de justicia, como el que se encuentra desarrollando en mi país y que tiene entre sus objetivos facilitar el acceso a la justicia de todas las personas, modernizar los procesos judiciales y el sistema penitenciario, fortalecer las políticas anticorrupción, combatir la violencia de género y fortalecer la predictibilidad de las decisiones judiciales.

En relación al objetivo 2, el Perú considera valiosa la inclusión de la temática climática, de salud, seguridad alimentaria y desarrollo económico, que se trabajarán en el marco del mandato de la organización, e invita a la IDLO a que el desarrollo de estos temas sean abordados en colaboración con las agencias especializadas de las Naciones Unidas en las distintas materias.

Es innegable el abordaje prudente que presenta el Plan Estratégico, que ha sido adaptado a las restricciones operativas impuestas por la COVID-19, pero que a la vez permita contribuir a la respuesta mundial a este flagelo, mediante la revisión de sus procesos organizativos y el aumento de la capacidad para trabajar de una manera más eficiente, innovadora e integrada.

En ese sentido, el Perú destaca la prioridad hacia el enfoque basado en programas, con orientaciones innovativas y adaptadas al contexto país, así como el seguimiento y la evaluación de resultados y presentación de informes a la membresía.

El Perú siempre ha hecho hincapié en la necesidad de reforzar los sistemas de rendición de cuentas. En ese sentido, felicita a la organización por los logros alcanzados y alienta a fomentar un mejor empleo de las tecnologías de la información para asegurar la transparencia.

Finalmente, respecto a las asociaciones, el Perú reitera que son importantes las contribuciones tradicionales de los Estados miembros, pero coincide en la necesidad de fortalecer y ampliar la red de asociaciones para potenciar el impacto de las labores de la organización. En ese sentido, el Perú felicita las gestiones para diversificar y ampliar la base de recursos; y, alienta a adoptar un enfoque estratégico con las asociaciones y explorar nuevas modalidades de cooperación que sirvan a los propósitos del presente Plan.

Con estos comentarios, el Perú brinda su respaldo al Plan Estratégico 2021-2024

STATEMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2020
24 NOVEMBER 2020

Thank you, Mr. President.

The Philippines expresses its appreciation to Director General Jan Beagle for the comprehensive report that reflects what she and the institution have done for the past 10 months. Although there were challenges posed by the pandemic, IDLO carried out new ways of working to ensure mission continuity.

Despite these difficulties, the IDLO quickly reacted by mitigating the impact of the crisis on justice systems and justice seekers.

IDLO continued to conduct remotely legal assessments in countries, like the Philippines, in the implementation of IDLO's global strategy for the elimination of discriminatory laws, in collaboration with UN Women.

IDLO also continued to support the legal institutions to deliver essential services

In the Philippines, IDLO supported efforts of national justice institutions to adjust to online working modes, delivering several webinars on distant learning techniques and interactive web conferencing. IDLO had shifted its capacity-building support to the Prosecution Service and other partners to virtual platforms and remote learning.

The Philippines would like to thank the IDLO Director General, the Secretariat and the Standing Committee for the preparation of the Strategic Plan, the first biennial Management Plan and the Operating Budget.

We also would like to thank the President and the Vice-Presidents for their excellent work during their terms at IDLO. The Philippines will continue to support IDLO and its new presidency towards achieving the 2030 Agenda.

Let me take this opportunity to express our appreciation and gratitude to Parties led by the United States Department of State that have sponsored/financed projects in the Philippines

On the draft Strategic Plan, the Philippines welcomes the strong emphasis of the new strategic plan on gender equality and support for women and girls as well as the institutional strengthening and capacity building at country level.

We note that the new strategic plan has new work areas, particularly on climate change and health.

The Philippines specifically welcomes IDLO's plan to expand and diversify its initiatives in the Asia-Pacific through regional partners, including the ASEAN. As an ASEAN founding member, the Philippines is ready to support IDLO's engagements with ASEAN and its member states.

The Philippines welcomes IDLO's Management Plan 2020-2021, noting that 40% of its resources will be used for making laws and institutions work for people.

With this, the Philippines endorses the draft Strategic Plan 2021-2024, Management Plan 2020-2022 and the Operating Budget 2021.

Thank you

STATEMENT OF SENEGAL

**MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2020
24 NOVEMBER 2020**

Madame la Présidente,

Je fais cette déclaration au nom de Son Excellence Docteur Papa Abdoulaye SECK, Ambassadeur du Sénégal à Rome qui est empêché et vous présente ses excuses. Il avait bien voulu être là à cet instant mais a reçu un appel urgent de Dakar. Voici la déclaration.

Excellence Madame la Vice-Ministre,

Madame la Présidente de l'Assemblée des Parties,

Madame la Directrice générale,

Tout d'abord, je voudrais m'associer aux remerciements adressés au gouvernement italien pour son rôle déterminant dans l'organisation de cette session.

Madame la Présidente,

Je voudrais vous adresser mes vives félicitations pour le leadership et la compétence avec lesquels vous présidez la Commission permanente et notre Assemblée ainsi que pour tous vos efforts de coordination.

Je tiens aussi à saluer le travail colossal accompli par le Secrétariat de l'OIDD, qui nous permis de nous retrouver en ce moment en virtuel et de travailler ensemble sur des documents tous traduits a temps dans les langues de travail de l'Organisation.

J'aimerais enfin féliciter Madame la Directrice générale Jan Beagle pour son leadership et sa vision stratégique, dont découle le Plan stratégique 2021-2024, qui nous a été transmis et que nous allons adopter tout à l'heure. Je vous félicite également, Madame la Directrice générale, pour le rapport exhaustif, que vous venez de nous présenter.

Madame la Directrice générale, Mesdames Messieurs,

L'année 2020 aura été des plus dures au cours des dernières décennies tant la pandémie qu'elle vue naitre a frappé de plein fouet et continue d'impacter toutes les sociétés, avec des conséquences dramatiques non seulement sur le plan sanitaire mais aussi sur les plans social, économique, politique et humanitaire.

En ce qui concerne le mandat de l'OIDD, nous ne pouvons que constater, avec regret, les effets néfastes de la Covid-19 sur la capacité des systèmes judiciaires à fonctionner et remplir convenablement leurs missions.

Dans le même temps, cette crise a jeté une lumière singulière sur l'importance de renforcer ces systèmes judiciaires en les modernisant et en les rendant résilients et performants. Elle nous a réconfortés aussi dans notre conviction que le monde a plus que jamais besoin de l'OIDD. L'Organisation a, en effet, fait ses preuves dans la défense et promotion de l'Etat de droit, lui valant des prix et un partenariat croissant avec le Système des Nations Unies.

Le nouveau Plan stratégique 2021-2024, qui nous a été envoyé, me paraît parfaitement bien adapté à la situation. Les deux objectifs stratégiques qui le structurent et les cibles qui leurs sont associées ainsi que les quatre catalyseurs définissent de façon pertinente une orientation et un cap précis vers la réalisation de l'ODD-16. Je voudrais vous en féliciter, vous et vos équipes.

Je suis également heureux de pouvoir dire que le Plan stratégique et le Plan de Gestion 2021-2022, prennent également en compte les autres facteurs déterminants qu'il faut gérer, surtout en

Afrique, à savoir les conflits et les changements climatiques, qui minent les efforts de nos gouvernements dans tous les secteurs.

J'appuie donc pleinement son adoption et espère qu'il pourra être mis en œuvre sans délais.

Avant de terminer, j'aimerais dire un mot sur la structure organisationnelle de l'OIDD et souligner, pour m'en réjouir, la création au sein du Bureau de la Directrice générale, du Département des Relations externes et des Partenariats ainsi que de l'Unité Stratégie et Planification. C'est une retouche organisationnelle qui renforcera les capacités de mobilisation de ressources et de partenariats pour la mise en œuvre des plans et programmes stratégiques de l'Organisation.

Je conclue mon intervention ici, en vous renouvelant, Madame la Directrice générale, le soutien du Sénégal dans votre mission et celles de vos équipes. Comme vous le savez, le Sénégal est un pays soucieux de promouvoir le respect des droits de l'homme et de l'Etat de droit et l'OIDD est un outil adapté et crédible pour réaliser cette ambition. Nous sommes donc engagés à apporter notre collaboration partout où l'organisation en a besoin.

Je vous remercie de votre aimable écoute.

STATEMENT OF VIETNAM

**MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2020
24 NOVEMBER 2020**

Your Excellency Ms. Director-General,
Head of IDLO country members' delegations,
Distinguished Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Vietnamese Delegation, it is my great pleasure to attend the 2020 IDLO Assembly of Parties held by video conference for the first time ever. Please allow me to express my sincere appreciation to the Director-General and IDLO Secretariat for the efforts and supports have been made for IDLO Assembly of Parties happened as planned in the context of the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic is having several impacts and influences all over the world and to the everyday activities of countries and organizations.

We would like to share with the report of the Director-General and appreciate IDLO's operation results and achievements in this challenging year. Our organization has responded in a timely manner with the changes to maintain its operations as well as contribute to the global efforts to respond to the crisis arose by the Covid-19 pandemic, thereby continue upholding and asserting the role and importance of the rule of law and justice. Specifically, the organization has also launched the drafting of strategic plan 2021-2024 with 2 strategic goals and 06 strategic objectives in the next period.

We believe that with these concrete action plans, IDLO will continue to affirm the role of a leading organization in the rule of law, justice and development.

Your Honorable Madame Chair,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In 2020, in the context of the influence by the Covid-19 pandemic, Vietnam is making great efforts and striving with the spirit of proactive adaptation and innovation to overcome difficulties and challenges caused by the Covid-19 pandemic as well as impacts brought about by natural disasters and climate change.

As a result, up to now, Vietnam has both been able to basically control the Covid-19 and continue its protective and preventative measures and efforts to protect people's health and develop socio-economic, including timely support with disadvantaged and vulnerable groups in the pandemic.

We support the development directions of IDLO in the period 2021-2024 as well as the mission in 2021 that is reflected in the two strategic goals including: (1) Justice systems are more effective and responsive to people's needs and (2) Rule of law drives peace and sustainable development. Laws and institutions play important role in rule of law and justice. We agree with continued efforts to build and improve laws, institutions and judicial systems.

This system must become more effective, accessible, transparent, accountable and at the same time, be more innovative and creative to timely meet with the changes and fluctuations of the world.

As a developing country is affected by Covid-19 pandemic, we would like to propose IDLO to sharing information and provide any technical support Vietnam in the activities relating supporting institutions to deliver essential services, particular in increasing capacity of justice institutions.

With the spirit of innovation and proactive adaptation in the new context, Vietnam hopes to work closely with IDLO in the coming time to continue to exchange and share experiences in rule of law, ensuring the implementation towards justice, peace, protecting rights of women and children, saving the environment, creating opportunities for economic development and building safe and healthy lives for everyone.

Lastly, I wish our Assembly of Parties every success, and you all good health and happiness.

Thank you very much!

HOST COUNTRY AGREEMENTS

IDLO

ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES MEETING 2020

24 NOVEMBER 2020

STATEMENT OF BURKINA FASO

MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2020

24 NOVEMBER 2020

Merci Madame la Président de me donner la parole,

A la suite de la présentation du Conseiller juridique sur l'état de mise en oeuvre des accords avec les pays hôtes, je voudrais adresser à l'OIDD mes félicitations pour les efforts afin de parvenir à un cadre sécurisé de ses interventions.

Je me félicite de nouveau de la signature d'un accord de siège entre mon pays, le Burkina Faso, et l'OIDD le mois dernier. Malgré les difficultés de liées à la pandémie, grâce à une bonne volonté partagée, nous sommes parvenus à signer à distance cet accord.

Depuis cette signature, les échos qui nous parviennent de la capitale sont positifs. En effet, le processus de recrutement de l'équipe de l'OIDD qui doit mettre en oeuvre le Programme d'« Appui intégré aux systèmes de justice pénale au Sahel » est en cours. Nous sommes impatients de voir les résultats sur le terrain.

Le Burkina Faso soutient donc la résolution n°3/2020 sur les accords de pays hôte et encourage les Etats membres à faciliter la négociation et la signature d'accord de pays hôte.

Je vous remercie.