

**PROCEEDINGS**  
**Meeting of the Assembly of Parties**  
**November 6, 2014**

1. The Annual Meeting of the Assembly of Parties (the Assembly) of the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) was held at the “Sala della Protomoteca”, Rome City Hall, on November 6, 2014. In addition to representatives of IDLO Member Parties, representatives of 21 states, as well as representatives of the European Union, UNDESA, IFAD, DEVEX, and the Sovereign Order of Malta attended the meeting. [A list of representatives is attached as Annex A.]

**A. OPENING AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

2. Ambassador David Lane, the Permanent Representative of the United States to the UN Agencies in Rome, President of the Assembly, welcomed Member Party representatives, along with other representatives and distinguished guests to the Assembly.
3. The Agenda (AP/2014/1.2) [attached as Annex B] was adopted by consensus.
4. Ambassador Lane thanked the members of IDLO’s governing bodies and Director-General (DG) Irene Khan, as well as IDLO’s staff, for their work leading up to the Assembly. He expressed gratitude to the Municipality of the City of Rome for providing such a prestigious venue for the Assembly, and invited Mr. Franco Marino, Senior Vice-President of the Capitoline Assembly, to address the Assembly.
5. Mr. Marino welcomed the gathering and stated that it was an honor for the Municipality of Rome to host IDLO, praising the Organization for its extensive, effective work in developing and post-conflict countries, and noting Italy’s support for international cooperation and the rule of law.
6. In his opening address, Ambassador Lane recalled that the US’s term as IDLO President at IDLO would come to an end following elections at the current session of the Assembly. He

said that it had been an honor for the US to hold the position of President since March 2011, and for him personally to serve in that capacity since July 2012. Reviewing IDLO's achievements during this time, Ambassador Lane described IDLO's progress as "a success story with a positive trajectory". He noted that, under the leadership of DG Khan, IDLO was now working with more resources and staff in more places than ever before, and was set to benefit from an expanding international presence, including new offices in Geneva and The Hague, the latter thanks to the generosity of the Dutch government. This growth represented also a renewed affirmation of the relevance of IDLO's mission to a range of pressing development challenges and the post-2015 development agenda. Recalling that the US is IDLO's largest programmatic donor, Ambassador Lane noted that several IDLO flagship programs are funded by the US, including in Afghanistan and that the US had chosen IDLO to execute these programs because of its consistent record of providing top quality programs. Ambassador Lane reaffirmed the US's commitment to remain engaged and support IDLO programmatically and institutionally after its term as President comes to an end, and encouraged Member Parties and non-members to recognize the remarkable turnaround of the Organization and invest in its success. [The full statement of Ambassador Lane is attached as Annex C.]

7. H.E. Benedetto Della Vedova, Under Secretary of State at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, addressed the opening of this year's Assembly of Parties on behalf of the Italian government. Recalling that Italy is both IDLO's host country and a long-time supporter, he affirmed the advancement of the rule of law as a central element of Italian policy, and stressed that development is not only about economic growth but also about protecting the most vulnerable against violence and discrimination, and ensuring the well-being of those most at risk. He praised IDLO's Management Plan, which, he said, rightly focuses on legal empowerment, the rights of women and girls and access to justice, to advance the rule of law. He expressed his satisfaction that IDLO shared one of Italy's priorities for the post-2015 development agenda: the promotion of the rule of law as a universal principle. Welcoming governments' increasing support for IDLO, Mr. Della Vedova made a specific reference to Sweden's and Mexico's interest in the Organization. He concluded by thanking Ambassador Lane for his important contribution, including his effort to advocate for long-term flexible funding for the Organization. [H.E. Della Vedova's full statement is attached as Annex D.]

8. H.E. Peter Oganga Mangiti, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Devolution and Planning, Kenya, in his keynote address on behalf of his Cabinet Secretary, noted that a key lesson to be drawn from the evolution of the rule of law in his country was that gender equality and women's empowerment are fundamental to the promotion of development, and thanked IDLO and DANIDA for the strong technical assistance they have provided to the Government of Kenya in this regard. He recalled that a commitment to the advancement of the rights of women is reflected in Kenya's new Constitution, as well as in "Vision 2030", the blueprint for Kenya's ongoing development program, which recognizes the key role that gender equality plays in creating economic, social and political opportunities. In the same context, he referred to the progress made in 2014 towards the implementation of Kenya's National Policy on Gender-Based Violence. He further recalled that Kenya's new Constitution stipulates that a minimum of one third of parliamentarians should be women and that a significant proportion of women now serve as cabinet ministers. He concluded by assuring the Assembly that Kenya would continue to work in collaboration with civil society, development partners and citizens to advance its gender agenda. [H.E. Mangiti's full statement is attached as Annex E.]
  
9. H.E. Neila Chaabane Hammouda, Tunisia's Secretary of State for Women and Family, in her keynote address, praised IDLO's efforts to promote equality and justice through the rule of law. She highlighted the long-standing collaboration between Tunisia and IDLO, which, she said, continues to expand. She observed that the evolution of women's rights in Tunisia has been emblematic of overall change in society: while the new Constitution, adopted following the revolution, clearly supports the advancement of the rule of law, and while important measures for upholding women's rights – such as the ratification of major international instruments, including CEDAW - have been taken, there remains much to be done to narrow the gap between law and practice. On the positive side, she said that, while prior to the revolution it had been difficult for Tunisian women to have access to public life, 59 women were elected in the 2011 National Assembly elections, representing 27% of all available seats, with this figure growing by 3% in 2014. She advocated several steps to be taken to engender greater progress in practice for the advancement of women's rights and equality, including the revision of electoral laws and the elaboration of accompanying strategies to support the participation of women in political life, further measures to prevent violence against women, and the mainstreaming of gender policies across the spectrum of political, economic and social policy. [H.E. Hammouda's full statement is attached as Annex F.]

## **B. STATEMENT BY DIRECTOR-GENERAL AND REPORT ON IDLO'S ACTIVITIES IN 2014**

10. Director-General Irene Khan began her address with a video presentation of IDLO's work in 2014 (available at <http://www.idlo.int/news/videos/justice-development-and-everything-between>).
11. The DG stated that in 2014, the second year of implementation of the Strategic Plan (2013-2016), IDLO had made steady progress as evidenced by its impressive growth trajectory of programs, good financial health and recognition as a credible champion for the rule of law at both national and international levels. However, noting certain risks such as IDLO's heavy dependence on a small number of donors and a program portfolio concentrated on a few large projects in countries with fragile security, the DG acknowledged that there is no room for complacency.
12. The DG reported on progress made on the five Critical Strategic Initiatives (CSIs) – or priority outcomes – that she had submitted to the Assembly previously in the 2014 Management Plan.
13. In relation to the first Initiative of deepening and diversifying the portfolio, the DG explained that, recognizing the importance of its peace-building work, IDLO had deepened its involvement in Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan and Somalia. The DG underlined that growing insecurity was a major concern in Afghanistan, while, in South Sudan, the outbreak of conflict had caused significant setbacks to the operation, although the Organization had succeeded in keeping its Juba office open in spite of the forced retrenchment of operations following the suspension of donor funding. The DG added that, while deepening its engagement in geographic and thematic areas within the existing portfolio, IDLO has sought to diversify its work within the parameters of the Strategic Plan, expanding its programs on health law, access to justice, sustainable development and economic opportunity, and increasing its presence in West Africa and the Arab world, as well as Asia.
14. With regard to the Initiative on thought leadership and strategic partnerships, the DG affirmed that IDLO has demonstrated its added value by linking research to programming, and underpinning both with policy advocacy and cutting-edge communications. She noted

that the Organization actively participated in post-2015 development agenda discussions at the UN and that IDLO had strengthened relations with key partners in the UN system, especially UNDP, UNICEF, UNAIDS and WHO. The DG further noted that, through its Branch Office in The Hague, the Organization is developing closer relations with institutions based in the Netherlands, while its presence in Geneva has helped strengthen relations with the international organizations based in that city. She added that work on issues related to sustainable development, gender and food security has brought IDLO closer to the Rome-based agencies. Referring to the 2014 Kabul launch of IDLO's report on women's participation in the justice sector, the DG emphasized that IDLO is increasingly taking its voice to where its work is.

15. Addressing the Initiatives to improve programming and undertake organizational reform, the DG noted that the generous contribution of flexible funds from the Netherlands has enabled IDLO to strengthen its capacity and expertise and launch major improvements. The DG reported on the opening of a Branch Office in The Hague as a central repository of the Organization's research, learning, legal expertise and program development. Highlighting measures to improve the quality of IDLO's field operations, the DG mentioned that she had initiated IDLO's first-ever field office management assessment in Afghanistan earlier in 2014, and that the Organization is in the process of implementing the resulting recommendations. She also explained that IDLO is setting up a small regional office in Amman and plans to expand its office in Nairobi into a regional operations hub upon the finalization of a host country agreement with Kenya. The DG stated that the Organization's program development capacity and processes have been reinforced, an endeavor which is already beginning to bear fruit: to date in 2014 IDLO had signed new contracts worth 24 million euro, ensuring the Organization's programmatic survival into 2016. She added that IDLO's monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment capacity has also been strengthened. The DG noted that under the leadership of the new Chief Operating Officer (COO) a two-year comprehensive internal reform process to revamp IDLO's financial processes, human resources policies and information technology infrastructure has been started.
16. Noting that IDLO is also making progress in relation to the initiative to expand political and financial support, the DG thanked IDLO's partners, in particular Italy, the Netherlands and the US for their consistent support. She explained that program revenue has risen consistently over the past two years and is expected to be higher in 2014 than that recorded

for 2013, despite insecurity, political uncertainty and other such factors affecting some programs. The DG emphasized that the Organization expects to end the year with a balanced budget and a healthy surplus.

17. Emphasizing that the Organization's performance record, positive profile and readiness to reform has helped to put it in a strong position with emerging donors and partners, the DG pointed to some positive developments with regard to efforts to broaden IDLO's donor base: Sweden had just completed an organizational assessment of IDLO, and a visit by the DG to Bern to discuss partnerships had been confirmed. The DG urged all Member Parties to contribute financially to IDLO. She stressed that IDLO's pursuit of new partnerships and new members would be immensely strengthened by the message that IDLO's own Member Parties deem the Organization worthy of their investment.
18. The DG concluded her report by paying special tribute to Ambassador Lane for his guidance and leadership on behalf of the US Government as outgoing President of the Assembly. She also expressed gratitude to Nawaf al-Mahamel for his support on behalf of Kuwait as outgoing Vice-President of the Assembly. [The DG's full statement is attached as Annex G.]

## **C. GENERAL DEBATE ON THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE RULE OF LAW TO JUSTICE AND DEVELOPMENT**

### **(i) High-level panel discussion: Summary**

19. The General Debate was opened by a high-level panel discussion, titled "The Contribution of the Rule of Law to Justice and Development" and moderated by Giampaolo Cantini, Director-General for Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy. Participants included Neila Chaabane, Secretary of State for Women and Family, Tunisia; Oscar Urviola Hani, President of the Constitutional Court, Peru; Hans Correll, former Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and Legal Counsel of the United Nations, as well as a former Ambassador of Sweden; and Hassane Cisse, Global Practice Director, Governance and Inclusive Institutions, World Bank.
20. Reflecting the diversity of participants, the discussion covered national experience as well as international perspectives. Underlining the rule of law as key to sustainable development, participants discussed constitutional protection of fundamental rights and the separation of

powers, participatory democracy, empowerment of women, equitable distribution of the benefits of economic growth, and the role of local governments. [A full account of the panel discussion is attached as Annex H.]

**(ii) Statements by Member Parties and other delegations**

[Full statements are available online at: <http://www.idlo.int/assembly2014/statements>]

21. Afghanistan. The Ambassador congratulated Ambassador Lane for his leadership in representing the US as President, and praised the Director-General for her outstanding contribution to IDLO's successful promotion of the rule of law. Recalling monumental task facing Afghanistan as it sought to rebuild its judicial architecture after the fall of the Taliban regime, the Ambassador noted that the country has made significant progress in a very short period and IDLO's role in efforts to restore the rule of law and strengthen vital institutions has been crucial to this process. The Ambassador outlined IDLO's work in Kabul and across various provinces to build the capacity of key justice sector stakeholders within Afghanistan's Ministry of Justice and Judiciary, including the Supreme Court, and the Afghan Independent Bar Association. He particularly emphasized the importance of IDLO's support to advancing access to justice for Afghan women, addressing and preventing violence against women, and promoting women's participation in the justice sector. Emphasizing the commitment of the national unity government to the rule of law in Afghanistan, the Ambassador thanked those within IDLO who implement its work on the ground, often in difficult and dangerous circumstances.
  
22. Italy. The Italian Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN Agencies in Rome praised the quality of the panel discussion, and reiterated the priority that his country places on the rule of law as key to fostering peace, security and development, and as a central component of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Italy appreciated the crucial role of IDLO in advancing legislative reform, institution building, access to justice and innovation, and acknowledged the significant progress made by the Organization in the implementation of its Strategic Plan. Italy also appreciated IDLO's ongoing efforts to expand its partnerships, including in particular its enhanced and visible collaboration with UN agencies in Rome, Geneva and New York. Stressing the importance of unrestricted funding for IDLO's institutional development, the Ambassador recalled that Italy's unrestricted contribution had

doubled in the current year, and appealed to other potential donors to further strengthen their support to IDLO in this respect. He also referred to Yemen's impending IDLO membership status that built on IDLO's programs in the country supported by Italy. The Ambassador cited recent instances of very fruitful partnership between IDLO and Italy, including, among others, a project on freedom of religion or belief, as well as several high-level events. He added that Italy considers IDLO its privileged partner in the field of rule of law and development, and is committed to further reinforce ties between IDLO and Rome-based agencies, as well as with other international organizations based in Italy that work in the fields of justice and international law.

23. Sudan. The Representative of Sudan begun her intervention by commending IDLO and the efforts that the organization is deploying to transform the abstract concept of the rule of law into a real force for development, prosperity and the wellbeing of countries and peoples, and for empowering vulnerable sectors of the population particularly women and children. The rule of law – she added – is also important at the international level, as a positive framework to organize relations among countries. Highlighting Sudan's full commitment to the implementation of the rule of law "in daily life", and stressing the responsibility of governments to achieve the rule of law nationally, the Ambassador referred to her country's constant effort to review and uphold national laws and to ensure their consistence with international standards and conventions. In the same spirit, she said, Sudan worked to see to it that the United Nations' Charter and the principles it contains serve as basis for advancing the rule of law at all levels, and as a framework for international relations based on mutual understanding and respect for sovereignty with countries refraining from the use of force and from intervening in other countries' internal affairs. She stressed the need for IDLO's support to national capacity building programs by providing technical assistance, exchanging successful experiences, raising awareness in certain sectors, such as training police forces in the domain of human rights, and supporting constitutional reform. Finally, she called on the International Court of Justice (ICJ), as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, to avoid the politicization of international justice, and appealed to the international community to extend its support to the President of Sudan's call for an inclusive national dialogue currently in progress, putting pressure on non-signatory movements to join the peace process and lifting unilateral sanctions being imposed on Sudan that are setting back the country and handicapping its development.



24. El Salvador. The Ambassador of El Salvador stated that it was an honor to be a member IDLO. Illustrating serious human rights violations that his country needed support in addressing, the Ambassador referred to inhuman conditions faced by some migrant children. The struggle for the rule of law cannot neglect these children, he stressed. He concluded by calling for a major renewed effort to put an end to the trafficking of children.
25. China. The Representative of China congratulated IDLO on progress made in promoting the rule of law, as well as in advancing access to the rule of law for many people across various countries and areas. He praised IDLO's increasing presence in China, referring in this context to the positive contribution of the Organization's Special Envoy to China and to collaboration in areas of commercial and investment law. Recalling the decision to devote a plenary session of the 18th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China to the rule of law, the Representative stressed the growing significance of the issue in his country as a key element of domestic reform and development, and a tool to enhance China's international priorities.
26. Mozambique. The Ambassador of Mozambique expressed appreciation for IDLO's work and the leadership of the Director-General. She said that IDLO's activities in recent years and its innovative approaches had contributed significantly to placing the rule of law high on the international agenda. She added that Mozambique had benefitted from legal training by IDLO on land and forest management, capacity-building and awareness-raising initiatives, particularly in rural communities where illiteracy is still high and many are deprived of opportunities. The Ambassador called on Member Parties of the Organization to continue to play their part in strengthening the rule of law around the world.
27. Chair of IDLO's Board of Advisers. The Chair recalled the declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the rule of law at the national and international levels, which reaffirmed the rule of law as an indispensable foundation for a more peaceful, prosperous and just world. He noted that there is renewed impetus on the need for the effective promotion of the rule of law, particularly given the demand for greater accountability and justice driving major changes across the globe, including in particular the Middle East and North Africa. The Ambassador acknowledged IDLO's role as a thought leader and as a highly-specialized implementing organization, and its efforts to put the rule of law at the core of discussions regarding the post-2015 development agenda. In his capacity as Chair of IDLO's Board of Advisors, he thanked IDLO's President and the

Director-General for their strong support of the Board, and expressed the Board's pride in having contributed to significant IDLO research and advocacy work. He reaffirmed his personal commitment to supporting the mission and work objectives of IDLO.

28. Yemen. The Representative highlighted ongoing reforms of Yemen's judicial system, including measures to enhance judicial independence, and pointed to areas of Yemen's potential future collaboration with IDLO. He stressed the vital need for increased support from international and regional stakeholders in ensuring a positive outcome of Yemen's current transition period. Acknowledging the significant role played by IDLO in promoting the rule of law and good governance across the world, the Representative announced that the Republic of Yemen had recently taken the decision to become a full member of the Organization. He concluded by stating that he was looking forward to continuing and expanding cooperation between IDLO and Yemen in building the capacity of the country's judiciary.
  
29. Mexico. The Representative expressed her country's interest in further strengthening its working relationship with IDLO, which has evolved over the course of several years. She noted that the aims and activities of IDLO are consistent with Mexico's effort to strengthen its position as a global actor and promoter of a more just and sustainable international order. The Representative also referred to the challenges facing Mexico as it strives to implement structural reforms in the area of energy, telecommunications and broadcasting, finance, employment, and education. In particular, she emphasized the importance attached to reforms to bolster the protection of fundamental rights against arbitrary executive action, and to enhance the delivery of criminal justice throughout Mexico. These reforms, she said, highlight Mexico's commitment to the rule of law as a tool to strengthen institutions, promote economic development, and improve the life of its people. The Representative expressed Mexico's keen interest in benefiting from the expertise and experience of IDLO, and in sharing its own experiences and lessons learned with Member Parties, all with a view to supporting the rule of law as a core element of global development.
  
30. Pakistan. The Ambassador of Pakistan emphasized the growing recognition of the rule of law as a central element of development, as evidenced from the inclusion of the rule of law in Goal 16 of the SDGs. She outlined measures within Pakistan to consolidate the rule of law, including steps to facilitate access to justice and increase its affordability, and the

introduction and implementation of new legislation to fight corruption. The Ambassador also referred to amendments to laws adopted by Parliament to strengthen women's rights. In this as in other areas, IDLO's advice, given the Organization's wealth of experience, would be most welcome, she said. The Ambassador recalled that her country had already benefited in the past from IDLO's capacity development activities, and that IDLO alumni were now making a contribution to the development of Pakistan's legal system. Mentioning steps taken by her government on the issue of membership of IDLO, she expressed confidence that Pakistan would be able to participate in the 2015 Assembly as a Member Party.

31. Sweden. The Representative concurred that IDLO is on a "positive trajectory". He mentioned that a review of IDLO's internal controls system had been undertaken by Ernst and Young at the behest of the Government of Sweden. The ensuing report contained recommendations, all of which, the Representative noted, had been acknowledged and, to a large extent, implemented by IDLO. Following a joint mission of officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) to Rome, the Representative confirmed Sweden's confidence in IDLO as an important global actor in the field of rule of law. With the assessment in its final stage, the Representative announced that Sweden intends to enter into a multi-year agreement, starting in 2015 that would entail unrestricted funding, which would in turn release Dutch matching funds. The Representative expressed hope that Sweden's move would inspire other donors to follow suit.

#### **D. SIGNING OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN IDLO AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF PERU**

32. DG Irene Khan and Dr. Oscar Urviola Hani, President of the Constitutional Court, Peru signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between IDLO and the Constitutional Court of Peru.
33. In his remarks, Dr. Hani said that the MoU would be instrumental in helping the two parties to work together to strengthen the rule of law. Referring to shared goals, and calling for a renewed impetus in transforming the utopian spirit of the Constitution of Peru into a reality, Dr. Hani said the Peruvian Constitutional Court would be bolstered by its partnership with IDLO.

## **E. IDLO'S MANAGEMENT PLAN AND BUDGET FOR 2015 (AP/2014/2.1)**

### **i) Presentations by the Director-General and Chief Operating Officer**

34. The DG introduced the key features of the proposed 2015 Management Plan (AP/2014/2.1) [The PowerPoint presentation is attached as Annex I].
35. IDLO's Chief Operating Officer elaborated on some of the key elements of the 2015 Proposed Budget. The Budget presentation, as shown in Annex J, highlighted the 2015 revenue and expenses, as well as the 2015 net operating surplus of Euros 500,000.

### **ii) Discussion by Member Parties**

36. The Representative of the Netherlands congratulated the DG and her staff on the 2015 Management Plan. Referring to IDLO's goal to achieve a more balanced portfolio, he advised that, in diversifying the portfolio, care should be taken to avoid duplication of work with other organizations. He specifically referred in this context to activities in the field of human rights and biodiversity. The Representative further expressed satisfaction with the focus placed in the Plan on partnerships, but suggested that IDLO should also look beyond the UN system in this regard. The Representative sought clarification on the concept of self-funded projects.
37. The Representative of France congratulated IDLO for its efforts to concentrate its work in areas where it has a clear comparative advantage, adding that his country would like to see IDLO further expand the geographic scope of its program portfolio. A focus on quality, he noted, should be the main consideration to guide the further development of the portfolio. He also agreed with the previous speaker regarding the desirability of strengthening partnerships not only within but also outside the UN family. He further stressed the importance for IDLO to ensure full transparency in its management. He urged the Organization to focus its attention on proposed Goal 16 of the SDGs.
38. Responding to the points raised, the DG agreed that this was indeed the right time for IDLO to recalibrate the portfolio, focusing on quality. On the issue of IDLO's proposed activities in the area of human rights, the DG noted that IDLO was sensitive to the need to avoid duplication and the intention was to enhance collaboration with OHCHR, as well as to

strengthen IDLO's work on access to justice with a strong human rights underpinning to ensure greater effectiveness. With regard to biodiversity, the DG acknowledged that IDLO's comparative advantage in this area required further examination, and indicated that the Secretariat was planning to carry out a specific review of this area of work in 2015. Regarding the prospect of self-funded programs, the DG mentioned it would require further elaboration in 2015, and would draw on the lessons learned from the Opportunity Review Committee and other program development processes in IDLO and elsewhere.

39. Turning to France's observation regarding the SDGs, the DG confirmed that IDLO is participating very actively in the post-2015 debate in New York, using its programmatic experience to demonstrate the practical relevance of the rule of law to the development agenda. Referring to IDLO's major report on the topic, "Doing Justice to Sustainable Development", the DG said that the Organization would be justified in taking some credit for the consensus-building process that has resulted in the inclusion of SDG 16 - the proposed goal that includes the rule of law and access to justice – among the SDGs recommended to the General Assembly by its Open Working Group (OWG). She added that IDLO would pursue actively its advocacy effort in the year ahead, which she hoped would lead to the adoption by the General Assembly of a truly transformative development agenda for the post-2015 period rooted in human rights and the rule of law.
40. Noting that delegates had been provided for the first time with a detailed list of outputs achieved under the 2014 Management Plan, the DG assured the Assembly of her personal commitment to enhance transparency and strengthen accountability. [Please see Annex K.]
41. The OFID Representative commented that the objective of achieving a balanced program portfolio to address the risks inherent in the current programming portfolio focused mainly on post-conflict countries, should not prejudice the response of the Organization to needs where they are most pressing.
42. The DG responded that, in seeking a more diversified portfolio, care would be taken that the process continues to be guided by responsiveness to needs across the areas where the Organization has a clear comparative advantage. Reverting to the issue of partnerships, which had been raised earlier, she said that IDLO was indeed already partnering with several non-UN bilateral and multilateral agencies, and cited as an example growing cooperation

with the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) on policy advocacy.

**iii) Adoption of resolution on IDLO's Management Plan and Budget for 2015 (AP/2014/2.2R)**

43. The Assembly adopted by consensus Resolution No. 1/2014 (AP/2014/2.2R) [attached as Annex L], approving the IDLO Management Plan and Budget for 2015 [attached as Annex M].

**F. REPORTS OF THE GOVERNING BODIES**

**(i) Report of the Standing Committee (AP/2014/3.1R)**

44. The Report of the Standing Committee (AP/2014/3.1R) [attached as Annex N] was presented by Mr. Nawaf al-Mahamel, representative of Kuwait, Vice President of the Assembly. He thanked IDLO governing bodies and Standing Committee members for their work in 2014 and presented the highlights of the Committee's activities during the year. He noted that the DG and IDLO's senior management team had provided the Committee with regular updates on IDLO's program implementation, financial developments and new initiatives in the pipeline, as well as reports on specific management issues. Ambassador Ghisi, representative of Italy also Vice President of the Assembly, commended IDLO for implementing quality programs at a higher rate than in the previous year and for its judicious use of available resources, while initiating new and promising resource mobilization efforts. He concluded by saying that 2014 has been another year of growth and strengthening for IDLO, and that the Standing Committee was confident in the Organization's ability to succeed in realizing the institutional vision set out in the Strategic Plan.

**(ii) Report of the Audit and Finance Committee (AP/2014/3.2R)**

45. Mr. Lex van der Hoeven, Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee (AFC), stated that he would welcome questions based on the Report (AP/2014/3.2R) [attached as Annex O], being submitted by the Committee to the Assembly. He informed the Assembly that the Committee

planned to focus in 2015 on organizational processes and mechanisms and on output-based budgeting. He took the opportunity to thank Committee members for their active participation during the current year.

46. The Representative of the Netherlands, in its capacity as Ad Hoc member of the Standing Committee, acknowledged the gains made to lower overheads and asked whether steps were being considered to further reduce this figure.
47. The AFC Chair responded by assuring the Assembly that the AFC and the Secretariat were working together to develop a revised methodology for cost and overhead recovery, as part of the move to Output-based Planning, Budgeting and Performance Reporting to be developed as part of the 2015-2016 Continuous Improvement Plan. This intention was confirmed by IDLO's COO.

## **G. GOVERNING BODY ELECTIONS AND ADOPTION OF RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS**

### **(i) Election of the President and Vice-President**

48. To avoid a conflict of interest, Ambassador Lane invited Ambassador Ghisi in his capacity as the ex officio Vice-President, to chair this part of the proceedings.
49. Ambassador Ghisi, recalling that the terms of the President and Vice-President were coming to an end, expressed appreciation to both incumbents for the excellent work they had accomplished. He added that both had contributed greatly to the revival of the Organization. He announced that, in response to an invitation by the Secretariat soliciting candidature for the posts, Kuwait had now put forward its candidacy for the post of President, and the US for that of Vice-President.
50. Ambassador Ghisi proceeded to call for other candidates and, in their absence, Kuwait was elected by consensus to the post of President and the US to the post of Vice-President, each for a three-year term.

51. Mr. Nawaf al-Mahamel told the Assembly it was a great honor for his country to contribute as President to the work of IDLO. He recalled that he and his country had been actively engaged in the Organization since its creation in 1983, and reaffirmed his belief in the causes underlying IDLO's mandate and in the Organization's capacity to advance them. He noted that the current focus of the international discourse on the post-2015 development agenda and on the central role of the rule of law in achieving the SDGs made IDLO's mandate and programs more relevant than ever before. He encouraged states that were represented at the Assembly, but were not as yet Member Parties, to pursue actively IDLO membership and thanked all for the trust bestowed on Kuwait.
52. Ambassador Lane highlighted the strong commitment of the US to IDLO which had prompted its readiness to serve the Organization as the Assembly's Vice- President in the next term. He added that he looked forward to engaging personally with IDLO in that new capacity as long as he was posted in Rome. He expressed the hope that, in future elections, more Member Parties would come forward to serve in the Presidency of the Assembly.
53. Ambassador Ghisi agreed with the sentiments expressed by Ambassador Lane and told the Assembly that he looked forward to enhanced interaction among Member Parties in the governance of the Organization.

**(ii) Election of one *ad hoc* member of the Standing Committee**

54. Resuming the role of representative of the President of this Assembly, Ambassador Lane announced that as the term of Peru, which had served very ably, was coming to an end, the Secretariat had solicited interest from other Member Parties to fill the position of *ad hoc* member of the Standing Committee, and that Mozambique had come forward. In the absence of other candidates, the Assembly elected Mozambique by consensus. Ambassador Lane welcomed Mozambique to the new role.

**(iii) Election of members of the Audit and Finance Committee**

55. Ambassador Lane announced that three of the five current members of the AFC (the Netherlands, China and Kenya) had expressed interest in renewing membership. He asked for expressions of interest for the two remaining positions and announced a brief break in the



proceedings to enable Member Parties to consult on the matter. Following the break, Ambassador Lane announced that France and Romania had indicated their willingness to put forward their candidacy. All five candidates were then elected by consensus. Ambassador Lane congratulated all elected members.

#### **(iv) Election of the Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee**

56. Ambassador Lane announced that the sitting AFC Chair, the Netherlands, represented by Mr. van der Hoeven, was willing to continue in the post. The Netherlands was elected by consensus to continue in its role as Chair of the AFC.

#### **(v) Adoption of resolutions (AP/2014/4R)**

57. Resolutions No.2/2014 on the “Elections of the President and the Vice-President of the Assembly of Parties”, No. 3/2014 on the “Election of the Ad Hoc Member of the Standing Committee”, and No.4/2014 on the “Election of the Members and Chairman of the Audit and Finance Committee of the Assembly of Parties” [attached as Annex P] were adopted by consensus, in accordance with the election results.

### **H. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

58. Ambassador Lane drew the attention of the Assembly to draft Resolution No. 5/2014 (attached as Annex Q), which called for acceptance of Yemen’s accession to the Assembly of Parties. The Assembly adopted by consensus the resolution and Ambassador Lane announced that Yemen would become the 28<sup>th</sup> Member Party, following its ratification and deposition of the country’s instrument of accession.

59. The DG asked for the floor. She said she knew she was speaking on behalf of all IDLO, Member Parties as well as staff, to express deep appreciation and admiration to Ambassador Lane for his inspiring leadership and commitment to IDLO. Ambassador Lane, she remarked, had come to Rome as the “food ambassador” but had soon become the “food *and* law ambassador”. The DG presented Ambassador Lane with a Certificate of Appreciation, noting that IDLO and the wider rule of law community were greatly indebted to him for his strong advocacy and commitment to the inseparable causes of justice and development.

## **I. CLOSURE**

60. Ambassador Lane announced that the IDLO Secretariat would prepare a Summary of Proceedings and decisions to be distributed to all Member Parties.
61. Ambassador Lane suggested that the date for next year's meeting, which ought to be held in the final quarter of 2015, would be finalized following consultation via email.
62. Ambassador Lane brought the Assembly to a close by congratulating the new President and the new members of the governing bodies, and by thanking the DG, staff and all Member Parties and others who had contributed to such a constructive session.