

STATEMENTS

WELCOME ADDRESS BY VICE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF ITALY H.E. MARINA SERENI

Mister President, Ambassador Jauhar Saleem,

Madame Director General, Jan Beagle,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to open IDLO's Assembly of Parties and to welcome you all back to an "in person" meeting here at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, after another challenging year for all of us. Although the pandemic is not yet over, this event can surely symbolize our desire to work again, together, for a sustainable recovery.

The rule of law is now more essential than ever, as the effectiveness of government measures to "Build Back Better" depends on the capacity of public institutions to provide transparent, effective, and accountable policy and actions. It 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. A just and inclusive society based on the rule of law allows the poor, the marginalized and other vulnerable groups to access essential public services like justice, health and education.

Protecting and promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms has always been at the heart of Italy's policy and action, both at the national and international level, and Italy strongly believes that Sustainable Development, as an enabler of peace, justice and inclusion, can help promote stronger institutions, more successful government action and reduce inequalities.

In this regard, the values and principles expressed by SDG16, which we consistently promote in our external action in the development field, become crucial to overcome the ongoing crisis and ensure a just, equitable and sustainable recovery for all.

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

Italy has also undertaken – for the eighth time in 21 years - the Presidency of the Council of Europe with the goal of strengthening human rights, common values and build a people-centered future, in line with the SDG 16.

In these contexts, and 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.

For these reasons, we believe IDLO's role can be of uttermost importance, 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.

Italy supports IDLO and its activities. IDLO's increasing visibility consolidates the international relevance of the Organization in implementing the 2030 Agenda and specifically SDG16: promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

We also support IDLO's efforts to enhance justice for women and girls, to support access to justice despite ongoing restrictions on mobility and to improve efficiency and transparency in the administration of justice in partner countries. In this context, I would also express our appreciation for the Director General's participation and contribution in the G20 Ministerial Conference on Women's Empowerment's framework, during the G20 event held in Santa Margherita Ligure.

We are pleased with the Covid-19 response IDLO has provided, in partnership with FAO, with projects 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.

This also runs in parallel with IDLO's efforts to enhance justice for women and girls, by supporting access to justice to overcome ongoing restrictions on mobility and improve efficiency and transparency in the administration of justice in Countries like Kenya, Somalia, Tunisia.

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 also 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. This is why we have invited IDLO to attend the G20 Anti-corruption Working Group during our presidency, which has only recently ended.

I am confident that we will continue to have a fruitful cooperation, and wish you all for a productive debate.

Thank you.

PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT

H.E. Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italian Republic, Director-General IDLO, Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Pakistan is proud to preside the IDLO during one of the most demanding periods of its existence. Despite the monumental challenges, IDLO has delivered on its mandate, benefiting from the services of an able and dynamic Director General.

- 2. The year 2021 witnessed an enhanced footprint of IDLO at the international fora in the UN General Assembly, Food Systems Pre-Summit and Summit, Human Rights Council, G20 meeting and COP-26. The convening of SDG16 Conference was another accomplishment which strengthened IDLO's standing as a world leader in the field of rule of law and access to justice.
- 3. I am pleased to note that there is a growing acceptance of the importance of IDLO's work in the areas of legal governance; digital innovation; mainstreaming the discourse on upholding the rule of law; responding to legal challenges exacerbated by the Covid-19 Pandemic; rights based economic development; climate justice; food security and combatting corruption.
- 4. I am also encouraged by the fact that IDLO is now one of the leading international organizations to achieve gender parity in senior leadership with women constituting 50% of the SLT.
- 5. These are important milestones which should inspire us to do even better.
- 6. Transparency, efficiency, result-oriented management, and accountability are the defining principles of IDLO's organizational structure. The development of Strategic Results and Resources Framework (SRRF) to translate the Strategic Plan into result-oriented reality; and the ongoing work on the development of a new Human Resource Model would further enhance its productivity.
- 7. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the important contribution rendered by the Standing Committee in providing a dedicated oversight and leadership on behalf of the Member States, for an effective and efficient implementation of IDLO's Strategic Plan, Management Plan, and towards an optimal utilization of the operational budget. I would also like to recognize the first-rate financial oversight ensured by the Audit and Finance Committee.
- 8. As IDLO's profile and scope of work grows, the role of its governance committees becomes even more important in ensuring that the Organization effectively delivers on its mandate. I thank fellow members of the Standing Committee; the US, Italy, Kuwait, Philippines, Ecuador and Senegal for their invaluable support. I would also like to thank the Audit and Finance Committee members: China, Kenya, Kuwait, Senegal, Turkey and the US, ably spearheaded by Italy for their support in ensuring compliance with international standards and best practices.

- 9. Let me also commend the Director-General for her commitment, initiative and outreach that have greatly contributed to the inclusion of rule of law, legal governance, and rights-based development in the global policy discourse. I am also appreciative of her endeavors to make the Organization more transparent and accountable to Members States. I am happy to note that the DG attended all three meetings of the Standing Committee during the year, and adequately responded to Member state's queries and comments regarding thematic, programmatic, and operational domains of the Organization.
- 10. I would also like to convey my gratitude to all other member countries for their continued and consistent support and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy for the excellent cooperation.

Ladies & Gentlemen

- 11. The world is still grappling with the tragedy, uncertainty and financial challenges caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic and the inequalities it has exacerbated for the justice seekers. The challenges for the justice systems are to deliver on the needs of the people; especially, women, children, and vulnerable segments of the population. The path forward lies in finding solutions in people-centered justice systems, and through empowerment of the least powerful and the most vulnerable. This august assembly provides us with an opportunity to set the discourse for achieving these common goals; and renew our resolve to strive together for a future where rule of law prevails, justice is provided universally, and fruits of rights-based, and exploitation-free development are available to all. For that, it is of utmost importance that we help create societies free of corruption and combat illegal flows of stolen wealth to places or havens, far away from where it belongs and is most needed.
- 12. Working together we can make a difference. And I trust we will.

I thank you all.

STATEMENT OF AFGHANISTAN

Mr. President,
Director General Jan Beagle,
Distinguished Members of the IDLO Assembly of Parties,
Ladies, and Gentlemen,

Good morning to you all.

It is a great pleasure for me to attend the Annual Meeting of the Assembly of Parties.

As you may be all aware, for the last 15 years IDLO assisted the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to develop accessible and efficient justice sector institutions. Starting in 2011, I personally witnessed IDLO's assistance to the Attorney General's Office to establish and operationalize the *Elimination of Violence against Women Directorate*. In 2021, IDLO also began to assist the Ministry of Women's Affairs to develop guidelines on processing and reporting *Gender-Based Violence (GBV)* cases to relevant authorities as well as standard operating procedures to guide the Ministry's coordination with GBV service providers.

IDLO's training of Afghan public defenders, empowering of the poor to seek legal aid, and helping build legal resources in most of the country's provinces was of paramount importance. Additionally, IDLO's development of legal textbooks, reconstitution of an entire pre-war body of lost laws, and contribution to the establishment of a law library at the University of Kabul benefited thousands of Afghan judges, prosecutors, defense lawyers, MPs, civil servants, diplomats, and academics.

While 24 projects were successfully implemented by IDLO in Afghanistan, currently 3 projects are suspended namely: 1. Reducing the Impact of Insecurity on Afghanistan's Legal System (RIIALS); 2. Transferring Professional Development Capacity (TPDC); and 3. Supporting Access to Justice in Afghanistan (SAJA). These three projects center on ensuring the safety and security of justice workers; facilitating professional development in the legal sector; and countering gender-based violence and supporting survivors.

With the Taliban continuing to hold power in Afghanistan, uncertainty regarding the extent of bureaucratic impediments that may change due to nonfunctionally of various ministries and permanent closure of the Ministry of Women Affairs and the abolishment of Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) will make the implementation and monitoring of IDLO's projects problematic. Though the Taliban have announced new caretaker ministers and have called for the resumption of activities and reportedly produced operational guidelines for NGOs and organizations, these theoretical guidelines and assurances have not been implemented by their local and decentralized administration.

Mr. President, Director General Beagle, Distinguished Guests,

Though gender equality has been an important feature of Afghanistan's State Constitution, unfortunately now that it has been replaced by Taliban's radical Sharia Law, this denies Afghan women of their rightful place in society by depriving them of equal access to education, employment, justice, or livelihood. Furthermore, this means that it is

going to rob Afghan society of the talent and potential of half of its members and dictate their submission to male relatives, or limits what they may own or inherit.

As it relates to addressing these issues and concerns, we have 3 ENGAGEMENT options with the Taliban:

- 1. Engagement based on "Wait and See Approach".
- 2. Engagement based on "The Taliban's Own Terms and Condition".
- 3. Engagement based on our "Own Unified Terms and Conditions".

In our view, thought engagement is must with the Taliban, but the only pragmatic and viable engagement option with the Taliban, should be based on our "Own Terms and Conditions". The Taliban must understand that a justice sector without the presence of women and without the guarantee for their safety and security, is unacceptable. The Taliban must understand that a society were women, minorities and the poor segment of society cannot seek legal aid, is unacceptable. The Taliban must understand that in a regime were women cannot pursue their education and higher education is unacceptable.

Therefore, we propose that all the International Organizations including IDLO that we must define and be concise and clear about our own Terms and Conditions of engagement with the Taliban.

Let me take this opportunity to express the people and IRoA's appreciation to IDLO for their continued assistance, efforts and sacrifices they have rendered especially during the COVID19 by reducing the justice gap for women and girls through the promotion of gender-responsive legal, regulatory and policy frameworks. Additionally, we thank IDLO for their commitment by supporting the most vulnerable population by proposing a "Humanitarian Plus" approach designed to contribute broader humanitarian and development outcomes by supporting the Afghan people in accessing justice and assuring their rights and we welcome their call for a dedicated Crisis Management.

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan will remain affirm in providing full support and assistance to IDLO to accomplish their extremely important life-saving mission in Afghanistan and we recommend that IDLO to stay engaged and supportive of the Afghans, especially women, girls, and minorities in Afghanistan.

Thank you,

STATEMENT OF CHINA

Your Excellency Ambassador Jauhar Saleem, President of the Assembly, Your Excellency Vice Minister Marina Sereni, Distinguished Director-General Jan Beagle, Dear Colleagues,

It gives me great pleasure to attend IDLO's 2021 annual meeting of the Assembly of the Parties. My sincere thanks go to President Saleem, DG Beagle, and the many people who have contributed to making this meeting possible.

The Year 2021 has seen a devoted IDLO working tirelessly to tackle the pandemic, foster green and sustainable development, improve social justice, promote international rule of law. China speaks highly of IDLO's crucial expertise in all these areas. DG Beagle has done a remarkable job in optimizing IDLO's internal management, advancing legal projects, and building people's trust in the rule of law. China highly comments her efforts and her staff.

China values its long-standing engagement and cooperation with IDLO. In October 2020, the two parties signed a new MoU for JPO programs, under which China sent its first JPO to IDLO this April to assist with IDLO's projects in the LDCs, strengthen their legal capacity building and implement the UN 2030 Agenda. Two weeks ago, DG Beagle made an excellent vidual presentation at the "Green Development and Global Trade under Climate Change" session of the Fourth Hongqiao International Economic Forum held in Shanghai. China is embarking on an eco-friendly way of life and pursuing green, low-carbon and circular development, and stands ready to take stronger and effective actions with all parties to address the challenge of climate change.

As DG Beagle highlighted earlier, the ongoing pandemic is compounded by parallel crises of weak economic recovery, severe climate change and fragile legal governance. IDLO is facing mounting pressure in strengthening member parties' legal capacity to tackle the pandemic, address climate change, end violence, fight corruption, narrow gender inequality, and promote sustainable development and advance the rule of law. Let me stress IDLO can always count on China's consistent and steady support in your efforts. As President Xi Jinping recently pointed out, only with more inclusive global governance, more effective multilateral mechanisms and more active regional cooperation, can the various challenges and global issues facing humanity be addressed effectively.

In conclusion, China will continue to work with IDLO and member parties to champion the rule of law, translate commitments into actions, advance sustainable development and help build more peaceful, inclusive, resilient and people-centred societies.

Thank you for your patience.

STATEMENT OF ECUADOR

Agradecemos tanto a IDLO como al Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores de Italia por la organización de este evento y agradecemos el magnífico reporte presentado por la Directora General.

Mi país considera al Estado de Derecho como una norma de convivencia que nos permita luchar contra un enemigo común que es la corrupción.

Nuestra prioridad hoy es el fortalecimiento institucional, particularmente en las áreas vinculadas con la administración de justicia.

Nos encontramos en proceso de asegurar que ese conjunto de normas y actitudes que conforman el Estado de Derecho se transforme en beneficios concretos para la sociedad y las personas.

Consideramos indispensable la necesidad de mantener un adecuado balance entre el desarrollo económico, la protección del ambiente, y una mejor calidad de vida para la sociedad.

En este sentido, consideramos que la transparencia en el manejo de los recursos públicos se ha convertido en un requisito indispensable para la paz social.

La corrupción destruye la convivencia pacífica de las sociedades, impide el desarrollo de los países y provoca desconfianza en las instituciones, por eso la lucha contra la corrupción se ha convertido en un objetivo prioritario del Gobierno del Ecuador.

Estamos conscientes del vínculo que existe entre el mal uso de la tecnología como una forma de corrupción y procuramos adoptar normas para enfrentar este nuevo desafío.

La lucha contra la violencia de genero constituye un requisito indispensable para la estabilidad social y el fortalecimiento de la institucionalidad y la democracia.

La noción de justicia climática debe contribuir a producir normas adecuadas, y también para reconocer las responsabilidades que le competen a cada país y que no son las mismas para todos.

Estamos comprometidos con el ODS 16, para transformar la gobernanza para un futuro más pacífico, justo e inclusivo.

Reiteramos nuestra plena confianza en el rol de los altos tribunales internacionales como la Corte Internacional de Justicia, la Corte Penal Internacional y el Tribunal Internacional para el Derecho del Mar

Reafirmamos nuestra confianza en el multilateralismo como la piedra fundamental para consolidar una convivencia pacífica y civilizada de la comunidad internacional y destacamos el rol que el IDLO cumple en este gran sistema multilateral

Para concluir, queremos ratificar el compromiso del Ecuador con el IDLO y con la promoción del Estado de Derecho y trabajaremos para el establecimiento de un proyecto de cooperación entre mi país y el IDLO.

Gracias

STATEMENT OF ITALY

H. E. Madam Vice Minister, Esteemed Mr. President, Esteemed Madam Director General, Distinguished Colleagues,

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to be here today at the Annual Meeting of the Assembly of Parties, back in presence. This marks an important step for us all.

I would like to echo Vice Minister Sereni's words and thank again IDLO for the invaluable work that it has done during 2021, in spite of the many challenges the Organization had to face. In particular, allow me to congratulate the Director General for her leadership, so much needed while navigating in unchartered waters, and IDLO staff who has shown uncommon resilience, a strengthen especially put on by those staff members working in Afghanistan. Thanks to you all for work and the example you have set.

We join you, Madam Director General, in welcoming Mauritania as new Member Party and we express our satisfaction the accession request presented by the Republic of Cyprus: we very much look forward to working with you.

I hereby would like to thank the Director General for sharing her report. As the Vice Minister has very well said, Italy supports IDLO with conviction and stands by its mandate. Every time we call upon the importance of justice and sustainable development to guarantee peace, we cannot stress enough the role played by good governance and rule of law. Developing robust National Legislative Frameworks is key to ensure that people can enjoy their rights and ultimately live together and progress peacefully. This is where IDLO's action becomes essential. In this regard, I would like to commend the work done by IDLO on anticorruption, also by meaningfully contributing to the G20 Italian Presidency; on Informal Justice; and on Climate Justice, including during Glasgow COP26. Climate Justice truly represents the next frontier and in this respect, Italy congratulates IDLO on its brief on "Climate Justice, a rule of law approach for transformative climate action". This is a instrument to raise awareness on the importance of empowering the most climate-vulnerable people and achieve environmental rights.

Italy welcomes the adoption of the 2022 Operating Budget and greets the consultative process that led to it.

Madam Director General, I thank you for your attention and wish you all a fruitful meeting.

STATEMENT OF LIBERIA

Madam Director General

Excellencies and Representatives of Member parties Esteemed delegates Distinguished ladies and gentlemen

- 1. I bring you greetings and best wishes from His Excellency, Dr. George Manneh Weah, President of the Republic of Liberia, the government, and the people of Liberia on the occasion of the Annual Meeting of the Assembly of Parties held here in Rome.
- 2. Allow me, Madam Director General, from the onset to thank the Government of the Republic of Italy for hosting this session here at its Foreign Ministry. I wish to also congratulate the Republic of Cyprus for its accession to the Assembly of Parties.
- 3. I am honored to be afforded this opportunity to make a statement in appreciation of the IDLO on behalf of the Republic of Liberia.
- 4. This year marks the third year in which the IDLO has had its formal footprint in the Republic of Liberia, following the accession of Liberia to the IDLO in May 2019.
- 5. We take this opportunity to thank the IDLO sincerely for the work undertaken in Liberia as achieved in this reporting period. The IDLO has stages of critical and sustainable interventions in seeking to combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP).
- 6. As a Country, we acknowledge that capacity building of local personnel is the most sustainable way to achieve one goal. It empowers national and enables them to further the agenda and spread it across the nation at large.
- 7. To this end, the capacity-building initiatives that entailed the training of trainers **(TOs)** and the training of the judiciary to make them more efficient are highly appreciated by the Republic of Liberia.
- 8. The complementary efforts through the initiative to decentralize and operationalize the National anti-trafficking task force as well as supporting country-wide platforms to increase awareness and sensitization of the trafficking of persons in the country do not go unnoticed and are highly commendable efforts.
- 9. The Republic of Liberia appreciates this multi-pronged approach to addressing the problem as it is poised to achieve excellent results in a short time given its ability to tackle the issue from various angles.
- 10. We note with sincere appreciation the prioritization of women in the opportunities for training through the IDLO provided scholarships for varying levels of study and prioritizing the strengthening of the capacity of female law enforcement officials.
- 11. This capacity building ensures effectiveness as the significant portion of victims of trafficking of persons are women, but also because any opportunity to advance the
- 12. education of women on any subject contributes to the advancement of women, who still are considered a vulnerable and marginalized group that must be mainstreamed at every opportunity through development initiatives. We are therefore very thankful in this regard.
- 13. Indeed, all interventions staged this year were of commendable value. Liberia is deeply grateful for this partnership with IDLO. We look forward to the continuous robust relationship and to the outcomes of the stock-taking exercise for future Rule of Law

- interventions in Liberia, as this will guide the continued path, which will serve as a footprint for our legal system.
- 14. May we add that we note with interest the work the IDLO has begun in other countries in the area of climate change and renewable resources.
- 15. This new area of work is piqued to the Republic of Liberia's interest as it sets its eyes on following the Carbon offsetting enterprise trends and seeks to understand better how best it can position itself to play a role in this area.
- 16. As a Nation, we believe that we can explore our aquatic reserves and biodiversity to contribute to the offsets committed to by the developed world. Therefore, we trust that this may be an area that appears in the upcoming stack-taking exercise.
- 17. In closing, Madam Director-General, allow me to express the Republic of Liberia's most profound gratitude once more for the commendable work that the IDLO has done in the Republic of Liberia. We do indeed look forward to developing this relationship further.

I THANK YOU AND LOOK FORWARD TO A SUCCESFUL DELIBERATIONS.

STATEMENT OF MAURITANIA

Excellency Madam Deputy Minister of Forreign Affairs and International Cooperation,

Excellency Madam Director General of the International Development Law Organization,

Distinguished delegates,

Dear Ambassadors,

First of all, I'd like to express my great pleasure to be among you today in this important meeting of the assembly of Parties, at a time when my country has completed all the required procedures to join your prestigious organization as a member Party.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thanks to the insightful guidance of His Excellency President Mr. Mohamed Ould Sheikh Al Ghazwani, my country has been able to make great strides in establishing and consolidating the rule of law, good governance, independent judiciary, gender promotion and multi-pronged development.

The accelerated Growth and Shared Prosperity Strategy (SCAPP)2016-2030 constitutes the reference document of the general policy of the Government of Mauritania it incorporates the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's), So Mauritania has also taken several measures aimed at the realization of sustainable development 16th goals. By joining your distinguished organization, my country aspires to benefit from the tremendous amount of expertise and experience that you have at your disposal especially with regards to improving negotiation skills on development, investment, international trade, climate justice, capacity building in all legal and judicial fields including the improvement and preservation of legal and judicial systems. we hope that our membership will make possible commun challenges and strengthen the criminal justice system in the Sahel.

I'd like to commend the support that the International Development Law Organization has been providing for my country over the decades, as part of its growing program in the Sahel. On today, as a member Party Mauritania would wish to play an active role with IDLO by participating in governance and decision making processes, helping shape policies and operational priorities in the organization's future programs. will also contribute to the international conversation on the rule of law and share the best practices to advance access to justice.

We hope our membership will make possible to meet common challenges and strengthen the criminal justice system in the Sahel.

Finally,I would like to thank the Italian Government specially the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for their relentless support of my country to the membership in IDLO.

Thank you and good luck for the proceedings of this meeting of assembly of Parties.

Rome, 23th november 2021

STATEMENT OF MONTENEGRO

Your Excellency Vice Minister Sereni, Esteemed President and Director General, Dear colleagues,

As a newly appointed Ambassador of Montenegro in Rome, I am very glad that we are in the opportunity to meet in person, at least partially, at the IDLO annual Assembly given that this is the second year in a row that we work under the aggravating circumstances imposed by the current pandemics.

In this sense, I wish to emphasise and express gratitude for all the efforts invested by the Director General, the Secretariat and all IDLO employees with a view to ensuring the unhampered realisation of the planned activities.

Being an IDLO party, an organisation dedicated exclusively to the promotion of the Rule of Law, bears an additional significance for Montenegro as an EU candidate country. The projects we implemented together in the past have greatly contributed to the enhancement of our national capacities in this area, including education of judges, strengthening the capacities of the Montenegrin Judicial Training Centre, expanding the capacity of the country's judiciary in commercial law, improving familiarity with EU standards and building capacities of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption.

Furthermore, IDLO supported Forum to build stronger judicial cooperation across the Western Balkans region as this is crucial for countering serious crimes — notably money laundering, corruption, organized crime, cybercrime and war crimes.

As these are only the examples of the contribution IDLO has made in the past period in Montenegro and the Region, we welcome that in the circumstances of pandemics, IDLO has managed to prepare and adopt the Strategic Plan 2021-2024 clearly correlating to the UN Agenda 2030 and inclusive of the goals pertaining to the rule of law as preconditions of sustainable development.

Among other areas our institutions continuously work on, Montenegro continues to work on strategic development of the judiciary to ensure quality access to justice for the citizens. To this end, the Analysis on Rationalisation of the Judicial Network and the Programme for Development of the Information and Communication Technologies in the Judiciary were prepared. Also, fight against corruption remains in focus, as well as constant enhancement of capacities of the Agency for Prevention of Corruption.

While more than 130 laws have been adopted or amended from the very beginning of the negotiating process, Montenegro is determined to further foster the substantial functioning of the already reformed institutional framework.

Dear ladies and gentlemen,

Montenegro remains a credible partner. We are aware of the importance of reform activities in the area of the rule of law, not only for further progress in negotiations with the EU but for the overall democratic development of society. EU remains our top foreign policy goal and we

are determent to further pursue the necessary EU standards. We are certain that IDLO projects and activities will continue to contribute to the progress and results. Thank you for your attention!

STATEMENT OF THE NETHERLANDS

Introduction

- Good morning! The DGs annual report is a great overview of IDLO's achievements in the past year; An impressive list given the compounded challenges of the pandemic and deteriorating security situations in many of the countries where IDLO works.
- The report shows some encouraging results in countries where we cooperate. Such as
 greater collaboration and increased trust between criminal justice officials and the
 communities they serve in the Sahel and improved access to justice for women in Somalia
 through the deployment of female community paralegals in alternative dispute resolution
 centres.

Justice Action Coalition

- The Netherlands has put the promotion of people-centred justice as a clear priority. To this end we convened, together with the group of g7+ countries and the Elders, a Ministerial meeting in April, which launched a Justice Action Coalition.
- Together with partners we will use the Justice Action Coalition as platform to promote people-centered justice, exchange experiences, deepen our knowledge and take joint-actions. One of those joint action could be joint collection of data and evidence between partners. To assess collective impact of interventions and support. And to ensure interventions are based on a shared analysis of what the issues are.
- A few weeks ago the coalition formulated an action plan, and we look forward to broaden partnerships and expand cooperation.

Partnership with IDLO

- IDLO is an <u>important partner</u> for us. The IDLO strategic plan shows clearly that we share the goal of making justice systems more effective and responsive to people's needs.
- We have therefore invested in our relationship with IDLO and have developed a new partnership for the coming 4 years. This partnership is aimed at furthering our joint goals of legal empowerment and people-centered access to justice and has a particular focus on addressing key justice barriers faced by women and girls.
- Our partnership also aims at developing 'the how'. It will allow for innovation and a focus on data and evidence on the justice needs and justice journeys of people. Furthermore, as the challenges have increased, developing effective partnerships and increasing collaboration between partners hase become even more important we look forward to work with IDLO and others on this.

(To conclude)

• To conclude, I would like to thank IDLO for their leadership in this field and their important work in many countries.

STATEMENT OF PAKISTAN

Thank you Chair,

Pakistan would like to thank the Director-General for a comprehensive annual report, as well as for putting forward a road map for the future.

We understand and appreciate the difficult environment under which IDLO has been operating. We are pleased by the progress achieved during the first year of the Strategic Plan, despite many challenges.

Mr. President,

Pakistan takes a positive note of IDLO's quest to pursue our shared goals by employing a strategy of inclusion, integration, and innovation. We also support the people-centric approach to justice systems and employing of informal justice systems and bridge-building between formal and informal justice institutions as means to empower justice seekers.

Pakistan believes in participation of women and girls in the legal systems which has rightly become a stand-alone IDLO Objective. I am pleased to share that the Government of Pakistan is in the process of launching all-women staffed police stations across the country, in an attempt to empower women and widen their access to justice system.

Mr. President,

It is heartening to see IDLO diversifying its portfolio to lay groundwork in the fields of economic development, climate justice, food security and well-being for all, from the prism of rule of law.

We particularly welcome IDLO's growing interest in the fields of combating corruption, and the advocacy it has begun at various international fora. We would urge the Organization to also include the issue of illicit financial flows within the areas of its keenest interest, going forward. IDLO can help developing countries in putting in place requisite systems, legal procedures, and technological tools to curb illicit financial flows and promote transparency and accountability.

We would also like to appreciate IDLO's global advocacy for the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG 16, and would like to congratulate IDLO on convening Second Global SDG 16 Conference this year.

Mr. President,

The growing global footprint of IDLO is reflective of the dedication of its Director-General, senior management and personnel based around the world all of whom have been working tirelessly in pursuit of our shared goals. Let me take this opportunity to commend the entire IDLO team for the excellent work during these extraordinary times and wish them success in the year ahead.

I thank you all.

STATEMENT OF PERU

Thank you, Mr. President,

It is my pleasure to congratulate you, on behalf of the Government of Peru, for leading the work of this Assembly, while also expressing our appreciation to the Director General for the outstanding work that she has been carrying out in a very difficult context in which the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to wreak havoc on the world.

Likewise, we join this Assembly in welcoming Mauritania as a new member, and we encourage IDLO to continue its efforts in order to increase and strengthen the membership of the Organization.

A year has passed since the approval of the Strategic Plan 2021-2024 and we must point out that it has served well as an innovative guide to increase the contribution that IDLO can make - in keeping with its mandate - by integrating itself into the global response to COVID-19 and, especially, in favour of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly SDG 16, throughout programs and activities to foster the rule of law and to promote access to justice, equity and inclusion.

Likewise, we wish to underline the progress made in the geographical distribution of the programs, which, although have a greater concentration in Africa, also reach Asia, Europe and Latin America. In this regard, we congratulate the work carried out in favour of the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, whose vulnerability has been seriously increased by the crisis of the pandemic that we are experiencing.

In this context, let me also draw the attention of the Assembly to the work carried out in other developing countries that also face great challenges, such as structural inequalities that are being deepened by the pandemic, as well as by corruption, the crisis of confidence in institutions and their high vulnerability to climate change.

Within this framework, Peru encourages IDLO and its partners to continue expanding their programs to new countries, prioritizing comprehensive approaches on the fight against corruption, access to justice, training of law enforcement officials and, particularly, on climate justice and its contribution to the rule of law. Programs with this profile have been developing in the Bahamas, Colombia, Honduras, and Mexico; countries in our region with which we share the challenges described.

Recently we have verified the urgent need to strengthen multilateralism, which is a priority guideline of Peru's foreign policy. We are convinced that only in a joint and coordinated way can we face scourges such as the pandemic and corruption, and promote social and economic recovery and sustainable development and address urgent global challenges such as climate change.

Proof of this commitment has been the leadership assumed by Peru in the framework of the Special Session Against Corruption of the United Nations General Assembly, held last June. We thank IDLO for its participation in the general debate of the aforementioned Session and express Peru´s willingness to continue working together in the fight against corruption, as well

as in other priority issues such as the administration of justice and its articulation with customary and traditional justice systems.

On the other hand, within the framework of the Strategic Plan, we want to highlight IDLO's advancements in promoting gender equality and the mainstreaming of this important issue.

Finally, we consider the issue of Associations of utmost importance, and we recognize that there has been great progress compared to the previous year. The Director General's report shows greater and more frequent collaboration, not only with the organizations based in Rome, but also with other relevant organizations of the United Nations System, civil society and academia.

We encourage the continued work in favour of the diversification of financing sources. We acknowledge the Organization's efforts to establish more predictable multi-year funding, and we welcome the initiative undertaken to enter into a strategic partnership with the European Union. We hope that, by fulfilling this objective, IDLO can extend its mission to more countries that require its assistance in promoting the rule of law, in favour of achieving sustainable development.

Thank you very much Mr. President.

Gracias señor Presidente,

Es muy grato iniciar mi intervención felicitándolo a usted, en nombre del Gobierno del Perú, por la conducción de los trabajos de esta Asamblea, al tiempo de expresar también nuestro aprecio y reconocimiento a la Directora General por la destacada labor que viene desempeñando al frente de IDLO, en un contexto muy difícil en el cual los efectos de la pandemia del COVID-19 siguen causando estragos en el mundo.

Asimismo, nos aunamos a los saludos de bienvenida a Mauritania, como nuevo miembro y alentamos a IDLO a continuar sus esfuerzos en aras de aumentar y fortalecer la membresía de la Organización.

Ha pasado un año desde la aprobación del Plan Estratégico 2021-2024 y debemos señalar que viene sirviendo bien como una guía innovadora para elevar la contribución que IDLO puede realizar -en atención a su mandato- integrándose a la respuesta mundial frente al COVID-19 y, especialmente, en favor de la implementación de la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible, particularmente del ODS 16, mediante programas y actividades en favor del Estado de Derecho, para promover el acceso a la justicia, la equidad y la inclusión.

Asimismo, deseamos subrayar los avances registrados en la distribución geográfica de los programas que, si bien tiene una mayor concentración en África, alcanza también tiene al Asia, Europa y América Latina. En ese sentido, felicitamos el trabajo realizado en favor de los países menos adelantados, países en desarrollo sin litoral y pequeños Estados insulares en desarrollo, cuya vulnerabilidad se ha incrementado gravemente por la crisis de la pandemia que vivimos.

En este contexto me permito llamar también la atención de esta Asamblea sobre la labor realizada en otros países en desarrollo que también enfrentan grandes desafíos, tales como las

desigualdades estructurales que están siendo profundizadas por la pandemia, así como por la corrupción, la crisis de confianza en las instituciones y la alta vulnerabilidad al cambio climático.

En este marco, el Perú alienta a IDLO y a sus socios a continuar expandiendo sus programas a nuevos países, priorizando enfoques integrales sobre lucha anticorrupción, acceso a la justicia, capacitación de los agentes del orden y, particularmente, sobre justicia climática y su aporte al estado de derecho. Programas con dicho perfil se han desarrollado en Bahamas, Colombia, Honduras y México; países de nuestra región con los que compartimos los desafíos descritos.

En el período reciente hemos verificado la urgente necesidad de fortalecer el multilateralismo, que es un lineamiento prioritario de la política exterior del Perú. Estamos convencidos que solo en forma conjunta y coordinada podremos enfrentar flagelos como el de la pandemia y la corrupción, e impulsar la recuperación social y económica y el desarrollo sostenible y atender urgentes desafíos globales como el del cambio climático.

Muestra de este compromiso ha sido el liderazgo asumido por el Perú en el marco de la Sesión Especial Contra la Corrupción de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas, efectuada en junio pasado. Agradecemos al IDLO su participación en el debate general de la referida Sesión y expresamos nuestra voluntad de seguir trabajando de manera mancomunada en la lucha anticorrupción, así como en otros asuntos prioritarios para mi país como la administración de justicia y su articulación con los sistemas de justicia consuetudinarios y tradicionales.

De otro lado, en el marco del Plan Estratégico, queremos resaltar el trabajo de la IDLO en la promoción de la igualdad de género y la integración transversal de este importante tema.

Finalmente, consideramos de suma importancia el tema de las Asociaciones y reconocemos que allí se ha registrado un gran avance respecto del año anterior. El informe de la Directora General evidencia una mayor y más frecuente colaboración, no solo con las organizaciones basadas en Roma, sino también con otras organizaciones pertinentes del Sistema de Naciones Unidas, de la sociedad civil y de la academia.

Alentamos a que se continúe trabajando en favor de la diversificación de las fuentes de financiamiento. Reconocemos los esfuerzos emprendidos por la Organización para establecer un financiamiento plurianual que sea más predecible y felicitamos la iniciativa emprendida para entablar una asociación estratégica con la Unión Europea. Hacemos votos para que, al cumplirse este objetivo, IDLO pueda extender su misión a más países que requieren de su asistencia en la promoción del estado de derecho, en favor de alcanzar el desarrollo sostenible.

Muchas gracias señor Presidente.

STATEMENT OF PHILIPPINES

- Thank you, Director-General Beagle, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, and good morning.
- The Philippines expresses its appreciation to the Director- General for her extensive report that reflects the institution's accomplishments last year, including innovative ways of delivering projects, despite the challenges posed by the ongoing pandemic.
- In particular, the Philippines welcomes the Director-General's considered approach towards delivering IDLO's Strategic Goals, that is, by building on country context and needs assessment to help shape strategic, yet practical, approaches to strengthen institutions for good governance.
- As noted in the report, it is equally important to build, increase and strengthen public trust in these institutions, in order to positively impact on peace and sustainable development through rule of law and ensure that no one is left behind.
- We wish to commend IDLO's programs in the Philippines that seek to institutionalize legal reforms and share best practices in the administration of justice, build the capacity of justice actors, and improve access to justice, including the elimination of discriminatory laws.
- Among others, regional and provincial prosecutors assigned in distant areas where
 there are International Humanitarian Law-designated courts were able to participate
 in a specialization course this year applying the learning management system used in
 courses, as provided by IDLO.
- The National Prosecution Service also delivered the first online Fundamental Course on the Investigation and Prosecution of Environmental Cases, which was developed with IDLO's support, covering basic and special Philippine environmental laws.
- The Philippines welcomes IDLO's thrust to build greater thematic expertise on climate justice. The Philippines remains steadfast in its commitment to strengthen climate action and urgently calls for climate justice.
- We would like to thank Director-General Beagle, the IDLO governing and advisory bodies, and the Secretariat for their dedication and commitment in achieving IDLO's Strategic Objectives.
- We also express our appreciation to Parties, led by the United States Department of State and the Government of the Netherlands, that have continued to sponsor and finance projects in the Philippines.
- The Philippines is honored to have served as an ad hoc Member of the Standing Committee for the last two years. It will continue to support IDLO towards the implementation of its Strategic Plan 2021-2024 and its efforts to contribute to peace, sustainable development and progress on Agenda 2030.
- Thank you, Madame Director-General.

STATEMENT OF SENEGAL

Excellence Madame la Vice-Ministre, Monsieur le Président de l'Assemblée des Parties, Madame la Directrice Générale, Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs,

Permettez-moi de vous transmettre, tout d'abord, les chaleureuses salutations et les excuses de Son Excellence Docteur Papa Abdoulaye SECK, Ambassadeur du Sénégal, empêché, qui avait souhaité prendre part personnellement à cette rencontre.

En son nom et en celui de la délégation sénégalaise, nous adressons nos vives félicitations au Pakistan pour son remarquable leadership dans la conduite des travaux, en tant que président de la Commission permanente et de l'Assemblée.

La vision stratégique de la Directrice Générale est aussi à saluer et notre délégation voudrait tout particulièrement féliciter Madame Jan Beagle et l'ensemble de ses équipes pour le travail colossal mené durant cette période de grande incertitude tel qu'il ressort de l'excellent rapport qu'elle vient de nous présenter.

Par ailleurs, le Sénégal souhaite la bienvenue à la République sœur de Mauritanie au sein de l'OIDD, assuré que son apport ne pourra que consolider notre action.

Mesdames et Messieurs,

Au cours de cette première année de mise en œuvre du Plan stratégique 2021- 2024, l'OIDD a fait preuve d'une capacité d'adaptation qui lui a permis, dans le cadre des deux objectifs stratégiques et des six cibles définis, d'accompagner de nombreux pays dans l'amélioration de l'accès à la justice, notamment pour les femmes et les filles, dans le renforcement et les réformes institutionnels ainsi que pour une meilleure compréhension de l'état de droit comme lien irréfutable entre le développement, la paix et la sécurité, les droits de l'homme.

Par ce fait, l'OIDD se rapproche davantage de son objectif de devenir un partenaire de choix dans les efforts d'atteinte de l'Objectif 16 de développement durable (ODD16). Ainsi, elle poursuit aussi sa contribution à la réalisation de l'ensemble du Programme à l'horizon 2030, y compris en participant à la réponse mondiale à la COVID-19.

Cela est d'autant plus important que les répercussions sanitaires, sociales et économiques de la pandémie ont davantage révélé et exacerbé les inégalités existantes.

C'est en ce sens que nous tenons à rappeler que seule une réponse commune viendra à bout de cette situation et apportera une véritable justice dans la lutte contre la COVID-19.

C'est le cas non seulement pour la crise actuelle mais aussi pour tous les défis complexes et les menaces transnationales auxquels le monde fait face, comme le terrorisme, le changement climatique, une transition énergétique juste, viable et équitable, les graves inégalités, y compris celles entres les femmes et les hommes, la corruption et le manque de confiance envers les institutions publiques.

Mesdames et Messieurs,

C'est dire que le raffermissement et le respect de l'Etat de droit, à l'international comme au niveau national, sont indispensables au rétablissement de la confiance envers les institutions, à l'instauration d'une paix pérenne, à la protection efficace des droits humains et à la réalisation du développement durable.

Pour conclure, la délégation du Sénégal voudrait souligner que cette nécessité de l'Etat de droit et le contenu du rapport de la Directrice Générale rappellent, précisément, le mandat et les capacités uniques de l'OIDD.

Ceux-ci sont en parfaite cohérence avec la vision politique des dirigeants de notre pays, fondée sur la lutte contre l'impunité, la promotion de l'Etat de droit et l'enracinement dans la démocratie. Le Sénégal renouvelle donc son soutien et sa disponibilité à l'OIDD.

Je vous remercie de votre aimable attention.

STATEMENT OF SWEDEN

Thank you, Madam President.

First of all, let me extend a warm thanks to the Director General for the comprehensive report presented here today.

Allow us once again to express our sincere gratitude to IDLO for the relentless work and dedication put towards promoting a rule of law-based approach to the common challenges we face.

Human rights, democracy and the rule of law continues to be a top priority throughout all areas of Sweden's foreign policy. The link between them is crucial and they must be addressed comprehensively. Sweden has put further emphasis on these areas, not least through our Drive for Democracy and Feminist Foreign Policy.

Sweden values the unique mandate of IDLO as an authority for the rule of law. Building up democratic institutions at local and national level is crucial for the full enjoyment of human rights, as well as for sustainable peace and state-building. Reading the Director General's report of the first year of the new strategy, we are happy to see continued work on empowering individuals, strengthening institutions, as well as a clear focus on gender equality.

Moving forward, we want to emphasise that the rule of law is crucial for the realization of Agenda 2030 and particularly SDG 16. IDLO plays a key role in this process, and we want to encourage the organisation to continue to strengthen this work as well as furthering cooperation with other actors towards this goal. As you know, a new vision for rule of law was recently included in the Secretary General's Our Common Agenda, following a joint letter from states of the Justice Action Coalition. We hope that in the coming year, States and organisations together can keep the momentum and truly anchor a rule of law based approach as part of multilateral cooperation. The partnership forum arranged this afternoon serves as an important step.

Thank you.

STATEMENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Congratulations to you (Chair Ambassador Saleem) and the Pakistani Mission on a very successful first year as President of this extremely important organization.

I would also like to extend our sincere thanks to Vice Minister Sereni, Ambassador Lomonaco, and our Italian hosts for making possible today's in-person meeting.

Let me please also welcome IDLO's newest member party, Mauritania. Your presence – as well as Cyprus's intention to join soon – confirms that the world is increasingly focused on the rule of law and access to justice as essential ingredients for sustainable development, peace, and human rights.

We Member Parties know that IDLO is a unique institution, capable of delivering concrete results in challenging environments. I sincerely hope that soon, we might have the chance to travel together and experience first-hand how IDLO's empowering of justice seekers transforms individual lives and lifts up entire communities.

With the respect to the DG's report:

The United States strongly welcomes IDLO's growing contribution to global anti-corruption efforts. Corruption undermines public trust, wastes public resources, exacerbates inequalities, and eats away at the foundations of democratic societies.

For these reasons, President Biden has identified combatting corruption as a core U.S. national security priority. The President has initiated a comprehensive review of U.S. anticorruption efforts — at home and abroad — to include efforts to curb illicit finance and hold corrupt actors accountable.

We are proud to support IDLO's anti-corruption programming in Africa, the Caribbean, Eastern Europe, and Southeast Asia, and we are encouraged by IDLO's participation in the G-20 Anti-Corruption Working Group and the UN General Assembly Special Session Against Corruption.

Climate change and COVID-19 affect each and every one of us, and yet already marginalized individuals and communities are often disproportionally impacted. Vulnerable groups often lack built-up resilience to handle climate or public health shocks, and often struggle to access emergency assistance available to others.

We therefore welcome IDLO's research into the linkages between climate action and the rule of law. And we enthusiastically endorse IDLO's partnerships with the FAO and the WHO, looking into pandemic response measures that also safeguard vulnerable groups' access to safe foods and health services. The United States urges IDLO to continue to use its growing Operation Fund to launch such initiatives, which can then be taken up more systematically with donor support.

Before I close, I would also like to congratulate Liberia on the recent votes by the Legislature to revise its anti-trafficking in persons law – with IDLO's support – in keeping with international standards. This is a great example of the concrete results IDLO programming delivers for vulnerable communities through its rule-of-law approach.

We appreciate the Director General's regular updates on IDLO operations in Afghanistan, IDLO's forthcoming human resources strategy, and ongoing negotiations to secure appropriate recognition of IDLO's legal status. We request the Secretariat keep member parties apprised on these important topics.

STATEMENT OF VIET NAM

Your Excellency, Madam Director-General/Chairwoman,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, I am very honored and pleased to attend the 2021 Annual Conference of IDLO Member States. On behalf of the Vietnamese Delegation, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Madam Director-General and all colleagues for their efforts to organize this Annual Conference in online and in-person format admid the turmoil of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We share the same views on the report that Madam Director-General presented, and we highly appreciate the results and achievements that IDLO has achieved in the first year of implementing the Strategic Plan 2021-2024, especially the efforts to maximize IDLO's contributions to peace, sustainable development and advancements of the 2030 Agenda through the rule of law. Some direct contributions include the global efforts to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic, gender equality and women and girls empowerment, and environmental justice. In the context of globalization and international integration under the impact of the industrial revolution 4.0, we believe that with such concrete results, IDLO will continue to affirm the role of an organization whose mission is to contribute to the rule of law, justice, and development and implementation of the 2030 Agenda (SDG 13 – take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts and SDG 16 – peace, justice and strong institutions).

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In 2021, despite being heavily affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, Viet Nam has been continuing its efforts to safely respond to the Covid-19 pandemic, to strengthen improvement of its legal system, and to promote implementation of timely policies to support the vulnerable groups during the Covid-19 pandemic, etc. As you may know, Viet Nam has also approved the Strategy for Socio-Economic Development for the period 2021-2030 in early 2021, in which strategic tasks of development of a rule-of-law, law-making and improvement, and judicial reform have been identified, along with efforts to minimize the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic as well as of climate change for the people, especially the weak and vulnerable ones.

With the spirit of innovation and proactive adaptation, Viet Nam wishes to continue our cooperation as well as to receive experience sharing from IDLO in law improvement and judicial reform that serve the development of a rule of law, contribute to build a developed economy in line with the principle of inclusion, leave no one behind. We also hope that IDLO will cooperate and coordinate with developing countries like Viet Nam in such fields, thereby promoting equitable, inclusive and sustainable development on a global scale.

Thank you very much!