



**INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT LAW ORGANIZATION**

**STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, MS JAN BEAGLE**

**Report of the Director-General to the Assembly of Parties**

*Assembly of Parties, 23 November 2021*

Vice Minister Sereni,  
Mr. President,  
Excellencies,  
Colleagues and Friends,

It is a pleasure to present my second annual report to the Assembly of Parties.

I am grateful to our hosts, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, for making this meeting possible.

It is great to be here with you today in person, even as the hybrid nature of our meeting, is a reminder of the continuing uncertainty around the pandemic and the “new normal” that is emerging.

I am pleased to report that despite facing strong headwinds throughout 2021, IDLO was able to achieve significant results in the implementation of our new Strategic Plan, adopted by the Assembly last year.

The ongoing impact of COVID-19 has exacted a devastating human toll, wiping out hard-won development gains, deepening the divide between rich and poor, and exacerbating existing fragilities.

The pandemic has entered a new and worrying phase of unequal recovery, made worse by severe vaccine inequity.

The race between vaccination drives and the spread of ever more infectious variants continues, reminding us that none of us are safe until all of us are safe.

This is true not only of the current crisis, but of so many of the complex, transnational threats the world faces including climate change, extreme inequality, corruption, and lack of trust in public institutions.

Increased global fragility has compounded the impact of COVID-19 and made our operating environments more volatile.



We have seen growing violence and instability in many places that IDLO works, most notably Afghanistan and Myanmar.

These trends emphasised the continued importance of IDLO's mandate and mission, even as the rule of law continued to come under pressure in many parts of the world.

Against this backdrop, my priorities for 2021 were:

To maximise IDLO's contribution to peace and sustainable development through the rule of law, including by contributing to the global response to COVID-19;

To develop a geographically diverse and thematically balanced portfolio of integrated programmes, research, policy and advocacy;

To strengthen our systems and processes to deliver on our Strategic Goals in an uncertain operating environment; and

To position IDLO as a partner of choice on SDG 16, and generate greater political and financial support for the rule of law.

The achievements presented in my report would not have been possible without the support of our partners, and the dedication and ingenuity of IDLO colleagues around the world, for which I am sincerely grateful.

As this was the first year of implementation of the Strategic Plan 2021-2024, I will introduce it quickly.

Anchored in the 2030 Agenda, the Plan is structured around two Strategic Goals and six Strategic Objectives based on IDLO's commitment to putting people's needs at the centre of justice systems and making the rule of law a driver of peace and sustainable development.

Strategic Goal 1 on making justice systems more effective and responsive has historically represented the majority of IDLO's work. While this trend continued in 2021, we also invested in building up our work in newer areas under Strategic Goal 2 on advancing the rule of law's broader contribution to the 2030 Agenda.

IDLO's contribution to the global pandemic response remains a key priority and is incorporated throughout the Strategic Plan.



An important element in IDLO's approach to people-centred justice is empowering justice seekers to claim their rights.

In **Kenya, Myanmar, Mongolia, Uganda, the Sahel and Somalia** IDLO engages with people and communities to increase legal awareness and provide legal aid, and other assistance and advisory services.

We support access to justice through both formal and informal pathways, and increasingly, through digital platforms.

At a time of narrowing civic space, we work to promote participatory decision-making at the grassroots level.

Our programme in the **Sahel**, for instance, seeks to improve respect for human rights and to increase public trust in the criminal justice chains in **Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger**.

It uses innovative platforms called Cadres de Concertation (CdCs), that bring together criminal justice officials, traditional leaders, and civil society representatives to identify priority justice concerns and formulate solutions.

This year IDLO facilitated the creation of three new Cadres de Concertation in Burkina Faso.

In Mali, where the Cadres have been operational for some years, IDLO is helping to implement their recommendations. In the Gao region for example, we provided capacity development support that helped achieve a 15-20% reduction in the case backlog.

The Minister of Justice of Burkina Faso will join us this afternoon at the IDLO Partnership Forum to share her insights on the link between peace and justice in the Sahel.

IDLO has been working in **Myanmar** since 2013 to support the democratic transition by promoting legal awareness and cooperation between justice service providers and the communities they serve.

In response to the declaration of a state of emergency in February, IDLO shifted its support to civil society and other non-governmental actors.

We partnered with UNICEF and launched two new projects: to support private legal aid service providers to better meet the needs of their clients, and to assist women, the poor and other vulnerable groups to understand and claim their rights.



Customary and informal justice systems play an important role by offering affordability, flexibility, speed and cultural relevancy.

Over the past year, IDLO worked with customary and informal systems in **Kenya, Somalia and Uganda** to link formal and informal systems, increase access to justice and ensure greater respect for international norms and standards.

In Somalia for example, IDLO supported 15 Alternative Dispute Resolution Centres that assist justice seekers in resolving their disputes under the traditional Xeer system.

Half of the one thousand seven hundred and eighty cases brought to the Centres between January and October, were from women.

Female paralegals have been embedded in each Centre to support legal awareness, community outreach, and referrals, particularly for disputes involving women.

Issues that cannot be solved at the Centres, or fall outside their jurisdiction, are channelled to district courts.

Formal district courts in many locations have also begun referring cases to the new Centres where appropriate.

IDLO published a report in September drawing on insights from our programmatic experience on how community-based paralegals and other legal aid providers can strengthen the accessibility and inclusiveness of customary and informal justice systems.

We launched this publication at a Regional Practitioner Dialogue that brought together experts from Ministries of Justice of the Sahel countries, the Kenyan National Council of Elders, and civil society organisations across Africa.

This is an example of IDLO's integrated approach in practice. Our research draws on our country-level experience and we disseminate the findings through multi-stakeholder advocacy at global and national levels.

Making laws and institutions work for people is the largest part of IDLO's programme portfolio.

COVID-19 has shown the consequences of years of underinvestment in justice systems across the globe, and has challenged us to innovate, reimagine and explore alternative approaches as we support our partner institutions.



As described in my report to the Assembly, over the past year, we promoted smart legal reform, improved the delivery of justice services, and strengthened criminal justice chains in **Armenia, the Bahamas, Colombia, Honduras, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Kenya, Liberia, Mexico, Moldova, Somalia, the Philippines, Tunisia, Uganda and Yemen.**

Two areas that are becoming increasingly important in the current context are anti-corruption and digital innovation.

Corruption has a corrosive effect on public trust and combatting it is high on the global agenda.

IDLO takes a multi-track approach to the problem.

We build capacity to investigate and prosecute corruption, counter illicit financial flows, and recover assets.

We also promote preventive measures including increasing transparency and integrity in the judiciary and public sector and strengthen the monitoring role of civil society.

In Ukraine, for example, IDLO has been supporting the country's anti-corruption efforts since 2014.

We are currently working with the Prosecutor General's Office on the development of transparent, merit based recruitment of prosecutors, and supporting the operationalisation of the specialized High Anti-Corruption Court.

We work closely with civil society, and today, at the Partnership Forum, we will hear from the lead of judiciary reform at the Anticorruption Action Center in Kyiv.

Our growing anti-corruption portfolio includes programmes **in Armenia, the Bahamas, Indonesia, Moldova and the Philippines.**

During the year, IDLO also organised and contributed to major global policy dialogues including the Special Session of the General Assembly Against Corruption in June.

At the invitation of the Italian Presidency, we participated in the 2021 meetings of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group.

IDLO will be sending a delegation to the upcoming Conference of State Parties to the United Nations Anti-Corruption Convention in Sharm-el-Sheikh, where I will co-host a special event on promoting judicial integrity with the Executive Director of UNODC.



In response to the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, we are supporting justice institutions to develop nationally owned digital justice solutions in countries including Kenya, Kyrgyzstan and Sierra Leone.

In Kenya, for instance, we supported the implementation of digital systems to reduce case adjudication times and provided capacity-building support for judicial staff on electronic filing and payment systems, virtual hearings, court recordings, and transcription services.

Chief Justice Martha Koome will join us at the Partnership Forum to share insights from the Kenyan experience.

IDLO promotes gender equality and justice for women and girls as a standalone objective, as well as mainstreaming it throughout our work.

Our interventions help protect women's rights through the promotion of gender-responsive legal and policy frameworks; the elimination of discriminatory laws and practices; and the empowerment of women professionals in the justice sector.

For over a decade, IDLO's largest programme of work on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) has been in **Afghanistan**.

Starting in 2011, when we assisted the Attorney General's Office in setting up the Elimination of Violence against Women Directorate, IDLO has worked with the government, civil society, and women leaders in the justice sector to develop their capacity and improve service delivery.

Over the past year, IDLO supported the Ministry of Women's Affairs to develop guidelines on processing and reporting cases of Gender Based Violence to relevant authorities, and standard operating procedures to guide the Ministry's coordination with GBV service providers.

While the political situation jeopardises this work, and the gains made in securing protection for women's rights, IDLO is committed to staying engaged and doing our best to support Afghan women and girls.

In 2021, we implemented programmes to counter Gender Based Violence in **Kenya, Myanmar, Mongolia, Tunisia** and **Uganda**.

We also work with UN Women to assist partners to reform gender discriminatory laws, policies and institutions. We are currently working with governments, civil society and other stakeholders to review laws in **Kenya, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, Uganda and Tunisia**.



IDLO's programming on justice for women and girls draws on, and is informed by, our research and policy advocacy.

In July, we launched a joint research project with the Global Women's Institute at George Washington University to generate evidence on effective approaches to countering GBV in challenging contexts through case studies from **Honduras, Papua New Guinea, South Sudan, the Philippines, and Tunisia.**

IDLO continued to highlight the fundamental importance of justice for women and girls through our participation in major events including the Commission on the Status of Women, the Generation Equality Forum and the first ever G20 Ministerial Conference on Women's Empowerment, organised by the Italian Presidency.

Under the fourth Strategic Objective, IDLO works to promote enabling legal frameworks, strengthen governmental capacities to enforce commercial and economic laws, negotiate and implement investment agreements and resolve disputes, and support women's economic empowerment.

This work is particularly relevant in the context of the economic crisis unleashed by COVID-19.

The Investment Support Programme, developed in partnership with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, uses a public-private partnership model to provide legal advice and capacity building support to LDCs at no-cost.

In Gambia for example, we recently assisted the government to review a draft Model Bilateral Investment Treaty, which will be an important tool to attract and sustainably manage foreign investment.

The programme is currently providing support to capacity building, negotiations and dispute settlements in Ethiopia, Liberia, Malawi, and Uganda.

We are also working in Armenia, Jordan, Montenegro, Serbia, and the West Bank and Gaza to promote increased legal capacity on economic and commercial issues in areas including insolvency, commercial arbitration and mediation and contract law.

Climate change represents perhaps the single largest threat to peace and sustainable development and has been identified as the most pressing challenge of our time.

IDLO recently published a policy brief on [Climate Justice](#), which shows the link between justice and climate change and proposes seven recommendations to advance transformative climate action grounded in the rule of law and human rights.



We are also engaging with key events on the international calendar to identify entry points for programming, advocacy and partnerships on climate justice.

Since submitting my report, I led IDLO's delegation to Glasgow for COP 26, where we advocated for the importance of applying a justice lens to climate action, to catalyse progress towards a more just, green and sustainable future.

And while the clear and urgent need for more ambitious action remains, it is a positive sign that the final text of the Glasgow Climate Pact included a reference to "climate justice" in the preamble.

This afternoon at the Partnership Forum, we will hear more on this issue from Mr. Julio Cordano, a member of the UNFCCC Adaptation Committee and Chief Negotiator for Chile's COP-25 Presidency.

We currently have a small but growing portfolio related to climate and the sustainable use of land and natural resources at the country level, and are committed to scaling up this work.

Over the last year, we continued to work at local, national and international levels to advance the right to adequate food through the rule of law.

In collaboration with FAO, we are working to strengthen the legal environment for food security and nutrition of vulnerable groups in **Honduras** and **Uganda** as part of pandemic response and recovery.

We also launched a joint global assessment of laws and policies on food security in October.

The 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit and pre-Summit meetings were important opportunities to highlight the link between the rule of law and inclusive and sustainable food systems transformations.

IDLO was a member the Summit's cross-cutting Action Area on Governance and has since supported the working group in identifying opportunities and solutions for food systems reform.

I participated a panel on a human rights-based approach to food systems with current and former Special Rapporteurs on the Right to Food.

In advance of the Summit, IDLO organised an Independent Dialogue on "The Rule of Law and Food Systems Transformation in the Sahel.





At the annual meeting of the Committee on Food Security, IDLO joined FAO, WHO, UNICEF and the University of Laval to organise a side-event on “Human Rights, Nutrition and Law: Keys to transform food systems.”

At a time where health issues are a global priority, we are promoting rule of law solutions for greater access to health services, supporting pandemic preparedness, and strengthening capacity to prevent and manage non-communicable diseases.

IDLO’s Pandemic Preparedness and Response Project, developed in collaboration with WHO, aims to strengthen legal and policy frameworks to prevent and respond to Public Health Emergencies, including COVID-19.

IDLO is currently supporting the Government of Uganda in reviewing several pieces of legislation, and the Government of Zambia to draft statutory instruments.

The results will help these countries meet their goals to align their legal frameworks with the International Health Regulations.

IDLO also became a member of the Global Health Security Agenda Legal Preparedness Action Package, an initiative led by the United States, Argentina, and the O’Neill Institute, to advocate for coordinated international action around legal preparedness for public health emergencies.

In partnership with WHO and the International Development Research Centre, IDLO’s Global RECAP Program seeks to strengthen the capacity of countries to promote healthy diets and increase physical activity for the prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases.

At the United Nations High-Level Meeting on AIDS in June, I highlighted the important role of the rule of law in addressing the underlying inequalities, stigma and discrimination that remain the most significant barriers to ending AIDS by 2030.

These are, of course, the same inequalities that are confronting the world with COVID-19.

The Strategic Plan 2021- 2024 identifies four Organizational Enablers to strengthen key aspects of our systems, capacities and resources to achieve our Strategic Goals and deliver quality and value to our partners.

To maximise the impact of our interventions, IDLO uses an integrated approach that ensures that programmes are based on the best possible evidence and that our global research and advocacy draws on our insights at the country-level.

This means strengthening our ability to measure and drive results and improving the quality of our programmes. We made progress on both fronts over the past year.



To strengthen Results-Based Management, we developed a Strategic Results and Resources Framework that translates the Strategic Plan into a set of development and organisational results.

The framework, which is currently being operationalised, will improve our ability to monitor our progress on the Strategic Plan and more clearly link the resources entrusted to us, with our results.

We also conducted a comprehensive review of the programme cycle to strengthen design and development, implementation, evaluation and learning, and to mainstream gender equality and human rights-based approaches.

As a specialised, knowledge-based organisation, IDLO's main asset is our people.

The COVID-19 crisis forced IDLO to look closely at its staffing, human resources systems, policies and procedures, and compelled us to work together in new ways and further strengthen support for each other across the Organization.

IDLO has been developing a comprehensive human resources strategy and a gender action plan, to strengthen our capacity to attract, develop and retain high-performing staff.

I am pleased to report that gender parity has been achieved in IDLO's senior management over the past year. Women now constitute 50% of the Senior Leadership Team compared to 20% in 2020.

Maintaining effective communication has become even more vital in recent times, especially when we are physically distanced. I have therefore made it a priority to communicate with colleagues through regular updates, and all-staff town hall meetings.

At a time of increased stress related to the pandemic, promoting mental health and wellness in the workplace is also a priority.

We have launched a wellbeing webinar series that offers practical guidance to staff on maintaining positive mental health during these challenging times.

In September, a long overdue organisation-wide salary survey was initiated and its results are anticipated by the end of the year.

Further investments in internal learning and professional development are planned for next year and reflected in IDLO's 2022 Operating Budget.



As part of our commitment to improve organisational efficiency and accountability over the course of the new strategic cycle, we have invested in updates to systems and business processes.

Over the past year we have taken steps to improve the transparency and accuracy of budgeting and financial reporting by developing a new cost reporting system and budgeting tool.

We are also strengthening compliance with IDLO's procurement policy by developing a new procurement module for the Enterprise Resource Platform, which is currently being piloted in selected country offices.

IDLO has increased ICT capacity to meet additional remote working needs and set up platforms for communication and collaboration.

We have issued a revised Personal Data Protection Policy to strengthen our regulatory framework for the processing of personal data, consistent with best practices for international organisations.

At a time of elevated risk, a foremost priority is ensuring our staff's safety and wellbeing while they carry out their critical work in some of the most challenging operating environments around the world.

To strengthen organisational security risk management, we have updated the structure of IDLO's Security Management Team to improve security monitoring and response in countries of operation.

I want to take a moment here to address the situation in Afghanistan, which has been a matter of significant concern over the past months.

Afghanistan has been IDLO's largest country programme from the time the Organization started to have significant work at the country level.

We first began operations in Afghanistan in 2001, and the country became a Member Party in 2012.

Over the last two decades, IDLO has established itself as a leading supporter of the justice sector in Afghanistan. We have worked with a range of partners including the government, civil society organisations, and international development actors.

In line with IDLO's mandate and the needs of the Afghan people, our work has focussed on strengthening access to justice, upholding human rights, and expanding the capacity of the justice sector.



We have also placed an emphasis on protecting the rights of women and girls through legal empowerment and promoting a survivor-centric approach to gender-based violence.

The security and wellbeing of our staff is our paramount concern. We have been in constant contact with staff in Afghanistan to provide support and security advice.

We also established a dedicated hotline to respond to requests from current and former staff, as well as other stakeholders.

Our operations in Afghanistan are currently paused in light of the political and security situation, and we have suspended all support to government entities.

IDLO is committed to supporting the Afghan people in accessing justice and securing greater recognition of their rights.

Through our engagement, we would seek to protect past investments to the extent possible, and safeguard some of the gains made in Afghanistan over the last 20 years.

IDLO's ability to carry out this work is contingent on continued donor support and we are engaging in discussions with current and prospective partners.

We are grateful for the assistance provided by Member Parties during this time and look forward to the continuation of support in the challenging period ahead.

I consider partnerships and collaboration to be key to IDLO's success.

Throughout my report are examples of how IDLO has been able to pool expertise and resources, strengthen convening power, and leverage our impact through partnerships with likeminded organisations.

Today I will share just a few highlights from the past year.

We engaged in several global policy advocacy initiatives to further position IDLO as a thought leader, and champion for SDG 16 as an enabler of peace and sustainable development.

The most significant of these was the organisation of a second global SDG 16 Conference in April, in partnership with UNDESA and the Government of Italy.



Started in 2019, this Conference has grown into an important global forum that brings together key actors working on peace, justice and inclusion to share experiences and good practices, form new partnerships, and set the agenda for future cooperation.

This year, the Conference convened more than a hundred high-level speakers, including Ministers, judges, heads of UN entities, academics and members of civil society, on the theme of “transforming governance for a more peaceful, just, and inclusive future.”

Rather than trying to do justice to the rich deliberations in a few sentences, we have prepared a short video featuring the key messages from the Conference.

The Conference served as an input to the 2021 High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Vice Minister Sereni shared major takeaways from the conference during the thematic discussion to review progress on Goals 3, 10, 16 and 17, which I moderated.

IDLO continued to advocate for greater political and financial support for the rule of law through advocacy initiatives at the global, regional and national levels over the past year.

These included engagement with the Kyoto Crime Congress, the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute, the East African Chief Justices’ conference, The Tashkent Law Spring, and as part of the Justice Action Coalition, as well as our own Crisis Governance Forum.

A major priority is strengthening the mutually reinforcing relationship between human rights and the rule of law.

The Human Rights Council is an important forum for our advocacy.

This year, in addition to addressing the high-level segment in February, I travelled to Geneva just last week, at the invitation of the President of the Human Rights Council, to chair its Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law.

I also used the opportunity to brief delegations on IDLO’s work at an Executive Briefing organised by the United Nations Office in Geneva and to meet with key partners including Dr. Tedros and High Commissioner Bachelet.

During the mission I signed a Memorandum of Understanding between IDLO and DCAF, the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance.

The high-level week of the United Nations General Assembly in September was a significant opportunity to meet government representatives and senior officials of the UN and other organisations.



As the DSG noted, the Secretary General’s “Our Common Agenda” report, launched at that time, presents an ambitious plan to address global challenges, strengthen multilateralism and accelerate progress on the SDGs.

IDLO welcomes the report’s acknowledgement of the need for a “new vision” for the rule of law to build back better and is committed to contributing to it.

Later today at the Partnership Forum, we will explore this subject in greater detail and I hope that you will join us for Assistant Secretary General Volker Turk’s keynote remarks on the Common Agenda and the New Vision.

I have prioritised strengthening IDLO’s collaboration with current and prospective partners.

Throughout the year we have engaged with Ambassadors and representatives of IDLO Member Parties, as well as other current and prospective partners, despite the restrictions imposed by COVID-19.

We are pursuing a strategic partnership with the European Union and enhancing cooperation with the African Union and ASEAN.

During the Italian Presidency of the G20, IDLO was invited to join several streams of the Group’s work.

This engagement helped to raise the Organization’s profile and allowed IDLO to contribute to several important policy debates relevant to our mandate.

Over the past year, we have increased our engagement with the United Nations system through collaboration on programmes, research, policy and advocacy.

In June, UNODC Executive Director, Ms. Ghada Waly, and I signed a Memorandum of Understanding between our two organisations.

We strengthened our links with many organisations working to advance the rule of law, access to justice and human rights and liaised with the broader international community through our presence in Rome, New York, Geneva and the Hague.

Our partnerships with Rome-based organisations grew through engagement with Bioversity International, FAO, ICCROM, IFAD, UNIDROIT and WFP.



We engaged with current and prospective development partners as part of our goal to strengthen and diversify the resource base.

I would like to thank all IDLO's donors, and in particular, Italy, the United States, the Netherlands, Sweden, and Kuwait, for their generous financial support.

I am pleased to report that, in July, IDLO signed a new multiyear agreement with the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2021-2024.

We expect to conclude a new multiyear agreement with the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Netherlands shortly.

As an intergovernmental organisation, IDLO relies on the active engagement and political support of its Member Parties for its governance, multilateral positioning and advocacy.

I am pleased to report that Mauritania became the newest Member Party of IDLO this August.

Our engagement with Mauritania spans several decades. We have more than 500 Mauritanian alumni who have completed legal and judicial training activities, either in Nouakchott or in Rome.

In July, we received a formal expression of interest from the Republic of Cyprus to join IDLO, which was approved through voting by Member Parties earlier this month.

In September, IDLO received a notification that the Government of Norway has decided to withdraw from the Organization.

That withdrawal will become effective on 26 November.

I am committed to pursuing a strategic approach to growth in membership and we are actively pursuing discussions with several countries who have an interest in our mandate.

IDLO's efforts to secure appropriate recognition of its legal status, including through Host Country Agreements (HCAs), continue to be a priority.

Following the request by the Assembly of Parties last year in Resolution 3/2020, I welcome the opportunity to provide an update on our efforts and on the progress we have made. IDLO has HCAs with 14 countries and other mechanisms of recognition of legal status in several others.



This year, we concluded a binding Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of **Armenia** that entered into force on 1 September.

Negotiations on HCAs continue with several countries including **Democratic Republic of the Congo, Moldova, Rwanda, Tunisia, the Philippines, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.**

IDLO also made progress on ensuring the implementation of previously concluded Host Country Agreements, with Uganda and Niger taking the necessary steps to formalise the HCAs under their domestic legal systems.

We are liaising with countries, including **Burkina Faso, Kenya and Mongolia**, to ensure follow-up on the full and effective implementation of the respective Agreements.

Turning to finance, our financial results for 2021 were impacted by the evolving restrictions related to COVID-19 and the increased volatility in our countries of operation, particularly the situation in Afghanistan.

Healthy financial reserves, and the Operational Fund established by the Assembly of Parties, gave IDLO some confidence in navigating an uncertain financial environment.

With careful management, we are on track to end the year with a positive operational result.

I will present the proposed 2022 Operating Budget under the next agenda item.

Looking ahead, we are living during an extraordinary moment in history.

I was at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly in September when the Secretary General warned world leaders that we are on the “We are on the edge of an abyss — and moving in the wrong direction.”

Stepping back from this precipice will require bold, urgent and transformative measures.

We must put people at the centre of justice systems in order to rebuild trust, promote equality and close the justice gap.

We must transform laws and institutions to cooperate fairly and effectively on complex, transnational issues like climate change, vaccine inequity, extreme inequality, and the digital divide.

To have any hope of success, our efforts must be grounded in the principles of rule of law, solidarity and sustainability.





Implementing this “new vision for the rule of law” will not be an easy task.

In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., “Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step toward the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.”

IDLO is committed to working with you at every step on the road to creating a culture of justice and building a future that is more peaceful, just and inclusive.