

REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 12 December 2025

This report is submitted by the Standing Committee to the Assembly of Parties for its Annual Meeting on 12 December 2025, in accordance with Article VI (2) of the Establishment Agreement and Articles II (2) and XIV of the Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committee.

The report provides an overview of the proceedings of the Standing Committee at its meetings held in 2025, including decisions taken.

COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

In 2025 the Standing Committee was composed of:

- United States as President of the Assembly;
- Italy as *ex-officio* Vice-President of the Assembly;
- Mongolia as Vice-President of the Assembly;
- Egypt as *ad hoc* member of the Standing Committee;
- Honduras as *ad hoc* member of the Standing Committee;
- Kuwait as *ad hoc* member of the Standing Committee; and
- Philippines as *ad hoc* member of the Standing Committee.

MEETINGS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

Article VI (1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committee provides that the Committee shall hold at least three regular meetings annually at the invitation of the President.

In 2025, the Standing Committee held regular meetings on:

- 2 April 2025
- 30 July 2025
- 30 October 2025

At each meeting, the Director-General provided comprehensive reports on IDLO's work and answered questions on issues related to the Organization.

During 2025 all Standing Committee meetings were held in person at IDLO headquarters. All three meetings were chaired by the President, represented by the Chargé d’Affaires a.i., United States Mission to the UN Agencies in Rome (in April and July), and by the Acting Deputy Chief of Mission (in October).

The Chair and Vice Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee (AFC), members of the AFC, and the Chair of the Board of Advisers attended meetings as observers. Representatives of the IDLO Staff Association also attended meetings in an observer capacity and presented statements on behalf of the Association.

The Chair was supported by the IDLO Secretariat in organizing the Committee’s meetings, preparing and circulating relevant background documentation, and providing summaries of each meeting.

The Standing Committee expresses its appreciation for the contributions of the Director-General to the Committee, and to IDLO staff for the support in ensuring the effective running of the meetings.

IMPLEMENTATION OF IDLO’S STRATEGIC PLAN AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

During 2025, the Standing Committee provided guidance on behalf of Member Parties on the implementation of IDLO’s Strategic Plan 2025–2028, the Management Plan 2025–2026, and the Operating Budget 2025, informed by regular reports from the Director-General and the Audit and Finance Committee.

The year 2025 marked the first year of implementation of the new Strategic Plan, structured around the overarching goal of the *rule of law accelerating progress towards peace and sustainable development* and six interrelated strategic outcomes.

At each meeting, the Director-General briefed the Standing Committee on progress achieved under the Plan, in particular the progress made in advancing the three main priorities she had outlined at the beginning of the year, namely:

- promoting practical rule of law solutions to help partners address their development priorities;
- mobilizing political and financial support for the rule of law and diversifying IDLO’s funding base; and
- ensuring operational continuity and financial stability through prudent management and the optimization of resources.

Throughout the year, the Director-General and Committee members also expressed their appreciation to IDLO’s staff, particularly those serving in challenging field environments.

Tangible examples of IDLO’s work to deliver practical rule of law solutions for its partners on which the Committee was briefed during the year include the following:

- IDLO’s work in the Sahel region, where insecurity, violence and migration risks converge, is improving how communities interact with the criminal justice chain in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger through the mechanism of the *Cadres de Concertation*. Thanks also to IDLO’s support, in Niger pre-trial detention times have been drastically reduced from up to 16 years to less than a year. In Somaliland over 600 cases were handled through Alternative Dispute Resolution Centres, including

mobile courts, while a dedicated hotline also offered remote legal support.

- In The Bahamas IDLO supported the development of a Human Smuggling Bill and training front-line police, prosecutors and immigration officers. In Chile, IDLO’s work advances efforts to professionalize the prison system, and in Honduras a programme on strengthening Juvenile Criminal Justice is reinforcing national ownership of reforms that protect and rehabilitate young offenders.
- In Africa, IDLO’s East Africa Transnational Organized Crime programme is supporting law enforcement in Kenya, Tanzania and Mozambique. In Mozambique, the support provided has been critical to the country’s removal from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) “grey list”. In Liberia, IDLO has been assisting national efforts to combat human trafficking, including through supporting nationwide public outreach campaigns that reached some 6,000 individuals – including over 500 local leaders – on trafficking risks and reporting mechanisms.
- IDLO’s portfolio of programmes designed to promote transparency and combat corruption is expanding to a wide range of countries, including the Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, Kenya, Honduras and Ukraine. Support to the Anti-Money Laundering Council of the Philippines on their National Risk Assessment, included co-convening—with the Office of the Ombudsman—a high-level anti-corruption conference involving over 200 participants from 44 institutions. A new three-year programme was launched in Moldova to bolster integrity and transparency in the justice sector through strategic digital transformation.
- Programmes to tackle violence against women and girls, one of the most pervasive human rights violations undermining peace, equality, and development, continued to be a key area of IDLO’s work. Activities were advanced in several countries, including Mali, Niger, The Gambia, Uganda, and Mongolia, where IDLO is supporting the establishment of new Family and Youth Courts, scheduled to launch in 2026. While IDLO’s programme in Afghanistan concluded in 2025, its legacy continues through long-standing beneficiaries such as the Female Lawyers Network—a nationwide coalition of nearly 70 civil society organizations and 100 women legal professionals trained by IDLO—who remain well positioned to provide essential legal support to the people of Afghanistan, particularly women. Despite extremely difficult conditions, the support they offer continues to result in favourable outcomes for clients, including acquittals and protection from harsh sentences. The Director-General emphasized to members of the Standing Committee that she remains committed to securing new funding for Afghanistan, where IDLO has maintained an operational presence since 2003 and where the needs remain significant.
- IDLO continued to advance rule of law solutions for the governance of food, land and natural resources. In Kenya, it strengthened the capacity of the Environment and Land Court and convened a regional workshop to validate its issue brief on people-centred land governance. In the Middle East and North Africa, IDLO supported policy and legislative reforms in this area. In Jordan, it helped develop food security and agricultural credit legislation to bolster national resilience and expand access to agricultural credit, particularly for women smallholder farmers.
- IDLO also worked to improve the legal and institutional environment for inclusive

economic growth across several regions. In Kyrgyzstan, IDLO supported reform of the mediation framework and contributed to drafting a new mediation law, while in Rwanda it strengthened community-based land dispute resolution by training 250 *Abunzi* (traditional mediators) on land-related issues. IDLO also conducted a radio campaign on land rights which reached an estimated 400,000 people. In Tunisia, as part of IDLO's Access to Land and Credit programme, the Organization partnered with the Ministry of Women to convene a high-level roundtable with several other government ministries, fostering a unified national strategy for women's access to land and economic empowerment.

- Promoting enabling environments for broad-based economic growth remained the key focus of many programmes, including in Kenya, with the establishment of three new Small Claims Courts (SCCs), bringing the total number of IDLO-supported courts to 31 since 2021. According to the latest available report on the Administration of Justice 2023-2024, the SCCs have handled 41,524 cases, achieving an 81 percent clearance rate, demonstrating their positive impact in delivering justice services.
- Through its Global Regulatory and Fiscal Capacity Building Programme, IDLO continued to assist governments and civil society in strengthening legal frameworks for healthier food systems and the prevention of non-communicable diseases in ten countries including Bangladesh, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Mauritius, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, and Uganda. External peer reviews confirmed the programme's effectiveness, and expansion to additional partner countries is under consideration.

Progress was made in mobilizing political and financial support for the rule of law. Examples include:

- Growing interest in IDLO membership, with The Bahamas joining as IDLO's 40th Member Party, and Chile and Uruguay advancing their membership processes, underlining the value that countries see in IDLO's mandate and its nationally owned approach to its mission and goals.
- IDLO's continued advocacy at major global policy events included the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the Third UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, and the UN General Assembly High-Level Week. The Organization also engaged at other key forums including the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly, the Italy–Latin America Conference, the Human Rights Council, the Fourth UN Conference on Financing for Development, the Second World Summit for Social Development, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and the World Justice Forum, as well as IDLO's SDG16 Conference, co-organized with Italy and UNDESA.
- Increased engagement with parliamentarians, through IDLO participation in the 151st Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly, the World Conference of Speakers of Parliament, and the Summit of Women Speakers.
- Ongoing collaboration with Rome-based agencies, especially the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), including through participation in the 52nd Plenary Session of the Committee on World Food Security, the 177th Session of the FAO Council, and World Food Day.

MANAGEMENT ISSUES

During 2025, the Standing Committee discussed the Organization's management and financial performance, providing guidance on institutional and operational matters. At each meeting, the Director-General briefed the Committee on measures to safeguard operational continuity in the context of an evolving donor landscape, characterized by reductions in official development assistance, including the United States' review of its foreign assistance. IDLO adopted strong cost containment measures, including limiting discretionary spending on procurement, travel and consultants, suspending salary increments, and redeploying resources to priority areas. The Standing Committee was informed of programme closures and contingency plans developed in response, as well as other actions taken by IDLO to minimize the impact on staff and partners and to identify alternative funding sources.

At the Committee's October meeting, the Director-General presented the proposed 2026 Operating Budget, reflecting a 30 percent reduction from 2025 amid a challenging financial environment. The budget was designed to safeguard IDLO's financial stability, ensure delivery of its mandate, and invest in areas critical for future resilience and growth. To maintain delivery capacity, investments were prioritized, aligned with the Strategic Plan, including digital innovation, enabling environments for economic growth, regional approaches, stronger donor engagement, and upgraded systems and ICT infrastructure. Despite overall funding constraints, core contributions are projected to increase by 5 percent in 2026, demonstrating donors' confidence in IDLO's governance and performance.

In endorsing the budget for transmission to the Assembly of Parties, the Committee commended the Director-General and IDLO management for their commitment to fiscal discipline, transparency, and accountability.

Over the course of the year, the Standing Committee reviewed the Organization's progress toward securing legal status in programme countries, welcoming the signing of Host Country Agreements with Kenya, which is provisionally in force pending gazettelement, and with Moldova, which will be provisionally applied pending parliamentary approval. In addition, the Committee noted the ongoing discussions with the Philippines and Tunisia. Members also welcomed the Organization's continued emphasis on staff safety and security, particularly for field personnel.

Members encouraged IDLO to continue diversifying its funding base, expressed appreciation to all of IDLO's current funding partners and reaffirmed their support for the Organization's efforts to remain agile, innovative, and results-oriented in promoting access to justice and advancing the rule of law worldwide.

2025 DECISIONS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

1. Approval of audited Financial Statements 2024

The Standing Committee approved the IDLO 2024 audited Financial Statements after review and based upon the recommendation of the Audit and Finance Committee. Since 2019, IDLO's audited financial statements have been compliant with International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS).

2. Approval of proposed Operating Budget 2026

At its October meeting, the Standing Committee approved for onward transmission to the Assembly of Parties the proposed Operating Budget for 2026, which had been previously endorsed by the AFC at its meeting on 8 October.

3. Approval of draft resolutions for the 2025 Assembly of Parties meeting

At the October meeting, the Director-General briefed the Standing Committee on preparations for the Assembly of Parties and provided an overview of the five draft resolutions to be submitted to the Assembly, including the resolutions related to elections. All resolutions were approved by the Standing Committee for transmission to the Assembly of Parties for consideration and adoption at its meeting on 12 December.

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