

## RULE OF LAW IS KEY TO SUSTAINING PEACE, IDLO FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

Rome, November 28, 2017 – As the number of conflicts around the world continues to rise, IDLO's Director-General Irene Khan has pointed out that “at the root of popular discontent, fragility and conflict lie problems of injustice, inequality, exclusion and deprivation”.

“Strengthening the rule of law cannot wait until violence has subsided or the economy has recovered but must occur alongside humanitarian response, political action and economic development as an important measure of stabilization,” Ms. Khan noted. “Peace cannot be sustained, nor development made sustainable without investment in the rule of law.”

Her remarks were made at IDLO's 2017 Partnership Forum that is addressing the relationship between peace and development and the role that the rule of law plays to promote stable and inclusive societies.

Held annually in conjunction with the meeting of IDLO's Assembly of Parties, the multi-stakeholder Partnership Forum is taking place at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in Rome on November 28-29, 2017.

“Societies with greater levels of inequality are more fragile and their economies grow more slowly. Building more efficient institutions and protecting human rights means investing in sustainable peace,” said the Italian Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Senator Benedetto della Vedova.

Strengthening the rule of law and promoting inclusive, sustainable growth are increasingly recognized as necessary components of a comprehensive approach to peacebuilding, to prevent conflict by addressing its root causes.

In a series of interactive dialogues, participants of the Partnership Forum are discussing:

- ways to build effective and accountable institutions, examining the importance of context sensitivity, local ownership and effective change management;
- strong legal frameworks, equitable access to economic opportunity and effective dispute resolution mechanisms as powerful vectors of sustainable, inclusive economic development;
- gender equality, women's empowerment, and the contribution of the rule of law to ensure fair and equitable outcomes for women and girls.

Delivering the keynote address, the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Strategic Coordination, Fabrizio Hochschild, spoke from his personal experience in countries experiencing and emerging from conflict, noting: “The importance of the rule of law is enshrined in the preamble of the United Nations Charter. However, over the last 20 years there has been a great realization of the fundamental and practical importance of the rule of law as the basis and prerequisite for sustainable peace and development.”

Other speakers during the first sessions included the Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development of South Africa, the Attorney General of Somalia, the Legal Counsel of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), and [others](#).

As the organization's first female Director-General, Ms. Khan emphasized IDLO's achievements in promoting gender equality over the past four years, noting that "justice for women improves when justice is dispensed by women".

At the meeting, Mali and Sweden became the newest Member Parties of IDLO.

**For further information, please contact Judit Arenas, [jarenas@idlo.int](mailto:jarenas@idlo.int), +1 646 506 5996**

**For further information on IDLO's 2017 Assembly of Parties and Partnership Forum, please visit <http://www.idlo.int/assembly-partnership-forum-2017>**

You can also follow on Twitter: [@IDLO](https://twitter.com/IDLO) or [@IreneKhan](https://twitter.com/IreneKhan)

### **Background for editors**

The International Development Law Organization (IDLO) is the only intergovernmental organization exclusively devoted to promoting the rule of law. IDLO works to enable governments and empower people to reform laws and strengthen institutions to promote peace, justice, sustainable development and economic opportunity. Its programs, research and policy advocacy cover the spectrum of rule of law from peace and institution building to social development and economic recovery in countries emerging from conflict and striving towards democracy.

IDLO sees the rule of law as the cornerstone of peace, security, justice and development, as well as an integral part of sustainable development - underpinning social and economic progress and environmental protection with strong institutions and good governance, formal legal frameworks and legal empowerment of people, equal opportunity and equitable access to basic services, and due process and fair outcomes for all.

For further information about IDLO visit [www.idlo.int](http://www.idlo.int)

/ENDS