

## STATEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT LAW ORGANIZATION

THE GENERAL SEGMENT OF  
THE 31<sup>ST</sup> SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

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Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

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International Organizations in Geneva*

### Check against delivery

Thank you Mr. President.

As the only intergovernmental organization devoted exclusively to strengthening the rule of law, the International Development Law Organization has a deep and interest in the work of the Council.

With over 30 years of experience promoting the rule of law, including through technical assistance, IDLO is engaged with national partners on the ground helping to build strong legal frameworks, accountable institutions and promoting access to justice.

Good laws and effective institutions can transform societies. The rule of law provides certainty, predictability, as well as substantive justice.

Poverty cannot be eradicated, sustainable development achieved, or inclusive economies created without the establishment of a strong culture of rule of law.

SDG 16 acknowledges that access to justice, the rule of law and effective, inclusive institutions are essential ingredients of sustainable development. But the relationship between the rule of law and the 2030 Agenda cuts across all the Sustainable Development Goals.

As IDLO Director-General, Irene Khan, highlighted at the UN Summit on Sustainable Development in September: “clean government is as important as clean water.”

We have heard the High Commissioner’s call for action and we look forward to some specific opportunities, which include:

- The *Forum on human rights, democracy and the rule of law*, established by the Council at its 28<sup>th</sup> session.
- As the UPR moves into its third cycle, IDLO stands ready to assist countries that may require support in their implementation efforts.
- The full potential of the rule of law and access to justice must be exploited to help protect the fundamental rights of refugees and other migrants wherever they may be and in finding solutions to their plight.

Mr. President, IDLO stands ready to play its role, further strengthening its cooperation with the Council and OHCHR, as part of an increasingly inclusive and interconnected global partnership.

Thank you.

*The International Development Law Organization (IDLO) enables governments  
and empowers people to reform laws and strengthen institutions to promote  
peace, justice, sustainable development and economic opportunity.*