

Meeting of the IDLO Assembly of Parties

23-24 November 2015

Ambassador APAKAN / Chair Board Advisers

Transcribed as delivered

Thank you Mr. President, Madam Director-General, thank you for giving me the floor. I'm convinced that a global order based on the rule of law is imperative for a peaceful, prosperous, and just world. In the light of recent events, in an ever-complicated world, the rule of law is becoming increasingly relevant. This is particularly relevant at the time when we are experiencing very sad and unfortunate events. I'm referring to recent attacks onto civilians people in Paris and other attacks also to place. And there are also many people fleeing from homes in the Middle East and North Africa. This brings a huge flow of refugees. All these issues are relevant to our work. People demand for greater accountability, transparency, justice and rule of law. And I do agree with the honorable Secretary General that rule of law is antidote to conflict and there is also a closer connection to the topic of rule of law and terrorism. And yesterday in our meeting we start to look at this relationship if the board of advisors could explore some work in this respect. Mr. President, this obvious state over the past four years, IDLO has gone through a critical period, developed a balanced strategy, initiated major programs, and expanded its roles and visibility internationally. I should say that in this context, institution building and access to justice have been the main accomplishments of the programs and I should underscore that expanded programs for fragile states have welcomed development. Another important initiative by IDLO is increasing interest in Africa and in order to advance the rule of law as an integral component to Africa's sustainable development. I should also add that IDLO's gender strategy is yet another significant development in this direction. Actually IDLO has expanded its partnership and upgraded to fundamental importance of the rule of law to all development work. We are grateful to our Director General and her staff for achieving such a growth in our organization. And I should say that both on the part of the board of advisors we have also

very useful cooperation with the Director General in relation to the work of the board of advisors. And also I should like to defer to sustainable development goals. I think IDLO made a great job by making advocacy for a separate sustainable development goal about justice and rule of law and this target succeeds if you permit me, I will read it. I will quote it. Target 16 of Sustainable Development Goal is about “promote peaceful and inclusive society for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels”. It’s about justice and development. It’s also about institution building and access to justice. I do believe these are the main basic requirements of citizens and civil society. The rule of law helps to build people’s confidence in institutions. I am sure that this assembly will discuss the role and contribution of IDLO, which can make difference for the implementation of institutes and interlinkages with it. This is a unique opportunity for me also to share with the parties of the assembly, some background information with regard to the board of advisors. As the Chair of the Board of Advisors I’m satisfied to report that my colleagues on the board are using their best collective experience in order to ensure that rule of law is accorded the priority it deserves. This year board of advisors has convened twice respectively in July 2015 in The Hague and also yesterday in Rome. During these meetings, board in consultation with the Director General and the secretariat has focused on programming issues, advocacy and engagement issues, human rights, Africa, the rule of law, and sustainable development goals. In this way, members of the board have also submitted concept papers on such a variety of topics. For example, I should quote some of the topics and concept papers prepared by the board of advisors, one of them is monitoring and evaluating rule of law projects, another one is about sustainable development and natural resources in fragile settings. Yet another one is energy and rule of law. Another one is a fresh approach to human rights. Another one is in the age of sustainable development goals (unknown). Another one is about responsibility to learn international law. One is about private finance and financial markets. Another one is foreign NGO’s management law in China. I wish to share these topics with you. These are some new initiatives. We would like to contribute more to develop of IDLO and we would like to play a role if it is going to take place any reform work on governance. We would like to take more active role in the upcoming strategic planning and I would seek

your tolerance and I would like to mention that our two colleagues, Profesor Jean Michel Otto, and Pascal Roux will be leaving the Board of Advisors following two terms of each is going to expire at this assembly of parties. I have a great respect to them. I have to say that the two colleagues have greatly contributed to the work of the board as well as IDLO in general by their in depth experience and expertise. We are going to miss them. Jean Michel Otto was the vice chair of the board and we carried with him jointly the responsibilities for the conduct for the work of advisors. Pascal Roux is an experienced lawyer coming from private sector who committed to the work of board with wise and workable suggestions and ideas so I have to express my gratitude to both of them because they have been in this organization since the foundation of the organizations. And they have gone through all those years in cooperation with the Directors General and IDLO secretariat. And before finalizing I have to make some status announcements. Since it's the right place to address the plenary, I have to say that the IDLO board of advisors is pleased to nominate the following distinguished candidates for election by state parties to the board of advisors. There's no hierarchy. The first one is Justice Antonio Herman Benjamin. The second one is Mr. Hassan Cisse. And the third one is Hongxia Liu? And in the final state of my remarks I should also add that the IDLO board of advisors is pleased to support the reelection of the following to the Board of Advisors. This is Ms. Hongxia Liu. The second one is Mr. Daniel Rowland. They are both experienced colleagues of mine. They have been working with IDLO for a long time. This is the reason we have according to the status the right to nominate candidates and to express support. So, on the part of advisors, I'm in a position to express our firm support to Hongxia Liu and Daniel Rowland for re nomination. Thank you for your tolerance and attention.