

As delivered

Assembly of Parties of IDLO

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, November 23rd 2015

General Debate on IDLO's programs and achievements

Statement of the Permanent Representative of Italy,

Amb. Pierfrancesco Sacco

Mr President,

These are days of sorrow and anxiety, indignation and reaction. The International Community and each and every person of good will is called upon to defy evil and promote peace, justice and inclusive sustainable development.

It is therefore a **special satisfaction** for Italy to host here at Farnesina this Assembly of Parties.

The rule of law is indeed an **Italian priority** in the global Agenda and I look forward to tomorrow's debate on the "**Road Ahead**" for the rule of law to foster legislative reform, institution-building, access to justice and innovation.

No sustainable development without peace, stability and the rule of law. No peace, stability and rule of law without sustainable development. **IDLO, together with the other Rome based Organizations is at the intersection of human security and economic and social development.**

I would like to reiterate the **Italian warmest welcome to Pakistan, Mongolia and Honduras for their accession** to the Organization. The international recognition of the key role of the rule of law is growing and we congratulate IDLO for being now **a recognized partner** for many Countries and International Organizations, also within the UN system.

Italy supports IDLO's role against this background, as well as **the tireless and highly professional commitment and leadership of its Director General.**

The **positive results** so far achieved in the **implementation of the Strategic Plan 2013-2016** and the persistent **advocacy activity** of the past 2 years amplified the global acknowledgment of the cross-cutting role of the Rule of Law in the Development Agenda.

We did our part: **Italy's un-earmarked contribution tripled this year** and we are now among the major providers of core funding.

The multi-year contribution announced by Sweden - and granted upon a thorough audit conducted throughout the first part of the year - is a **great news. It helps reducing the financial dependence of IDLO on a small group of major donors.** It supports the scaling up and consolidation of **core functions** of the Organization, consistently with the Strategic Plan.

In the same spirit, we welcome the **increasing geographic and thematic diversification** within the program portfolio.

I would like to reiterate the need for IDLO to grow **in a coherent way**, with criteria that beside contributing to the development of recipient countries, can attract more donors and countries to join in the Governance of the Organization.

This point is of the utmost importance to us, as the Standing Committee accrued its capacity of **guidance within the Organization.**

We welcome the newly appointed General Counsel and we wish he will provide members with consistent proposals to **update the Governance documents**, also deepening and widening the engagement of the Organization with Member Parties and non-Member Parties.

The expansion of IDLO may ease the opening of an internal discussion for **opening up the Standing Committee to new Donors and Members that wish to actively contribute** to the growth of the Organization. We also have to engage those Members that do not currently contribute to IDLO activities.

Mr President,

As IDLO's family keeps growing, Italy is playing and will continue to play an enabling role.

We facilitated the opening of a collaboration with the **Committee on World Food Security** for the implementation on the ground of CFS products as well as of SDG 16.

We'll soon organize a meeting with **Italian NGOs** involved in the Rule of Law for a profitable exchange of views with the IDLO management.

Contacts with **Bioversity International** and the **Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture** have been set up. They will facilitate the design and implementation of **more conspicuous projects, under the Goal n. 3.** Italy stands ready to help also in this regard.

We convened – here at Farnesina a few days ago – the African Ambassadors appointed in Rome to present them the Conference “**Africa as a driver of its own sustainable development: the contribution of the rule of law**”, that IDLO is organizing at the beginning of next year in Africa.

Mr. President,

I would also like to pay a special tribute to the Director General for her commitment in establishing a **network with the other meaningful Intergovernmental Organizations operating in Italy in the field of Justice, International and Humanitarian Law**.

We just concluded **EXPO Milano-2015**, where the Rule of Law dimension of “Feeding the Planet-Energy for Life” has been clearly recognized by all stakeholders and the almost 22 millions of visitors.

The event on the **Right to food** reviewed the way some countries, chiefly in Latin America, have given the right to food **constitutional expression** and examined how to make the right to food ‘justiciable’.

Mr President,

Indeed the contribution of the Hague, New York and Geneva offices for advocating and increasing IDLO’s partnership with the UN produced many positive effects, thus allowing an **enhanced role for the Rome Headquarter to aim high**. We are looking forward to tomorrow’s session, when the Assembly of Parties, together with high level discussants, will go through all the opportunities provided by the SDG 16.

Let’s give the Rule of Law a strong chance to better our world.

Thank you very much.