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## **Meeting of the Assembly of Parties of IDLO November 23-24, 2015**

### **Agenda Item 4: General Debate on IDLO's Programs and achievements:**

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Since I'm taking the floor for the first time, allow me to extend a word of thanks to the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation for hosting this meeting of the assembly of parties and to welcome the representatives of the new member states of IDLO whose countries are participating in the assembly meetings for the first time.

With regard to IDLO's programs and achievements, I would like to thank the Director General for the detailed and comprehensive report that she has presented, in particular the focus on the implementation of the third year of IDLO's Strategic Plan. The report clearly reflects on the tremendous progress in the implementation of IDLO's programs in 2015, which has been another year of growth and progress for IDLO.

I would like to note with much satisfaction the significant expansion of IDLO's programmatic work to achieve a more balanced portfolio. The increased quality program implementation and the growth of average program portfolio comparing to 2014. It is obvious that IDLO is moving steadily towards expanding the quality and reach of its programs and enhancing its international visibility. It is worth recognizing here that this progress would not have been possible without the generous support of some member states, in particular Italy, the Netherlands, the United States and Sweden.

Efforts to build a balanced portfolio, in terms of both program countries and thematic areas, have already started to bear fruits in many member countries, including my country Jordan, with new programs on the way to support access to legal services in refugees and host communities and capacity building in Intellectual property and competition law. The program targeting refugees and host communities clearly reflects the efficiency of IDLO in responding to the growing demands in such new and evolving areas connected to the devastating humanitarian impacts of the refugee crises. It is evident that this negative impact will continue to affect our region's sustainable development agenda for the next decade at least; therefore, we hope that this tendency of IDLO will continue and further grow by scaling up ITS programs in support of the host communities and refugees.

The role that IDLO has played in encouraging the UN to place Justice and the rule of law firmly at the heart of development in the 2030 Agenda is worth recognizing as a significant achievement and a milestone in the history of the organization. The 2030 Agenda is without any doubt generating a new momentum for law and development which in turn creates major new opportunities to further advance the mission and international visibility of IDLO.

I would like to reiterate Jordan's commitment to IDLO's values and goals, and its support to its efforts and endeavors; in this regard we hope that the new regional office in Jordan would serve as a catalyst for more focused and coordinated initiatives towards the Middle East region.



## Agenda Item 8: The Rule of Law and the 2030 Agenda:

Let me thank IDLO's leadership for its efforts and active engagement with all stakeholders that lead to the recognition of the linkage between the rule of law and sustainable development goals by the 2030 agenda. I have already mentioned yesterday the positive impact that such a step would have on both the visibility and mission of IDLO in the future but also on the efforts to achieve sustainable development goals.

Without any doubt, the rule of law, equal access to justice for all, the development of effective, accountable and transparent institutions, the provision of legal identity to all, and promotion and enforcement of non-discriminatory laws and policies are all key elements of the drive for sustainable development.

For future cooperation between IDLO and the UN in the framework of 2030 agenda. It is crucial to keep in mind that the UN approach towards promoting the rule of law on the national level, puts national perspectives at the center of the rule of law assistance in order to strengthen national ownership, taking into account the different specificities of the member states.

It is also important to highlight the importance that the UN has recently given to restoring confidence in the rule of law as a key element of transitional justice.

We fully agree with the Director General's view that the relationship between the rule of law and The 2030 Agenda goes deeper than goal 16, and that it cuts across all of the sustainable development goals. It is evident that without access to justice and the rule of law, development cannot be sustained. The rule of law is an essential requirement to achieve many of the goals in 2030 Agenda.

The importance of national ownership in rule of law activities and the importance of strengthening national capacities of member states in the domestic implementation of their respective international obligations, including through enhanced technical assistance and capacity-building.

My country actively participated in all stages to reach post 2015 development agenda consensus. It declared its strong commitment to achieving its goals through an enhanced global partnership.

As part of its commitment to comprehensive and home grown reforms, Jordan is working on pursuing a path of sustainable development and to internalize SDGs into its national development plans whilst maximizing resource mobilization for meeting its development agenda.

We have launched this year a new 10 year socio-economic blueprint for the country (Jordan 2025, a national vision and strategy), aimed at achieving a prosperous, resilient and inclusive economy while deepening reform and inclusion.

The Government has internalized SDGs as part of its Jordan 2025 and will build into its development planning framework through EDPs the indicators to be developed for tracking progress of SDGs.

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## Challenges:

The world today is a much different place than it was at the turn of the millennium; while prosperity is greater and more widespread, poverty remains a greater challenge especially in low and middle income countries, and while there has been growth inequality has been raising in addition to pressures.

The political, economic and social situation in the Middle East at present, which lead to a number of sequential and cumulative humanitarian crisis, has increased human suffering and fragility dramatically. These crisis will take time to be resolved and their negative impact will continue to affect sustainable development programs in the region for the next decade at least.

Jordan today is hosting over 1.4 million Syrians, where only 8 percent of Syrians are in refugee camps and making Jordan the third largest refugees' recipient country per capita wise in the world. This has heavily impacted the country's fiscal position and stretched its resources to the limit.

The burdens faced by Jordan due to regional turbulences put great pressure on its limited resources and capabilities affecting key sectors of education, health, water municipal services and infrastructure making it even more difficult to achieve the SDGs in agenda 2030. Therefore, it is essential that all options to support countries hosting refugees on behalf of the international community should be employed.

IDLO, in coordination and partnership with -other stakeholders, can play a very important role in bridging the gap in development financing faced by developing countries to implement SDGs over the coming 15 years. The organization is demanded to play a role in engaging and incentivizing private finance through provide legal solutions for sustainable development and economic opportunities, to support improvement of business regulatory environment and sound macroeconomic frameworks.