

STATEMENT BY MS. HARRIET M. NDUMA, FIRST COUNSELLOR/DEPUTY HEAD OF MISSION EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA DURING THE MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT LAW ORGANIZATION (IDLO) 23RD, NOVEMBER 2015 - ROME, ITALY

**Mr. President,
Director General of the IDLO,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

1. Thank you Mr. President for giving me the floor. Like the previous speakers before me, my delegation wishes to express its solidarity with the people and the Governments of Mali and France following the cowardly acts of terrorism. As a country that has suffered this menace, Kenya only knows too well the loss that these heinous acts bring. We stand with Mali and France as we join the international community in the fight against terrorism.

My delegation takes this early opportunity to thank the IDLO Secretariat for the preparation of this meeting.

Mr. President

2. Let me add my voice and commend the progress and achievements of the IDLO so far made as outlined in the current Strategic Plan. Indeed, this contribution has contributed to the overall global sustainability. My delegation also commends the crucial role that the Organization played in the Post-2015 Development Agenda process that culminated in, among others, the adoption of Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16).

3. Fundamentally, SDG 16 underlines the important role that the rule of law plays in eradicating poverty, protecting the environment, securing human rights and ensuring justice for all. The interactive debate will no doubt provide us with the opportunity to exchange ideas and views as we collectively focus our energies to the implementation of the 2030 Development Agenda. We are confident that IDLO will continue to make its contribution to the implementation process in order to bring real change to the lives of the poor.

4. To complete the new path to sustainability, my delegation is optimistic the global community will reach a universal meaningful Climate Agreement in Paris in the coming weeks. Kenya is making its positive contribution in this regard to guarantee the sustainability of our Planet for present and future generations.

Ladies and Gentlemen

5. Sustainable Development Goals have ushered in a new dawn for prosperity. In this regard, my delegation calls for adequate and predictable means of implementation to achieve the goals and targets of this ambitious initiative. As the drivers of policies, programs and projects for national governments and multilateral institutions for development, attainment of the SDGs will require global commitment at all levels.

Mr. President

6. I could not agree more with the remarks made by the representative of the IDLO Kenya Country Office on the work being undertaken by the Organization in promoting the rule of law in Kenya. My delegation appreciates the technical assistance that the IDLO continues to provide in building our legal and institutional capacities to ensure access to justice for all. Indeed, IDLO's support on women empowerment and energy policy formulation is complementing the Government's efforts in promoting gender equality, equity, inclusivity and climate change resilience development.

7. IDLO's work and support in Kenya has grown in the last five years. From a program designed to support one Government institution to one supporting over three critical sectors and institutions. The lessons from this program can critically inform other interventions in the region. Kenya is fast becoming the regional hub for international institutions. I believe working with IDLO to transform Nairobi into a formidable Rule of Law hub will go a long way in facilitating exchange of best practices in a coordinated and coherent manner.

My delegation looks forward to the forthcoming African Initiative Conference in Tanzania next year. We believe this meeting will provide us with the opportunity to explore ways and means of advancing the rule of law in our region and within our context for sustainable growth.

8. We commend the Director-General for ensuring prudent management of the IDLO's financial base. It is indeed, gratifying to note that this stability has translated to an expansion strategy that will greatly impact on the lives and livelihoods at grassroots levels in the overall promotion of sustainable development.

Ladies and Gentlemen

9. Kenya was honored and proud for the important role she played in shaping the Post-2015 Development architecture by co-chairing the Open Working Group on SDGs and co-facilitating the Intergovernmental Negotiations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. On behalf of the Government and People of Kenya, I wish to express our gratitude to the Governments and the international community for trusting Kenya with the role of spearheading the process that culminated in a blueprint to galvanise global action towards ending poverty in all its form and eradicate inequality.

Thank you for your attention.