

Speaking Points - Nederland IDLO Annual Meeting

- We welcome this Annual Meeting and also welcome the opportunity to have an Interactive Debate on the Rule of Law and the 2030 Agenda.
- This period is of critical importance for IDLO, with the Development of its new 2017-2020 Strategic Plan. Also, the 2030 Agenda and in particular SGD 16 provide new and exciting opportunities for IDLO, as a specialist organization on development and the rule of law, to give content to that agenda on the global level going forward. IDLO aspires to be a "thought-leader" on Goal 16 and indeed that is what we hope you will become. We hope that your vision on this and expertise on this will be clearly reflected in the final Strategic Plan.
- In the presentation we just heard, the progress of the organization in 2015 is apparent.
 - The organization has successfully broadened its donor base. We hope they will continue this trend, and that soon other States will join us in giving support to their important mandate.
 - The organization has diversified its portfolio beyond Afghanistan. IDLO now runs important programs in other parts of the world, including in countries as diverse as Honduras, Kyrgystan, South Sudan, Mali, Indonesia. We hope that IDLO can continue its focus on states where its services are most needed.
 - We also note the continuous growth of The Hague office and the recent appointment of its new Director, Dr. Faustina Pereira. We look forward to working with her.
 - Of particular value is IDLO's work to help women around the world to access justice and realize their rights, including in Afghanistan, South Sudan and Honduras.
 - We therefore encourage IDLO to consolidate the quality of its programs, to expand its authority as a knowledge-base and a standard setting organization, and to learn from its own experiences through rigorous monitoring and evaluation, and reporting on its results.
 - We also encourage IDLO to keep working on issues of internal management, transparency, accountability, collaboration and governance in the year to come.
- The reason why we invest in IDLO was summed up by our Minister in an op-ed in the Guardian just last week: "The rule of law is the bridge that connects development with peace ...Development cannot be truly sustainable without peace and justice. Sound, legitimate institutions and the rule of law help to protect countries from violence and from "development in reverse". These issues are at the heart of IDLO's important mandate .