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Transcribed as delivered

First of all I would like to thank you all and I would like to say that I'm here as representative of civil society but I'm also here as representative of a center which is a scientific center working on scientific evidence for Arab women in the 22 Arab countries and beyond. Also I would like to tell that we work with men not just Arab men but all men and women who believe in our cause of social justice and the rule of law. I'd like to make four points. The first point is to give you a bit of reference, the second point is about concepts, then I would like to go back to a new paradigm and then I will close by saying something about Tunisia. The context, the framework as you know, the sustainable development we should not forget that in the Rio conference - and I was there - when the topic of sustainable development was discussed people thought we were dreamers, but we are old enough to know that we were right when we wanted to talk about sustainable development and now the concept of sustainable development is at the heart of the rule of law and of SDG 16, so I'd like to welcome article 16 which is very far breaching. We tried to catch it in a way but it's a very deep concept. It cannot really describe the concept of the rule of law, but I think that each citizen can understand where there is the rule of law or not in his or her state. I think we can really appreciate the level of the rule of law if we visit a country, if we go to an airport, if we go to the train station and we can really understand whether we can feel citizens. I think it's something you can really perceive. A regular person can feel this apart from what we say as legal professors, so if we go back to what happened in September and if we go back to the assembly of the countries which presented their progress we realize that in the Arab world women are lagging behind when it comes to access to work, when it comes to economic empowerment, when it comes to political empowerment, when it comes to access to

services, access to justice that's why I believe that we cannot implement article 16 without considering the goal of article 5. That's why you said that they are intertwined. The different goals are intertwined. So I would like to talk about the goal number 5, which is in fact connected, to the implementation of the rule of law that is a rule of law with the contribution of women; otherwise, if women don't contribute to the rule of law and if women do not benefit from sustainable development, we will not have a fulfilled world in the next coming years. We should not forget we are here talking about implementation. We talked about mechanisms. I believe that today's meeting is just a first step and I believe that we have been elected in this board of advisors to show that IDLO wants to take concrete actions because the different stakeholders that is the private priorities, civil society, governments can really have a dialogue to try and I say to try and have a better sustainable development. So, the fifth point is that we are very far away considering the quantity of indicators. When it comes to qualitative indicators and we need them, I think we need to introduce a new concept. Or better, we should revisit old concepts and many people have talked about this, but how can we discuss of a better world or a sustainable development if we don't include the concept of inclusion a better inclusion, better equity between men and women, the poor and the rich. So, inclusion is a password, is a key element, but we need to go deep down to fight poverty, affect vulnerable populations to fight legal illiteracy is a factor of social economic inclusion, but we also talked of monitoring. We can monitor situations together with civil society. We talked of renewal, we talked of controls and I think that only through a real interaction between governments and non governmental organizations in terms of accountability in terms of their awareness, meaning in a society in which we have to fight against corruption we need transparent societies where data are available to all. So I think it is important for IDLO to support our countries in terms of being more open and providing greater access to data. And if we do that we have really made an important step forward. Also, since I participated in the training sessions that have been organized by this organization, I think we should do even more training, more capacity building because it is important to speak the same language. It's not because there is a lack of skills but because I think we need to have a better interaction to harmonize our language and to understand each other. So I think we should work more in terms of exchange and

interaction rather than strengthening capacity because we do have high skills in our company- sorry- in our society, so we need more interaction. And the regional strategies the trans boarder aspects are also very important and the Center for Arab women is working a lot on this. We have many best practices so if we need to transfer best practices from Egypt to Morocco or to Sudan this is really important and perhaps if we do this at the regional level it is much better than you know transferring skills from Sweden to Tunisia for instance. So, I believe that exchanging best practices is really an important concept that we should highlight and which we should work on. And I would like to close by talking about paradigms and this is just a way to reply to what has already been said excellently. A new paradigm, we need to change. We can no longer go back to the past, to the Middle Ages. Or we can look at the past but we have to think about the future because well we are and our action in the present is destroying the future of our children. That's why I believe that we have a duty to protect the future and this is why the future paradigm is something that does not, that is not important just for future generations. It is important also for current generations. We have to think about the future to nourish the present so if we establish a real pact for a better life, for a decent life in a protected environment I think that our children will reap the benefits as well. And I think we are all agree on this paradigm change, this change of the past for the benefit of the future. I said I would close with Tunisia. The lesson we can give is simply not that we are a democratic country. We are a transition country. We are moving towards democracy and every day we make an effort to continue with this transition but I think that the lesson is that our constitution for instance was discussed by everybody by all citizens. We discussed about our constitution everyday and I think all citizens in Tunisia are aware of the importance of the constitution. You know, the professors are no longer more informed than regular citizens. So, you know perhaps the people don't speak Latin or cannot really understand the legal jargon but really the citizens understand how important it is for vulnerable groups no longer to remain in a state of vulnerability. And this is just to say that in Tunisia, the one million women that almost everyday fought for this did a lot, for the progress we have achieved in Tunisia. Thank you very much.