

STATEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT LAW ORGANIZATION

DIRECTOR GENERAL SUMMARY OF GENERAL DEBATE

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Rome

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Transcribed as delivered

Let me just try to sum up what has been a very rich discussion and it is hard to put back everything into a few minutes. However, I do believe that what has come through in our discussion this morning and now has been the importance of creating and enabling an environment for the rule of law. The rule of law will thrive where there are factors that help to bring creating inclusive environments to create strong institutions.

Now yesterday, one of the delegates here mentioned that she was disappointed that she hadn't heard more reference to Human Rights. I think today we have heard many times references to citizens, their participations, their knowledge, their rights and the importance of legal literacy. What this actually shows, is that when you move from macro discussions into the micro discussions of the rule of law, Human Rights, protecting citizen's rights and making citizens a part of the delivery system for the rule of law is absolutely essential.

I would like to underline the importance of not just creating an environment, but actually empowering stakeholders who are going to be critical for delivering the rule of law. Whether they are government officials, whether they are judges, whether they are lawyers, whether they are women's groups, whether they are ordinary citizens. I think this is where the real meaning of IDLO's work lies.

In our current strategic plan, when we started consultations, the strong feedback that we immediately got from all our stakeholders was "Focus on the end users of justice." That means the people, the citizens, the rights holders. So as duty bearers, we are all here duty bearers, whether as governments or intergovernmental organizations. As duty bearers, as we move forward in developing IDLO's strategic plan, and also taking into account the 2030 agenda, I am very reassured to hear from you the strong emphasis that you want us to place on an inclusive process, on listening to the voices of people and on helping to develop a strategy that will take IDLO to new heights of efficiency and effectiveness, but also of empowerment; that we can empower citizens, that they take control of their own rule of law goals and objectives.

This morning we had an economist opening the session. Professor Giovannini. He would certainly have told us to watch supply and demand. The supply for justice is improved when there is a demand for justice. Therefore, we need to work on both ends of that. So thank you very much for a very inspiring discussion today that I know will set the stage very well for our strategic planning process.

Thank you.

The International Development Law Organization (IDLO) enables governments and empowers people to reform laws and strengthen institutions to promote peace, justice, sustainable development and economic opportunity.

