

NL intervention IDLO Assembly of Parties 29 November 2016

Thank you to the Chair, the DG, and a welcome to Vietnam as a new member.

IDLO is in a new and critical phase of its development, as highlighted in its 2017-2020 Strategic Plan. It also has a unique opportunity to contribute to Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The new Strategic Plan identifies "impact goals" for IDLO, which will enable it to better measure the effectiveness of its interventions. Some of these goals align with our own results-based framework which we developed at the NL Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The NL is pleased with the focus on empowerment and access to justice, as well as on equality and inclusion, and we welcome in particular:

- The focus on the empowerment of women and girls, to combat SGBV and gender discrimination, has long been a priority of NL
- The focus on refugees and migrants, as among the world's most vulnerable population and in urgent need of better legal protection
- Engagement with informal justice systems to improve access to justice. IDLO has an important comparative advantage on this topic because of prior research.

Other important aspects of the plan include the way in which IDLO works. Four areas are of importance:

1. The Program Change Initiative will assist IDLO to improve the quality of its programs and to be more strategic and results-oriented, as well as to measure its impact. This should include an important component of story-telling about its effectiveness.
2. The Learning and Knowledge Initiative. We wish in particular to commend a program in Burundi on women's access to land rights, which incorporates research and learning into the program cycle.
3. The empowerment of field offices and a field orientation, with new programs under design after the Africa conference (which NL attended). The MENA region and Amman office are also a priority for us.
4. The new Human Resource policy, which will assist in retaining and developing talent within IDLO.

Looking forward, allow me a few observations.

Branch offices should continue to play an important role, including The Hague office. This will be particularly true considering the additional role that IDLO is taking on as part of the Knowledge Platform. This will provide additional opportunities to engage with the rule of law community in The Hague.

Governance reform too will offer an important opportunity to broaden and diversify the governance organs of IDLO. We continue to welcome other states who seek to join and contribute to IDLO.

We ourselves are in a discussion with IDLO on our future contribution, pending certain organizational issues.

IDLO's mandate and experience make it uniquely qualified to continue to promote the rule of law in the world, and we hope IDLO will continue to play its part over the next few years. Thank you.