

Remarks of USA for IDLO Assembly 2016  
May be improvised

DG's Report on 2016:

- Madame Director-General, the United States thanks you for your report and thanks you and the entire IDLO team in Rome and in the field for your impressive efforts over the last year to deliver important results through your project work and to further solidify the rule of law as an integral element of sustainable development.
- The United States is working with IDLO to address criminal justice reform in Ukraine, build legal capacity in Honduras, and combat sexual and gender-based violence in Mongolia and Liberia. We are also supporting ongoing IDLO projects in Afghanistan, Somalia, South Sudan, Kenya, Mali, Kyrgyzstan, and the Philippines.
- We believe in IDLO's ability to work in delicate and complicated environments to devise and implement high-quality and crucial projects to promote access to justice and to strengthen judicial institutions.
- More than ever, we must work to make our governments more accountable to the citizens that we serve. Our efforts to build more just, inclusive, and transparent societies is never ending and we are pleased to have IDLO as a leading partner to that end.
- As a member of the Standing Committee, the United States participated in the discussions regarding IDLO's financial posture for 2016 and supported the decision to use IDLO's financial reserves to cover committed expenses for 2016 after the decision of the government of the Netherlands to not pay their sizeable, pledged 2016 contribution.
- We feel it is important to reiterate to the Assembly that, in our view, this was a unique circumstance and the decision to access the reserves to fund operational costs was taken on an extraordinary basis.
- We also expect to see from IDLO management, as soon as feasible, a plan to replenish the reserves back up to desirable levels, as described in IDLO's reserves policy.
- Thank you.

### Strategic Plan (Strategy 2020):

- The United States thanks the Director General and the IDLO team that worked on the formulation of this next Strategic Plan for the impressive efforts they have put into the consultation and drafting process that led to the development of the Plan.
- The United States values IDLO as a niche rule of law implementer. IDLO offers expertise in areas where few others are operating and should continue honing and consolidating this expertise before diversifying too greatly into other areas.
- Beyond Strategy 2020's focus on improving IDLO's program development and management, we thank IDLO for including an important section on talent management. Investing in its staff, in their professional development, in their retention, and in healthy staff-management relationship will be vital to IDLO's ability to maintain a high level of program performance.
- We have reviewed the Strategic Plan and support its implementation.

### IDLO's Management Plan and Budget for 2017:

- The United States is pleased to endorse the draft Management Plan and Budget for 2017.
- We applaud IDLO for visibly and broadly incorporating into the Management Plan the ongoing human resources, communications, and transparency and accountability reforms that are essential to IDLO's continuing success. These include all aspects of the Continuous Improvement Program or CIP. This is an important confidence building measure for both internal and external stakeholders, including current and prospective donors.
- We look forward to further discussion and review of any new HR policies and Rules as well as the transition plan for the new employment model in 2017.
- The United States also recognizes IDLO's stated commitment to addressing continuing management issues raised by the Independent Management Review that was commissioned by the Standing Committee this year.

- We recognize the progress already made on many of the recommendations, several of which were already underway via the CIP.
- An international organization depends on the financial contributions from its members and donors and sudden changes in funding flows, such as those that IDLO has experienced in the last year, can affect its efficacy. Consequently, open communication is essential in determining whether any issue will arise that could disrupt these contributions.
- The Audit and Finance Committee is a valuable channel of communication between IDLO Members and the IDLO Secretariat. Building a responsive and accountable relationship with the committee can be a safeguard for IDLO so that budget issues, such as a sudden loss in funding, can be prevented. We appreciate being considered for appointment to the AFC and look forward to this opportunity to serve.
- The adoption of the Financial Management Framework in April was an important step to ensure that the development of future IDLO budgets is consistent with the best practices used by other international organizations. The move to an output-based operating budget will allow us to better match priorities and progress to spending.

Report of the Standing Committee (time permitting):

- The United States would like to thank Nawaf Al Mahamal for his continued, effective leadership as the President of this Organization.

Governance Reform:

- The United States is pleased to see progress on the issue of governance reform. We consider this one of the most important issues facing IDLO, and we intend to be involved closely in this process.
- The last changes to IDLO's governing bodies took place in 2009 at a time where a very different organization was in operation. IDLO has many more Members now, is active in many more parts of the world, and is handling much more financial resources than at that time.
- We'd like to work toward a governance structure which promotes roles for each of the governing bodies that play to their strengths and

which allows for prospective Members or non-Member donors to better follow the work of the organization.

- We are pleased to chair the working group that will meet over the course of the next year to bring back to this Assembly concrete proposals for making small, but important changes to IDLO's Governance Documents.
- As part of the group's work, we also recommend that IDLO's General Counsel review the governance structures and documents of international organizations of a similar size or structure to propose possible recommendations.
- We thank the General Counsel for the efforts already undertaken on this matter.
- Finally, we'd like to encourage all Member Parties to consider participating in this process through the working group.