
PRESS RELEASE

RULE OF LAW KEY TO FIGHT CONFLICT AND POVERTY

IDLO ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2015

Rome, November 23, 2015 – The rule of law as a key factor to end conflict and poverty was highlighted today during the annual Assembly of Parties of the International Development Law Organization (IDLO), the only intergovernmental organization exclusively devoted to promoting the rule of law.

The Assembly is being hosted by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Rome on November 23-24, 2015.

“Legal certainty is the main antidote to conflict, arbitrariness its main cause,” said Ambassador Michele Valensise representing the Italian MFA.

“Recent events in Paris, Bamako and elsewhere in the world are a stark reminder of the growing need for good laws and greater access to justice, bringing to light the relevance of IDLO’s mandate,” noted the organization’s Director-General Irene Khan.

The momentum around rule of law and access to justice – recently included in the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – is also testified by the growth in IDLO membership as Honduras, Mongolia and Pakistan joined the organization today.

During the Assembly, the Director-General submitted a report showing progress made in broadening the geographic spread of programming, and presentations from countries as diverse as Afghanistan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Somalia, South Sudan and Tunisia highlighted the impact IDLO’s work has had in promoting legal reform, increasing people’s access to justice and strengthening institutions. Member Parties also approved the 2016 Management Plan which will focus on strengthening programs through innovative approaches.

Signing the accession agreement for **Honduras** was Deputy Minister for Cooperation María del Carmen Nasser de Ramos, who said “IDLO will be a strategic partner for the development of our country, and we look forward to working together in key areas including legal reforms and access to justice.”

IDLO recently started a new program in Honduras which aims to reduce the country’s alarming violence levels by enhancing access to justice for vulnerable sectors of society and replacing of the existing culture of violence with one of legality. In previous years, IDLO has worked alongside the Honduran Judiciary to address the scourge of gender violence and facilitated the opening of the first Center for the Assistance and Promotion of Women’s Rights in the capital, Tegucigalpa.

Another of the new member parties, **Mongolia**, provides an example of how legal reforms and training can help boost investment and economic growth. Over the past years, IDLO has been supporting the local judiciary in ensuring judges can apply commercial law and court decisions are actually enforced. The organization has also helped establish Mongolia’s first private mediation center and assisted in creating the first Mongolian corps of world-class commercial mediators.

As for **Pakistan**, membership of IDLO constitutes a reaffirmation of the government’s commitment to, and support for, the primacy of the rule of law.

The country's strong legal community – many members of which have benefited from IDLO trainings – and the alignment of the goals of the “Vision 2025” document – inclusive growth, good governance, institutional reform and the development of human and social capital – with rule of law principles can provide a strong basis for IDLO to collaborate and provide assistance in realizing them.

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