
PRESS RELEASE

HONDURAS JOINS IDLO,

STRENGTHENS COMMITMENT TO RULE OF LAW

Rome, November 23, 2015 - Two months after the historic inclusion of the rule of law in the new Sustainable Development Goals, Honduras joined today the International Development Law Organization (IDLO), the only intergovernmental organization exclusively devoted to promoting the rule of law.

The signing ceremony, attended by Honduran Deputy Foreign Minister María del Carmen Nasser de Ramos, took place during the opening of IDLO's annual Assembly of Parties, hosted by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Rome on November 23-24, 2015. Two other countries, Mongolia and Pakistan, also joined today.

"IDLO will be a strategic partner for the Honduran government in promoting rule of law and access to justice reforms," the Deputy Minister said.

In Honduras, IDLO has opened its first Latin America office and has recently started a program aiming to reduce violence through enhanced access to justice for the most vulnerable sectors of society.

The program - which will be implemented in coordination with government institutions and constant collaboration with civil society organizations - revolves around five action components: developing holistic access-to-justice response mechanisms for victims of domestic and intra-family violence at the municipal and community level; strengthening institutions providing assistance to women, children, elderly or disabled people who are victims of domestic and intra-family violence; access to justice for people in detention through strengthening mechanisms for reintegration, rehabilitation and direct assistance related to their judicial proceedings and life circumstances; developing mechanisms to cater for the rights of victims of crime through restorative justice; and developing juvenile criminal policy.

Over the past years, IDLO has worked with 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 (*Centro de Atención y Promoción de los Derechos de las Mujeres - CAPRODEM*) in Tegucigalpa.

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For further information, please contact Simona Beltrami, sbeltrami@idlo.int , +39 3337142251

