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**PRESS RELEASE**  
**MONGOLIA JOINS IDLO,**  
**REAFFIRMS 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 (SDGs) Mongolia joined today the International Development Law Organization (IDLO), the only intergovernmental organization exclusively devoted to promoting the rule of law.

The signing ceremony 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, Honduras and Pakistan, also joined today.

“Our work in Mongolia is a clear example of how legal reforms and training can help boost investment and economic growth,” said Irene Khan, Director-General of IDLO.

Ambassador Shijeekhuu Odonbaatar hailed IDLO's programming in his country, which dates back to 1998 and continues to expand, and highlighted Mongolia's increasing engagement with the international agenda, particularly in fostering partnerships among new and restored democracies, and working for peace and security in North-East Asia.

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.

### **Background**

Established in 1983, the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) is the only intergovernmental organization exclusively devoted to promoting the rule of law.

IDLO works to enable governments and empower people to reform laws and strengthen institutions to promote peace, justice, sustainable development and economic opportunity. Its programs, research and policy advocacy cover the spectrum of rule of law from peace and institution building to social development and economic recovery in countries emerging from conflict and striving towards democracy.

IDLO has its headquarters in Rome, a Branch Office in The Hague, liaison offices for the United Nations in New York and Geneva, and Country Offices in Afghanistan, Honduras, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Somalia, South Sudan and Tajikistan.

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