

**FORUM EXPLORES RULE OF LAW IN PURSUIT OF  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND 2030 AGENDA**

(Rome) November 29, 2016 - The International Development Law Organization (IDLO) is convening different stakeholders to discuss the potential of Goal 16, and the rule of law more generally as an essential tool, in the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The forum will open with a discussion between IDLO's Director General, Irene Khan, and Brazilian ambassador to the United Nations, Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, who was one of the chief negotiators involved in the development of the SDGs in his previous role to the UN.

In other sessions, participants will hear the diverse experiences of trying to establish the rule of law in a range of countries from the Attorney General of Afghanistan, Mohammad Farid Hamidi, the Attorney General of Myanmar, Htun Htun Oo, the President of the Supreme Court of Paraguay, Alicia Beatriz Pucheta de Correa, the Italian Coordinator for International Activities on Anti-corruption, Minister Alfredo Durante Mangoni, the Head of the Financial Law Unit at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Jelena Madir, and the Judge President of the High Court of South Africa, Dunstan Mlambo.

Representatives of various governments, universities and other bodies will join the above guests, Ms. Khan, and IDLO country directors from the field to discuss institutional building and access to justice in the pursuit of peace, security, sustainable development and economic growth.

IDLO believes that a culture of justice requires both state institutions that are well-functioning, honest and accountable, as well as citizens who are aware of their rights and empowered to claim them.

Speaking ahead of the forum, Ms. Khan explained that "effective institutions are key to providing justice, upholding rights and facilitating development. But these alone are not enough. Discriminatory laws and policies aggravate inequality and exclusion. Marginalized groups, in particular, must be empowered to fight discrimination and access justice. Engagement with civil society and informal justice systems will be crucial to this effort."

The forum is being held at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and follows the organization's annual Assembly of Parties.

**Notes to Editors**

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, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Mali, Mongolia, Myanmar, Somalia, South Sudan and Tajikistan.

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