

Assemblea delle Parti dell'IDLO

(Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale, Roma – Sala delle Conferenze Internazionali, 29 novembre 2015)

Intervento del Sottosegretario di Stato Sen. Benedetto Della Vedova

- Mr. President, Madame Director-General, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,
- It is for me a great privilege to open IDLO's Assembly of Parties, which we have the pleasure to host at the Farnesina.
- In these days the Conference hall enshrines a wonderful artwork of the Italian artist Michelangelo Pistoletto. It represents the 'Mediterranean continent' and its countries as a symbol of dialogue and sharing.
- We ideally open it today, not only to the Mediterranean countries, but to every country in the world that shares IDLO's mission to affirm the rule of law as a means for building peace and development. We are, indeed, extremely grateful to IDLO for its unremitting action in this direction.
- The present threats to peace and security are all, in one way or the other, also rooted in inequalities, social exclusion and violation of human rights: promoting the rule of law is an essential instrument in dealing with them.
- IDLO's mandate acquires new strength from the 2030 Agenda adopted last year: the Agenda includes indeed a specific goal – SDG 16 - to “promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”. It is now unquestionable that the rule of law is a pillar without which development cannot be sustained.
- We highly regard IDLO's constant strive to translate the rule of law from an abstract idea into concrete results that can effectively improve people's lives through equality and justice for all.
- Rule of law means that boys and girls can safely attend school; that smallholder farmer are not to be evicted from their land; that women are protected against harassment. It means also that conflicts are less likely to arise because disputes can be settled peacefully and justly.
- These results can truly fortify people's confidence in institutions, triggering also a more active and informed participation in democratic life.
- IDLO's last strategic Plan has proven a valuable tool in defining its crucial mandate and in promoting a significant growth in the last four years both in terms of membership and political clout.

- I am particularly glad, therefore, to welcome today Vietnam as a new State Party to IDLO: in a few minutes the accession agreement will be signed.
- Italy is also very proud of hosting IDLO: we have worked together to consolidate its role as one of the main actors of Rome's international hub.
- We encourage IDLO to further strengthen its synergies with the other Rome-based agencies: as indicated, the rule of law is a fundamental driver for the attainment of the whole 2030 Agenda and is key for food security and sustainable rural development.
- We commend the Director-General Irene Khan for her remarkable achievements. Her farsighted leadership has been instrumental in bringing the organization where it is now.
- The new, ambitious Strategic Plan 2017-2020 we are to adopt in this Assembly builds upon the vision we have described and, at the same time, takes stock of the lessons learned in these four years, in order to direct its action where it can be the most effective.
- Let me express our appreciation for the three impact goals the new Plan is setting: empowerment, institution-building and the promotion of the 2030 agenda through the rule of law.
- Italy has been fully supportive of IDLO's extraordinary growth and will remain a steadfast partner of IDLO for the implementation of its new Strategic Plan.
- In order to make this Plan reality, though, IDLO needs increased support, both financially and politically, from all of us. We need to step-up our shared commitment. Italy is already planning a further and substantial increase to its financial support to the Organization in 2017.
- We hope that all Members of the Organization will join us in ensuring an active support to IDLO's mandate and activities throughout the world.

Thank you.