

ASSEMBLEA DELLE PARTI IDLO 2018

Speaking points (after Director General's Report on 2018)

I am very **glad** to attend the annual IDLO Assembly of Parties and to have the opportunity to share comments with the management, member countries and partners.

As you mentioned, Director General, 2018 has been an **important year** for IDLO: it marked the 30th anniversary of its establishment as an intergovernmental organization, and the route pursued since is impressive. 2018 was also, indeed, the midpoint of the implementation of Strategy 2020.

But there are also a number of **positive achievements** that mark this year:

It was the **first year of work of the enlarged Standing Committee**, which means that members were empowered, and their involvement strengthened.

At the end of the year **budget figures** showed an increase compared to the approved figures.

Three new thematic programs were recently launched to better frame IDLO's work on the ground.

These results show that **IDLO is in a good shape**.

IDLO is definitely an **asset** in the hands of the International Community to contribute to the consolidation of accountable institutions and equitable societies based on the rule of law.

More in detail, we note the **continued expansion of IDLO's programmatic activity**, with a growing geographical diversity.

We appreciate that the **first focus remains on fragile and post-conflict contexts**, where building accountable institutions is key to the path of sustainable development.

Italy has expectations about the **regular expansion of programs focused on economic development**. The fruitful partnership with **EBRD** has proven to be an ideal leverage in this regard.

We also appreciate the positive developments of the Investment Support program for **Least Developed Countries**.

With no means of reducing the current work on preventing Sexual Based Gender Violence, that we strongly support, we believe that an economic development segment should also fall naturally in the projects aimed at the **empowerment of women and girls**.

Italy also strongly support the revamp of IDLO's work in the **MENA region**. A structural programmatic engagement in this pivotal geographic area is of the highest importance, and we encourage the Organization to consider the elaboration of a dedicated regional strategy.

Another area of global priority is the **Sahel region**, of course, and it is very positive that IDLO will strengthen its action in this region. We believe that this new engagement can offer the basis for an increased collaboration with the **FAO, IFAD, WFP**, which are developing a common action plan for the Sahel.

More in general, we encourage the Organization to pursue an ever-increasing cooperation with **the RBAs, being the Rome hub of the United Nations a natural partner for IDLO in its pursuit of sound and accountable legal frameworks for development**.

Issues such as, but **not limited to**, lands tenure or responsible investments in agriculture are natural areas of possible cooperation. In this regard we support activities already accomplished with FAO in Latin America, but an **higher level of cooperation** should be pursued.

Relations with the **UN Committee on World Food Security/CFS**, another valuable element of the Rome hub, should also be strengthened, and we are very happy to count the Chair of CFS, Amb. Arvelo, among the speakers of the Partnership forum of this year.

We encourage IDLO to actively engage in CFS' activity, starting from the incoming negotiations of the future **Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition**.

This would be even more appropriate as IDLO is opening its activity to **new dimensions**, such as the new project on **Non-Communicable Diseases**, to be developed within the framework of the Second International Conference on Nutrition.

However, we agree with you, Director General, that a **vulnerability** persist as a backdrop to the brilliant results of the Organization and this lies, on the one hand, on the **nature of the financial contributions** received by the Organization, and on the **narrow donor base**, on the other.

It is, indeed, extremely **positive** that the program revenue forecast for 2019 shows a 34% growth, compared to the current year.

IDLO has made important organizational reforms in the latest years, but it needs **more core funding** to continue strengthening its **unique profile of champion of SDG16**, thanks to investments in research and learning, in elaboration of policies, in further improvements in the operational tools.

Under the **guidance of its Members**, we believe that IDLO should be put in the condition to consolidate its action.

The **innovation** represented by the three **Thematic Programs** shows the maturity and the potential reached by the Organization, and we encourage Members and Partners to consider **soft earmarked contributions** to support IDLO's work in these three crucial areas for sustainable development.

To conclude on this point, we reiterate the **appeal to Members States** to contribute financially to the Organization, because, as we say in Italian, we believe that IDLO' membership implies “**oneri ed onori**” (responsibilities and privileges).