
**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY
THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY
Meeting of the Assembly of Parties**

**November 6, 2014
Rome, Italy**

As delivered

Mr President,

Let me first of all express appreciation for the high quality of the panel discussion on the Rule of Law contribution to Justice and Development, a theme that coincides with the core mandate of IDLO. It is indeed a timely opportunity for us, Parties and Observers, to exchange views ahead of today deliberations, on the role we would like Rule of Law to play in the new Agenda for Development. Undersecretary Della Vedova has eloquently underscored the importance Italy attaches to the rule of law, as a tool for fostering democracy, sustainable development, peace and security. Without further elaborating on it, let me just echo a crucial point: the Italian Government strongly supports Rule of Law as an indispensable component of SDGs, if not as a standing alone goal.

Let me also extend a warm welcome to Yemen. We consider the Yemeni accession as a success of the IDLO's programs in the country, politically and financially supported by Italy

My remarks will focus on how we see IDLO's role against this background, and how Italy can support it. First of all let me congratulate the Director General, Ms. Khan, for her inspiring statement and thank her for the accurate report on IDLO's activities in 2014. We recognize the crucial role of IDLO in promoting the rule of law for sustainable development, in particular in the sectors of legislative reform, institution-building, access to justice, and innovation.

We take this opportunity to reiterate our appreciation for the positive results achieved in the first two years of implementation of the Strategic Plan 2013-2016. We acknowledge that the clear strategic direction, the streamlined capabilities and the results achieved in reaching the targets set in the Plan, have increased the credibility of the Organization, which despite its size (when compared with UN Agencies) has become a key partner for many Countries and International Organizations, also within the UN system. Indeed, the partnership with the UN becomes more and more effective and visible, in Rome, Geneva and New York (let me congratulate the New York Office, in particular Patrizio and Judit, for the excellent work they are doing at the UN Headquarters).

Among the key achievements in 2014 mentioned by the Director General, we are glad to note the improved financial sustainability. This is the result of an enhanced financial management but it is also because more unrestricted funds have been made available. We can agree with the Director General that the financial dependence of IDLO on a small group of major donors remains one of the few weaknesses left. Therefore, on behalf of my Government I wish to appeal to potential donors to get on board: it is time, it will be rewarding. A certain degree of flexibility is essential for an Organization widely operating in areas of crises, and it is also required to scale up and consolidate the core functions of the Organization, consistently with the Strategic Plan. We did our part: Italy's un-earmarked contribution doubled this year and we are now the major provider of core funding. My Government would like to appeal to other donors to consider increasing their unrestricted funding.

Mr. President,

Allow me now to briefly mention some key points in the ongoing Italian partnership with IDLO.

First of all we are working at further developing and strengthening the collaboration with the other Rome based Agencies (FAO, IFAD, WFP and Bioversity), but also with other Intergovernmental organizations operating in Italy in the field of Justice, International and Humanitarian Law (UNICRI, UNIDROIT, ISISC of Siracusa and the IIHL of Sanremo).

Many of the distinguished participants to this Assembly attended on 21 July a Conference, co-organized by the Italian MFAIC and IDLO under the title of "Achieving a Transformative Post 2015 Development Agenda: the Contribution of the Rule of Law to equity and Sustainability". The Conference was held at the FAO, in the framework of the Italian Presidency of the European Union events, with an active participation of the other Rome Based Agencies. The discussion outcome provided several ideas on how rule of law could interact with actions in the field of food security-nutrition-agriculture and rural development, making them durable, sustainable, fully incorporating the human rights and gender perspectives. We consider therefore the Conference a valuable contribution to the debate on P-2015 Agenda, but also to the UN participation to EXPO-2015, where we expect that the Rule of Law dimension of "Feeding the Planet-Energy for Life", will be visible to the stakeholders (Governments, International Organizations, Civil Society, Private Sector, Academia) and to the millions of visitors expected to attend physically or virtually.

Three further significant examples of Italy-IDLO ongoing collaboration are:

- The side event at the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) on "Justice for Women by Women - Challenges and opportunities for professional women's participation in the justice sector", held in New York, in collaboration with the Permanent Representation of Afghanistan and the support of the Supreme Court of Mexico. The event provided notably the opportunity to launching IDLO's report on women in the justice sector in Afghanistan, funded by the Italian Development Cooperation.
- The creation of a data base on Country legislation on Freedom of Religion or Belief.
- The high-level event co-organized with the Government of Ghana and WFP, in collaboration with UN Women, during the opening week of the 69th session of the UN General Assembly, under the title "Feeding the Planet - Empowering Women: The Food and Nutrition Security Challenge". This joint event was intended to support the mainstreaming of gender equality in food and nutrition security, part of the Beijing+20 campaign and the Women for EXPO initiative.

Mr. President, let me conclude by confirming that, looking ahead to the many important appointments on the global scene in 2015, Italy considers IDLO as its privileged partner in the field of Rule of Law and Development.

Thank you for your attention.

The International Development Law Organization (IDLO) enables governments and empowers people to reform laws and strengthen institutions to promote peace, justice, sustainable development and economic opportunity.