



Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Department for International Law, Human Rights
and Treaty Law

**IDLO Assembly of parties 2018 – Intervention by Sweden in
General debate**

First of all let me extend a warm thanks to the Director General for the very comprehensive report presented here today on IDLO activities within the Strategy 2020.

I will offer some comments on a few aspects.

- The link between rule of law, respect for human rights and democracy is crucial and a key feature of how Sweden is addressing these issues comprehensively. Without respect for human rights and without democracy there will be no rule of law.
- The engagement of IDLO with civil society to enhance legal empowerment is in our view absolutely crucial and cannot be emphasised enough. Civil society can have a very valuable contribution as a watchdog, asking for accountability of states and empowering individuals in claiming their rights.

- Empowering women and girls – gender equality is a key topic for Sweden. A feminist foreign policy has been pursued for the past four years, now Sweden has a transitional government so it remains to be seen whether there will be a continuation. However, gender equality as such has been a strong feature in Swedish foreign policy for many years. We appreciate you highlighting the issue of gender equality in your report. It should be self evident that no sustainable development can be achieved if we do not include all persons – women, men, girls and boys.