

**PROCEEDINGS**  
**MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES**  
**13 November 2019**

The 2019 Annual Meeting of the Assembly of Parties (the Assembly) of the International Development Law Organization (IDLO), was held on 13 November 2019 at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in Rome (“*Sala Conferenze Internazionali*”).

The documentation for the meeting is available online at [this link](#).

**AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING**

**AGENDA ITEM 1A: OPENING BY THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT**

The President of the Assembly, Ms. Jennifer Harhigh, Chargé d’Affaires and Deputy Permanent Representative of the United States Mission to the United Nations Agencies in Rome, welcomed Member Party representatives and other participants and thanked the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for hosting once again the meeting of the IDLO Assembly of Parties.

The President gave the floor to H.E. Giorgio Marrapodi, Director-General, Department for Development Cooperation, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who introduced the inaugural remarks delivered by H.E. Vice Minister Emanuela Del Re by video message.

DG Marrapodi welcomed the meeting of the IDLO Assembly as a concrete demonstration of Italy’s support to the organization. He noted how the rule of law, good governance and human rights are part of Italy’s legal history and culture and that Italy considers peace, justice and strong institutions as key factors of sustainable development.

Noting Italy’s strong support for Agenda 2030, he referred to the preparatory Conference on SDG 16, which IDLO and UNDESA co-organized in May 2019 with the Italian Government. In view of the Conference success he noted that Italy was keen to host a second such conference in Rome, in 2020.

He expressed his gratitude and warm appreciation to IDLO’s Director-General (DG), whom he had first met when he was Head of the Ministry’s Legal Department. He congratulated the DG on the enduring legacy she would leave behind, adding that Italy stood ready to work with the new Director-General to continue promoting the common goals of Italy and IDLO.

Vice Minister Del Re began her statement by drawing attention to the enormous justice gap which is estimated to affect five billion people globally (some two thirds of the world population), remarking that in such a context the work of IDLO was all the more essential.

She spoke of the importance of building effective regulatory and legislative frameworks in order to fully implement the 2030 Agenda, describing IDLO's expertise in this area as both crucial and unique among international organizations.

Citing the UN Secretary-General, she underlined the importance of investing in sustaining peace, reiterating the mutually reinforcing nature of the three pillars of sustainable development – human rights, peace and development.

The Vice Minister said Italy was pushing for increased investments in the rule of law sector and access to justice as key components of sustainable development, and also stressed the importance of ensuring the active participation of women and girls.

She referred to Italy's longstanding and strong cooperation with IDLO, noting that Italy welcomed IDLO's growing relevance as an important component of Rome's international organizations hub. She warmly encouraged stronger partnerships between IDLO and other partners in the UN system.

She welcomed IDLO's growing membership and welcomed in particular Uganda as IDLO's newest Member Party.

Referring to progress so far in achieving Goal 16, H.E. Del Re said that greater efforts are needed. In this context, acknowledging also what she described as the "strong appetite" from Member States and other stakeholders for a structured platform for in-depth discussion on progress towards the Goal, she confirmed Italy's intention to support a second Global Conference on SDG16 with IDLO and other partners, to build on the success of the first conference held in May 2019 at the Italian Ministry.

She concluded with a personal tribute to DG Khan, congratulating her on her achievements over her eight years of tenure, describing her as a valued partner for Italy, and thanking her for her important contribution to the global policy debate on the nexus between gender equality, the rule of law and sustainable development.

Finally, the Vice Minister expressed the hope that the next IDLO DG would continue along the same path of prosperous cooperation.

The President thanked DG Marrapodi for his remarks and expressed appreciation to Vice Minister Del Re for her inspiring video message.

Before turning to the formal agenda of the meeting, the President took the opportunity to extend a special welcome to the delegations from Liberia, Qatar and Uganda, who were joining the Assembly for the first time as Member Parties, noting that the United States very much welcomed and supported the expansion of IDLO's membership.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 1B: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (AP/2019/1.1)**

The President referred to the provisional agenda (AP/2019/1.1) which had been circulated to Member Parties on October 21, 2019. She noted that, in the meantime,

the IDLO Secretariat had received an expression of interest by Niger to join IDLO. The President proposed that action on Niger's request be added to the Assembly agenda as a new item entitled "Membership request", to be considered in the afternoon prior to the agenda item on elections. There were no objections and the agenda, as modified, was adopted by consensus.

### **AGENDA ITEM 1C: PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT**

The President began by referring to 2019 as a significant year of achievement for IDLO. She welcomed the strong support for the organization, evidenced by its growing membership, new donors and ever-increasing footprint around the world.

She called on Member Parties to increase their political and financial support to IDLO. Describing such support as key to opening new doors for IDLO, she took the opportunity to thank all the members participating actively in the governance bodies of the organization. She also thanked the countries – Member Parties and non-members - that had concluded host country agreements (HCAs) with IDLO and encouraged others to do likewise.

She underlined the importance of financial support in shaping the scope and impact of IDLO's work, and said the organization's cautious approach to budgeting, and its achievements in terms of program flexibility and transparency, should be an encouragement to all members to provide support, particularly during the coming year of leadership transition.

The President concluded her statement by thanking DG Khan for her leadership, vision and commitment to the rule of law and for all she had done to increase IDLO's visibility, footprint and impact around the world. She then gave the floor to the Director-General to present her report.

### **AGENDA ITEM 2: DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S REPORT (AP/2019/2.1)**

In her final report to the Assembly, the DG recalled that when she was elected eight years ago IDLO was in deep crisis, financially and in terms of low morale and profile. Since then, thanks to the support of IDLO's Member Parties, partners and donors, and the hard work of its staff and management, the organization had changed significantly and was now thriving programmatically, organizationally and financially. The growing political support for IDLO is evermore reflected by the recent accession of Qatar, Liberia and Uganda to IDLO's membership, the DG noted, welcoming the three delegations to the Assembly.

The DG referred to the two successive Strategic Plans that had provided the Organization with the necessary focus and direction, highlighting how programs had expanded globally, policy advocacy had raised the Organization's visibility and the closer integration of programs, research, learning and advocacy had served to enhance the quality of IDLO's results.

The DG also underlined the growing recognition of IDLO as a champion for the rule of law, in particular through its leadership in promoting SDG16, citing as the latest

example the Global Conference on SDG 16 held in Rome in collaboration with UNDESA and the government of Italy, ahead of the July Summit on SDG16 and the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF).

She went on to highlight 8 major achievements from the last eight years.

### **1. Empowering those left behind**

Underlining IDLO's work on legal empowerment around the world, the DG introduced a short video made during her recent trip to Uganda describing IDLO's proposed program on legal empowerment in country, and thanked the Ambassador of Uganda to Italy for taking the time to join her for part of the trip. The DG also cited Honduras, Indonesia and Myanmar, where IDLO works with civil society and community organizations to empower people with knowledge about laws and their rights under the law.

### **2. Justice for Women and Girls**

As the first woman to lead IDLO, the DG said she was especially proud of IDLO's achievements in access to justice for women and girls. She referred to IDLO's first Gender Strategy, adopted in 2016 and recently evaluated and revised, which had evidenced a genuine change in IDLO's organizational culture as well as a growing recognition externally of IDLO as a strong advocate on justice for women and girls. The DG cited examples of IDLO's work in countries as varied as Afghanistan, Kenya, Honduras, Liberia, Mongolia and Myanmar to combat sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). She also referred to IDLO's work in Kenya, Tunisia and Honduras, assisting governments to reform gender discriminatory laws, policies and institutions, a program in Tanzania and Uganda supporting women and girls at risk of HIV, as well as a program on land rights for women in Burundi and a joint IDLO/EBRD program in Jordan to help women entrepreneurs overcome legal barriers.

As part of the Organization's commitment to ensuring justice for women, the DG noted IDLO's role as co-convenor of the High-Level Group on Justice for Women, together with UN Women, the World Bank, and the Pathfinders' Taskforce on Justice, and called attention to the Group's report launched earlier in the year that made a strong business case for reform and investment in justice for women from different perspectives.

### **3. Contributing to peace and democracy through institution building**

The DG noted that over the past eight years IDLO had contributed significantly to institution building both in conflict-affected, fragile environments and in more developed economies, such as constitutional reforms to improve democratic processes in Kenya, capacity development in the justice sector in Afghanistan, and contributing to Somalia's New Development Plan by helping the Government to lay the foundations of a modern justice system. She also highlighted IDLO's work to strengthen the criminal justice chain in Mali, which was evolving into a major, multi-country initiative across the Sahel region.

### **4. Engaging with informal and customary justice**

The DG highlighted IDLO's ground-breaking policy and programmatic work on informal and customary justice systems as a way to close the justice gap faced by

women, marginalized groups and people living in poverty, providing examples from Kyrgyzstan, Kenya and Somalia.

### **5. Promoting economic development**

Noting the recent growth in IDLO's work to advance economic development through the rule of law, the DG highlighted IDLO's successful collaboration with strategic partners, including the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, in Central Asia, Eastern Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, as well as an innovative new program offering access to legal advice on investment issues to Least Developed Countries through public/private partnerships.

### **6. Fighting corruption**

The DG observed that this was a growth area for IDLO and gave examples of ongoing programs in Ukraine, the Philippines and Kyrgyzstan. She noted the IDLO's engagement on this issue focused on building institutional capacity to investigate and prosecute corruption while increasing transparency in public processes and strengthening the monitoring and advocacy role of civil society organizations.

### **7. Organizational transformation**

Turning from external achievements to internal reforms, the DG summarized the key areas of IDLO's ambitious multi-year program for organizational change, geared to enhancing program quality; transparency and accountability; and field focus. She cited examples of new policies, tools and guidelines that had been implemented in the past several years, noting that the organizational reform agenda launched under the current Strategic Plan was on track for completion in 2020.

Recalling IDLO's transformation from a small Rome-based training institute to a global organization with physical presence in 20 countries over the period of eight years, she highlighted the significant human resources reforms that had been undertaken, including the introduction of a New Employment Model in 2018. She underlined the achievement of gender parity among IDLO employees, with a female to male ratio of 51 to 49 in 2019.

### **8. Political and financial support**

The DG highlighted the growth in IDLO's membership, with 12 new members joining in the last eight years and expressed confidence that IDLO was on track to meet its Strategic Plan target of 40 members by 2020.

In terms of finances, the DG noted that annual revenue had grown from 13.3 million euro in 2011 to 42.7 million euro forecast for 2019, pointing out that every contribution received by a voluntarily funded organization such as IDLO was a vote of confidence from donors. She recalled at the same time two key vulnerabilities – IDLO's proportionately low level of unrestricted funding and its narrow donor base.

Pointing to the 2020 Management Plan, which charts the course for IDLO in the last year of the current Strategic Plan, she expressed confidence that, with the support of the Member Parties, her successor would take the Organization smoothly into the next strategic planning cycle.

In closing, the DG thanked the Assembly and the Member Parties for their guidance, trust and confidence, IDLO's partners for their collaboration and support, and most of all, her IDLO colleagues around the world for their commitment and dedicated service.

The full text of the DG's report to the Assembly is available online at [this link](#).

## **GENERAL DEBATE**

The President thanked the DG for her comprehensive and inspiring report and moved to the next agenda item, the General Debate, inviting Member Parties to take the floor.

The Assembly heard interventions by the representatives of Burkina Faso, China, Ecuador, Egypt, Liberia, Mongolia, Mozambique, Netherlands, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Senegal, Sudan, Sweden, Turkey and the United States.

Representatives taking the floor expressed deep appreciation to the outgoing Director-General. Several of them emphasized her outstanding leadership and dedication to the rule of law and congratulated her on the major achievements she had brought about for the organization during her eight-year tenure.

Representatives of Member Parties warmly welcomed the three new members—Liberia, Qatar and Uganda - who were participating in the Assembly for the first time and expressed satisfaction on IDLO's growing membership. Referring to the recent membership request by Niger, several members noted the expansion of IDLO membership as a clear sign of its increased political relevance.

Several representatives highlighted IDLO's increased visibility worldwide, along with the expanding scope of its work and its increasing impact. The representative of Sweden reiterated her country's strong support for IDLO, emphasizing in particular its work to advance gender equality, and noted her government's increased financial contribution to IDLO in 2019 and 2020 under the current multi-year agreement.

A number of Member Parties referred in their statements to the need for IDLO to have a proper legal status recognized in its countries of operation. The representatives of Burkina Faso and Mongolia reported on progress towards the conclusion of Host Country Agreements with IDLO in their own countries.

The representatives of Liberia and Qatar, addressing the Assembly for the first time as new Member Parties, thanked the Assembly for welcoming them to IDLO.

A number of representatives highlighted IDLO's work underway in their countries. The representative of Liberia thanked IDLO for the work being carried out in her country, where IDLO was working together with local counterparts and government agencies to complement the national development agenda and support efforts on a range of issues, including combatting gender-based violence and human trafficking.

Other representatives highlighted relevant developments in their countries. The representative of Qatar spoke of his country's support for the international system to consolidate the principle of the sovereignty of law, achieve justice and provide an appropriate environment for security, peace and social justice. He referred to his country's pioneer role in implementing national development plans to ensure a decent living for all, in particular the "Qatar National Vision 2030", as well as the importance Qatar places on developing global partnerships to help achieve such aims. The representative of Sudan referred to recent political changes in his country, highlighting the appointment of the first women to the positions of Foreign Minister and Chief Justice, as well as the imminent establishment of a legislative assembly with 40% representation for women.

The full text of all the statements delivered and subsequently shared with the IDLO Secretariat are annexed to this report and available online at [this link](#).

The DG thanked Member Parties for their kind words and for the support and guidance they had provided to her during the past eight years. While much had been achieved during this time – she said - a lot remained to be done. She expressed satisfaction that she would be ending her term of office confident in the knowledge that IDLO Member Parties were committed, engaged and ready to support IDLO in the future.

## **THEMATIC DISCUSSION**

The Assembly paused its business for representatives to take part in a Thematic Discussion entitled “Accelerating action to achieve the 2030 Agenda: Leveraging the rule of law to build peace and sustainable development”, moderated by Director-General Khan.

Mr. Adama Dieng, Special Adviser of the United Nations Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide, gave a keynote address to open the discussion, which was moderated by DG Khan.

## **AGENDA ITEM 3: 2020 MANAGEMENT PLAN AND BUDGET (AP/2019/3.1 and AP/2019/3.2)**

The Assembly reconvened in the afternoon, starting with a discussion of the 2020 Management Plan and Budget. The President gave the floor to the DG to present the Management Plan and Budget for 2020.

The DG began by noting that 2020 would be the last year of IDLO's current Strategic Plan and went on to describe the three-pronged approach that guided the Management Plan for 2020: to consolidate the gains achieved in programming, research and advocacy; to complete any outstanding organizational reforms; and to maintain IDLO's positive financial and program growth trajectory. During 2020 IDLO would also design its next Strategic Plan for the period 2021-2024.

The DG noted some of the challenges and vulnerabilities confronting IDLO in 2020: operational security in the fragile environments in which IDLO operates, a difficult

fundraising environment with development assistance diminishing across the international system, and IDLO's narrow donor base for core funding.

The DG stated IDLO's thematic focus for 2020 would continue to follow the Strategic Plan with institution building accounting for almost half of the total program portfolio, followed by legal empowerment and engagement with civil society, including in the context of enhancing access to justice for women.

The DG referred to criminal justice reform as a key area of focus in 2020, with a major new initiative in the Sahel entering the implementation phase in Burkina Faso and Niger, alongside ongoing work in Mali, and the continuation of programs supporting justice institutions in countries such as Afghanistan, Kenya, Liberia, Mexico, the Philippines, Uganda and Somalia.

The DG also noted that in light of its importance in helping to close the justice gap for poor and marginalized people, customary and informal justice would be an area of increasing importance in IDLO's program portfolio and would build on experience gained in Kenya, Somalia and Uganda.

IDLO's program on economic development was also set to grow, she reported, thanks to IDLO's strong partnership with EBRD and steps under way to scale up the Investment Support Program for Least Developed Countries.

Moving to geographic focus, the DG noted IDLO's success in diversifying its programming geographically and said the organization would continue to pursue its three-pronged approach to diversification: consolidating/expanding in countries of operation; pursuing opportunities in neighboring countries; and exploring opportunities elsewhere if strategically important and financially viable.

Turning to policy advocacy, the DG recalled the three global themes – promoting the 2030 Agenda, in particular Goal 16; justice for women and girls; and effective, accessible and accountable justice institutions – would continue to frame IDLO's advocacy during 2020, and would be pursued alongside program related and advocacy activities to be carried out at the country level.

Moving to organizational focus, the DG referred to the eight major initiatives identified in IDLO's Strategy 2020, noting that the priority for the coming year would be to complete all remaining reforms, including the rollout of the Enterprise Resource Platform; an effective results-based reporting system; IPSAS compliant accounting; and implementation of the revised cost policy.

The DG described the financial outlook as positive but stressed that there was no room for complacency. In 2020, she said, IDLO would aim to sustain its growth in program revenue, while enhancing resource mobilization efforts to achieve greater diversity of donors, and flexibility and predictability of funding. This would encompass cultivating potential new donors, securing new multi-year agreements with existing donors, and concluding a new strategic partnership agreement (PAGoDA) with the EU, the world's second largest investor in the rule of law sector.

These efforts, she added, would build on IDLO's growing profile and greater political relevance, as signaled also by the growth in IDLO's membership which had



expanded from just 26 members in 2012 when she joined the organization to the current 37.

The DG concluded her presentation on the 2020 Management Plan with a reference to IDLO's next Strategic Plan for 2021-2024, which would be developed during the coming year for adoption by the Assembly in November 2020. The process – to be shaped by the incoming Director-General – was expected to include a review of the current Strategy, analysis of external and internal trends, as well as extensive consultations with key partners and stakeholders.

The Director of Finance and Support Services was then given the floor to present the proposed Operating Budget for 2020. He recalled that IDLO adopted an output-based budgeting approach, with 86% of revenue going towards implementation of Action Goals, and the remaining 14% towards the Major Initiatives of the current Strategic Plan. He noted that the organization was once again presenting a balanced budget, with some 92% of program revenue in 2020 already secured and a surplus expected for 2019.

The President thanked the Director-General for her presentation and opened the floor for comments and questions.

Responding to a query from the representative of Sudan as to whether additional details could be provided on IDLO's financial breakdown by geographic area or country, the Director of Finance responded that figures were consolidated in the budget presentation, but that more detailed information was certainly available and could be provided on request.

In response to a question by the representative of Sudan on the consultations to be undertaken in the preparation of the next Strategic Plan, the DG recalled from past experience that the process involved a range of different types of consultation, including in countries where IDLO has a field presence. She was confident that there would be opportunities during the coming year for Member Parties to engage actively in the process and provide feedback and input leading to approval of the Plan at the next annual meeting of the Assembly.

The representative of the United States expressed strong support for the 2020 Management Plan and Budget, noting that it laid out clearly the organization's main priorities. She applauded IDLO for the organizational reforms already implemented and underlined the importance of continuing to strengthen internal systems. Expressing support for IDLO's resource mobilization efforts, she encouraged all Member Parties to support the organization financially.

The representative of UNDP, recalling the limited available system-wide resources, asked how IDLO defined its specific niche, and also what benchmarks it used for organizational reforms. In response, the DG noted that while organizations such as UNDP include rule of law as one component of their activity, IDLO worked exclusively on rule of law and sought through its expertise to complement and enhance the related work of the UN system and other organizations.

The Director of Finance and Support Services clarified that IDLO did not benchmark against the UN system, but instead used a number of similar-sized international organizations, such as Bioversity and ICCROM.

Concluding the discussion of agenda item 3, the President proposed the Assembly consider and adopt draft Resolution N.1/2019 to endorse the proposed Management Plan and Budget. She recalled that the 2020 Draft Management Plan and Budget had been discussed and considered at length by both the Audit and Finance Committee (AFC) and the Standing Committee (SC) and had been endorsed and transmitted to the Assembly for its approval.

Noting no additional comments, the President declared Resolution N.1/2019 on the 2020 Management Plan and Budget (AP/2019/3.6) adopted by consensus.

The President then drew representatives' attention to draft Resolution N.2/2019 on the Operational Fund, which was proposed to be established in conjunction with the IDLO Reserves Policy adopted by the Standing Committee at its July meeting, as well as to the background documents circulated on the subject. Observing that there were no objections or additional comments from Members, the President declared Resolution N.2/2019 on the Operational Fund (AP/2019/3.7) adopted by consensus.

The President proposed and the Assembly agreed to a change in the order of consideration of items on the agenda, namely that agenda item 5 would be taken up before item 4.

## **AGENDA ITEM 5: REPORTS OF THE GOVERNING BODIES**

### **• REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE (AP/2019/5.1)**

The President presented the report of the Standing Committee (AP/2019/5.1) which had been circulated in advance to the Member Parties, providing a brief summary of the report and of meetings held during 2018. She also referred to a number of informal and restricted sessions held by the Committee as part of the selection process for the next Director-General of IDLO. Decisions taken by the Committee highlighted by the President included: the approval of IDLO's financial statements for 2018 and external audit report; the approval of IDLO's revised Investment Policy and Reserves Policy and the review of its new Foreign Exchange Policy; and the endorsement of the 2020 Management Plan and Operating Budget.

The President concluded by thanking all the SC members for their active participation throughout the year. She also thanked the Board of Advisers for its advice and the Audit and Finance Committee members for their attendance as observers in the Committee meetings.

There were no comments from Member Parties on the SC report.

### **• REPORT OF THE AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE (AP/2019/5.2)**

Mr. Filippo Alessi (Italy), the Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee, provided a brief summary of the AFC Report to the Assembly for 2019, highlighting some of its key decisions and actions including the approval of IDLO's financial statements, close monitoring of IDLO's financial situation throughout the year, and careful review and endorsement of the 2020 budget.

The President thanked the Chair of the AFC for his report and for his continued dedication to the work of the Committee.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: HOST COUNTRY AGREEMENTS: SUPPORT OF MEMBER PARTIES AND ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION NO.3/2019 (AP/2019/4.1)**

The President introduced this item by recalling Article VIII of the Establishment Agreement, under which Member Parties commit to endeavor to grant privileges and immunities to IDLO in their countries comparable to those provided IDLO by Italy in the Headquarters Agreement. She explained the rationale of the proposed resolution to reaffirm Article VIII through a renewed commitment and as an opportunity to provide concrete support to the organization. She indicated the Standing Committee had recommended the draft resolution N.3/2019 for consideration and adoption in light of the benefits that a Host Country Agreement (HCA) brings to Member Parties as well as to the organization.

The representative of Italy took the floor and emphasized that Italy was proud to be the host country for IDLO and strongly committed to supporting its work and that the recent conclusion of a revised HCA with IDLO was an integral part of its commitment.

She underlined HCAs as essential for IDLO to be able to implement properly and efficiently activities in the Organization's countries of operation.

She expressed strong support for the resolution proposed by the SC for approval by the Assembly under this agenda item and called on those countries which had not yet done so to conclude expeditiously HCAs with IDLO.

The Representative of the United States acknowledged the significant efforts of IDLO towards the conclusion of HCAs with countries in which IDLO operates, including both Member Parties and non-member States. She welcomed the revised HCA with Italy, as well as the nine other HCAs that had been concluded since 2016. However, she noted that there were still a number of countries where IDLO was operating without a HCA, including seven where the United States is currently funding IDLO programs.

She highlighted some of the negative implications of IDLO operating in the absence of proper legal recognition of the privileges and immunities and other entitlements due to an international organization, such as for example the imposition of domestic taxes which would not otherwise be due and the need for staff time and resources to be deployed for the performance of additional administrative tasks that would not otherwise be required, diverting resources from contributions that a donor such as the United States expected to be utilized fully for the implementation

of programs. She expressed her country's strong support for the resolution and appealed to all countries where IDLO operates, including non-members, to complete HCAs with IDLO as expeditiously as possible in the interest of safeguarding staff and to help ensure that program funding is utilized for the full benefit of the program countries themselves.

The President noted there were no further comments or objections and declared Resolution N.3/2019 on Concluding Host Country Agreements (AP/2019/4.1) adopted by consensus.

### **AGENDA ITEM 6: REPORT OF THE BOARD OF ADVISERS (AP/2019/6.1)**

The President gave the floor to the Chair of the Board of Advisers (BOA), Professor Makau Mutua, to present the Board's report.

Professor Mutua began by acknowledging the outstanding contribution of the outgoing members of the BOA – Ms. Hongxia Liu and Mr. Daniel Rowland, who had concluded their second and final term of office. He noted two other members - Dr. Soukeina Bouraoui and Mr. Hassane Cisse – had completed their first term and were as such eligible for reelection.

He described how the BOA had worked with the SC and with the executive search firm on the selection process for the next DG and thanked the President for the positive and fruitful collaboration.

He concluded by paying a warm tribute to the DG for her leadership and vision, emphasizing in particular her contribution to greatly enhancing IDLO's effectiveness and visibility. She was leaving behind an organization – he said - positioned as a veritable thought leader in the world of rule of law and development.

The DG thanked the BOA Chair and all the members for their guidance, highlighting the useful role they play in helping IDLO shape its policy directions on a number of substantive issues, as well as their dedication, as leaders in the legal profession, to the rule of law and its contribution to advancing peace and development.

The President thanked the Chair for his report and moved to agenda item 7.

### **AGENDA ITEM 7: ELECTION SCHEDULE FOR AD HOC MEMBERS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE**

The President gave the floor to the General Counsel to provide additional information on the background to the agenda item and draft resolution N.4/2019 (AP/2019/7.1).

The General Counsel explained the resolution was designed to correct an existing anomaly in the election schedule for SC members under which three seats were open this year, but only one would be open next year, notwithstanding the requirement in the Establishment Agreement that the seats be filled "in alternate

years.” The draft under consideration would provide for one of the three open SC seats to be filled for a one-year term, while the other two would be filled for a two-year term, thereby ensuring seats would become vacant in even numbers in future years. The General Counsel further noted that since there was no term limit for SC members, a country elected to serve a one-year term could stand for re-election the following year for a two-year term.

The President noted no objections or comments and declared Resolution n.4/2019 on the “Election of ad hoc Members of the Standing Committee” (AP/2019/7.1) adopted by consensus. The President further noted the resolution as adopted would have immediate effect and would be applied during the SC elections taking place later in the afternoon.

### **AGENDA ITEM 8: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The President gave the floor to the Chair of the AFC to present the proposed amendments to the AFC Rules of Procedure.

Mr. Alessi briefly outlined the proposed changes to the AFC rules, including abolishing term limits on the Committee to help ensure greater continuity, expanding its membership to align it with the enlarged membership of the SC and with IDLO’s growing membership overall, and introducing some adjustments in the modalities to facilitate and expedite decision-making between sessions.

The President noted no objections or comments and declared the Resolution n.5/2019 on Amending the Rules of Procedure of the Audit and Finance Committee (AP/2019/8.1) adopted by consensus.

### **AGENDA ITEM 9: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE**

The President drew attention to the draft resolution n.6/2019 circulated in advance together with a background note and gave again the floor to the General Counsel to describe the proposed amendments.

The General Counsel explained the purpose of this resolution was also to facilitate expedited decision-making between sessions of the Standing Committee. He noted that the current rules provided for decisions by consensus pursuant to a silence procedure, but that the rule required a time lapse of at least 30 days, which the Committee had found to be too long, obliging it on one occasion to call an extraordinary meeting in order to finalize a decision on a time-sensitive matter. The proposed resolution would allow the President to establish a shorter waiting period of as few as 14 days when circumstances warranted, such as in the circumstances set out in the background note provided to Member Parties.

The President noted no objections or comments and declared the Resolution n.6/2019 on Amending the Rules of Procedure of the Standing Committee (AP/2019/9.1) adopted by consensus.

## **AGENDA ITEM 10: MEMBERSHIP REQUEST**

The President moved to the new agenda item introduced in the context of the adoption of the agenda, namely the expression of interest by the Government of Niger to join IDLO.

She reminded Member Parties that according to IDLO's accession procedure, once a country had expressed a formal interest in joining, Member Parties could express their approval either through written procedure or through action at a meeting of the Assembly. The President proposed the Assembly give its consent to Niger to join IDLO, and that such approval be given by consensus unless there are any objections from Member Parties.

The President noted no objections and declared the Assembly's approval to Niger's accession to the IDLO Establishment Agreement. She further instructed the Secretariat to prepare a Note Verbale to formally notify the Government of Niger and said she looked forward to Niger becoming a member of IDLO soon. She then gave the floor to the representative of Niger.

The representative of Niger expressed thanks on behalf of her Government to the IDLO DG for the renewed momentum she had imparted to the work of the organization during her tenure and for what she and colleagues had done to facilitate Niger's membership. She said her country looked forward to joining IDLO and working with its governing bodies. Finally, she expressed thanks also on behalf of the Government for the upcoming Sahel program which would lead to improving and strengthening the justice sector in her country.

## **AGENDA ITEM 11: ELECTIONS**

Following a short break, the Assembly resumed to conduct the elections.

The President began by outlining the six different elections scheduled to take place, namely:

1. Two Member Parties to be ad hoc members of the SC for two-year terms
2. One Member Party to be ad hoc member of the SC for a one-year term
3. At least two and no more than four Member Parties to be members of the AFC
4. Chair of the AFC from among the members (following the elections to the AFC)
5. Up to four individuals to serve as members of the BOA
6. New Director-General of IDLO

She drew attention to the background documents circulated in advance regarding elections to the governing bodies and the BOA; information and statements on the three final candidates for the position of DG (shared in password-protected form to protect the candidates' privacy); and an explanatory note on election modalities.

She then gave the floor to the General Counsel to provide additional explanations on key procedural points.

The General Counsel noted that the results of all elections had to be formalized as resolutions which Member Parties would be asked to approve.

In the event of elections with the same number of candidates as vacant seats the President would ask Member Parties to elect the candidates by consensus.

In the event of having more candidates than open seats, as was the case for the election of the DG, a vote would be taken by secret ballot. The ballots would be distributed and collected in a ballot box by the Office of the General Counsel and would also be counted by OGC staff at the front of the room, under the observation of the Presidency (the United States, Italy and Mozambique). The General Counsel would verify the count and pass the result to the President to announce the winning candidate.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 11(a): ELECTION OF THREE AD HOC MEMBERS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE**

The President noted three vacancies arising from the end of the terms of Ecuador, Kuwait and Peru. She further noted three countries had expressed interest in membership: Ecuador and Kuwait were renewing their interest to serve on the Committee while the Philippines had expressed interest as a new member.

The President began with the election for the two-year terms for which Kuwait and the Philippines had submitted expressions of interest. Noting no additional expressions of interest from Member Parties and a consensus in the room, the President declared Kuwait and the Philippines elected as members of the SC for two-year terms.

The President then turned to the election for the one vacant seat for a one-year term for which Ecuador had expressed an interest. Noting no additional expressions of interest from Member Parties and a consensus in the room, the President declared Ecuador elected to serve as member of the SC for a one-year term.

Resolution n.7/2019 (AP/2019/10.1), recording the results of the elections to the SC was subsequently adopted by consensus. The President expressed congratulations to the new members elected to serve on the SC.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 11(b): ELECTION OF FOUR MEMBERS OF THE AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The President introduced the election, specifying there were two seats available on the AFC due to the end of terms of office of Egypt and Italy, adding that following the amendment to the AFC rules which the Assembly had adopted earlier, increasing the overall size of the committee to seven members, there were an additional two seats available, for a total of four.

The President advised that expressions of interest to serve had been submitted to the Secretariat by Italy, Kuwait, Senegal and Turkey. Noting no additional expressions of interest from Member Parties and a consensus in the room, the

President declared Italy, Kuwait, Senegal and Turkey elected to serve as members of the AFC for two-year terms.

Resolution n.8/2019 (AP/2019/10.2) recording the results of the elections to the AFC was subsequently adopted by consensus. The President congratulated the newly elected members.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 11(c): ELECTION OF THE CHAIR OF THE AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The President noted Italy had expressed its intention to continue serving as Chair of the AFC, represented by Mr. Filippo Alessi. Noting no other AFC members had expressed their interest to serve as Chair and a consensus in the room, the President declared Italy, represented by Mr. Alessi, as elected once again to serve as Chair of the AFC for a two-year term. Resolution n.9/2019 (AP/2019/10.3) recording the result of the election to the position of Chair of the AFC was subsequently adopted by consensus. The President congratulated Italy on its re-election and thanked Mr. Alessi for his dedication and continued service on the Committee.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 11(d): ELECTION OF UP TO FOUR MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF ADVISERS**

The President noted that there were four vacant positions on the BOA, following the end of the terms of office of Dr. Soukeina Bouraoui, Mr. Hassane Cisse, Ms. Hongxia Liu and Mr. Daniel Rowland. While Ms. Liu and Mr. Rowland had served two terms and could not stand for re-election, Mr. Cisse had been nominated by Senegal to serve on the BOA for a second term.

In addition, the President noted the following two nominations for the BOA: Ms. Xiaoyan Zhou, nominated by China, and Mr. Patrick O'Brien, nominated by the United States. She further noted that information on the latter candidates, including their cvs, had been circulated to Member Parties in advance.

Noting that no other Member Parties wished to nominate additional candidates and that the BOA did not wish to nominate any other candidates, and a consensus in the room, the President declared the three aforementioned candidates elected to serve on the BOA for a four-year term, ending in 2023.

Resolution n.10/2019 (AP/2019/10.4) recording the result of the election was subsequently adopted by consensus. The President asked the Secretariat to notify the newly elected members to the BOA of the result and to provide them with any relevant information in relation to their membership and service on the BOA.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 11(e): ELECTION OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

Before proceeding to the election of the next IDLO Director-General, the President took the opportunity to once again express deep appreciation to DG Khan, noting she was leaving behind an outstanding legacy and an organization in excellent shape.



The President recalled the 2018 Assembly of Parties had adopted Resolution n.2/2018 (AP/2018/5.2) outlining the process for selecting the next DG. She described briefly how members of the SC had dedicated significant time and energy to the process throughout the year and had worked together in a highly collaborative spirit, supported by the external search firm SRI Executive, and with advice from the BOA and IDLO's General Counsel acting as internal liaison. She described the process under which from the original 264 candidates, seven were identified to be interviewed by the Member Parties and the Board of Advisers, and three were ultimately referred to the Assembly by the SC for the election.

Prior to the ballots being distributed, the President requested all those present at the meeting to refrain from publicizing in any way, in particular through social media, the result of the election until the shortlisted candidates had been informed and IDLO had issued a press release on the result.

Ballot papers were then distributed by the Secretariat. The completed ballots were then collected in a ballot box by the designated staff of the Secretariat and the ballots counted, with representatives of the Presidency – United States, Italy and Mozambique – observing the count. After the result was verified, the President announced that Ms. Jan Beagle had obtained 22 votes, Mr. Andrew Gilmour 5 votes, and Ms. Mette Knudson 7 votes. The President declared Ms. Jan Beagle elected as the new Director-General of IDLO. Resolution n.11/2019 (AP/2019/10.5) recording the result of the election was subsequently adopted by consensus.

## **AGENDA ITEM 12: ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No Member Parties raised any issues under this agenda item.

The President thanked the DG and IDLO staff for their hard work, congratulated the newly elected members of IDLO's governing bodies, the BOA and the newly elected Director-General.

On behalf of the Presidency and the Member Parties, the President then presented Ms. Khan with a bouquet of flowers as a token of appreciation. The Member Parties and all those present at the meeting rose to give Ms. Khan a standing ovation.

The President then declared the Assembly meeting closed.

ENDS /

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**Welcoming address by H.E. Mr Giorgio Marrapodi,  
Director General for Development Cooperation,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation**

**MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2019  
13 NOVEMBER 2019**



Mr President, Madam Director-General, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, we are extremely pleased to host once again the Assembly of Parties of the International Development Law Organisation here at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy. This has indeed become a recurrent occasion to gather and discuss the issues at the core of IDLO's mandate and Member States' commitment to them. Hosting this meeting is for Italy another way to show in concrete terms its support of IDLO.

Rule of law, good governance and human rights belong to Italy's legal history and juridical culture, they are an intrinsic part of our institutional framework, they define in many ways who we are as a polity and as a country. This is why we have always considered peace, justice and strong institutions key factors for development and priorities for our programs of development cooperation. This is also why we have been one of the most active supporters of SDG 16. As you all know, last May we co-organised here with IDLO and UNDESA a conference on SDG 16 that laid the groundwork for further discussions at the HLPF in July and SDG Summit in September. We are ready to work together with IDLO and other stakeholders to hold a second Conference on SDG 16 in the spring of 2020.

Since this is the last Assembly of Parties with Irene Khan as Director-General of IDLO let me express our gratitude and appreciation for her work over the past eight years. I first met Irene when I was Head of the legal service of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and have been impressed from the beginning by her passion and competence. Under her leadership IDLO has grown in membership and activities and I believe Irene leaves the organisation an enduring, positive legacy. So thank you again Irene for all your efforts and dedication. During this session a new Director-General will be elected. Italy stands ready to work with her or him to further promote our common goals.

Regrettably, our Vice Minister Emanuela Del Re is not able to take part in today's Assembly but she recorded a video with her greetings and statement that I invite you all to watch now.

Thank you very much for your attention.

**PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT**

**MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2019**

**13 NOVEMBER 2019**

## **President's statement**

I would now like to say a few words as the President of the Assembly.

Your Excellency, Director-General, Ambassadors, ladies and gentlemen – it has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve as the President of IDLO's Standing Committee this past year.

2019 was a significant year of achievement for the organization. Despite the growing challenges in operating environments around the world, IDLO continued its impressive efforts to deliver concrete results through its project work to further solidify the rule of law.

There is strong support for IDLO's work; we see that support in the increasing membership base, in new donors, and in IDLO's ever-increasing footprint around the world.

As the organization's program funds increase, IDLO has implemented new systems and new processes to increase its efficiency and capacity to carry out the programs that we all believe are critical to the welfare, safety, and rights of every person around the world.

During today's Assembly and Thematic Discussion, you will hear examples of IDLO's perseverance and flexibility to carry out programming in complicated environments to implement high-quality, critical projects to promote access to justice and to strengthen judicial institutions.

You will hear about the significant outcomes of IDLO's work.

You will also hear about the need to financially support this organization. We are all here today because we believe in making our governments more capable, and more accountable, to the citizens we serve. And that is what IDLO's programs are accomplishing.

Your political support is key to continue opening doors for IDLO's programs. I would like to thank all of the Member Parties who participate in the governance of the organization and who have agreements in place to grant IDLO the status it needs to operate effectively in your countries. I encourage the rest of you to partner with us in doing so as well.

Your financial support is just as important, as it determines the scope and impact of IDLO's work. We hope that all of you will strengthen your support of IDLO through financial contributions. IDLO's cautious approach to budgets, program flexibility and success, and commitment to transparency and efficiency should encourage all of you to do so.

Your support to IDLO is particularly key in 2020, as the organization bids farewell to Director-General Irene Khan after eight years of service. Hers are big shoes to fill, and Member Party support during the new DG's first year will assist the organization during this critical transition year.

On that note, on behalf of the United States, and as President of this Assembly, I would like to thank Director-General Khan for her leadership, vision, and commitment to the rule of law. Because of you, IDLO's visibility, footprint, and impact on the ground has grown tremendously, and more people around the world know their rights, claim their rights, and hold their institutions accountable because of your work. It has been a pleasure to partner with you, and we wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

So once again, welcome all of you to the 2019 Assembly of Parties. We look forward to working closely with IDLO, and with all of you, in the coming year.

**STATEMENT OF BURKINA FASO**

**MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2019**

**13 NOVEMBER 2019**

ASSEMBLEE DES PARTIES DE L'ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DE DROIT DU DEVELOPPEMENT (OIDD)

Déclaration De S. E. Mme Joséphine OUEDRAOGO,  
Ambassadeur du Burkina Faso auprès du Quirinal

13 novembre 2019

Monsieur le Président de l'Assemblée des Parties,

Madame la Directrice Générale,

Excellences mesdames et messieurs les délégués,

Permettez-moi d'exprimer tout d'abord mes vives félicitations à Madame Irene KHAN, Directrice générale en fin de mandat. L'immense travail qu'elle a abattu constitue un héritage précieux qui pérennise l'avenir de l'OIDD.

Madame Khan,

La présentation de votre rapport me permet également de relever avec satisfaction des acquis majeurs en faveur de la promotion de l'état de droit et de la bonne gouvernance. Ces acquis obtenus grâce à votre leadership valent aujourd'hui à notre organisation commune la volonté d'adhérer de la part de nouveaux Etats que nous voudrions accueillir avec enthousiasme.

Mesdames, messieurs,

Je voudrais également saisir cette opportunité pour saluer l'initiative de l'OIDD de mettre en place des projets dans la région du Sahel, en général, et au Burkina Faso en particulier.

Ce soutien à la chaîne pénale des juridictions du Burkina Faso permettra d'améliorer les capacités des acteurs du monde judiciaire et une meilleure administration de la justice.

Je note avec satisfaction un point inscrit à l'ordre du jour de notre Assemblée, concernant l'examen d'une résolution sur les accords avec les pays hôtes. Je voudrais apporter mon soutien à cette résolution qui permettra à l'OIDD d'agir dans un cadre approprié et adapté.

Enfin, avec le Burkina Faso, des négociations pour la signature d'un Accord de siège sont avancées et pourraient aboutir rapidement.

Je vous remercie.



**STATEMENT OF CHINA**

**MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2019**

**13 NOVEMBER 2019**

Thank you, Madame President.

China would like to take this opportunity to thank Madame Director-General Irene Khan for her excellent work over her 8-year term for IDLO. As a member party of IDLO, China has witnessed the expansion of its membership, more visibility of the organization, and the increasingly important impact of the work done by IDLO. China appreciates Madame Director-General's efforts to make all this happen.

In particular, China would like to highlight the efforts Madame Director-General and her team vested in enhancing the cooperation between China and IDLO. During the first Belt and Road Forum in 2017, Ministry of Commerce of China and IDLO signed a memorandum and agreed to take action to strengthen the professional exchange and legal project cooperation under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative. As one of the new achievements under the agreement mentioned above, recently, with the efficient and effective support from the Secretariat under Madame Khan's leadership, we are happy to see that both sides entered into another agreement regarding sending China-funded JPOs to IDLO. And the candidate selection is under good progress. We thank Madame Khan and her team for all they have done.

Although China feels reluctant to have Madame Khan leaving, it will continue to support IDLO and its new DG, explore new opportunities to work closely with the organization and other member parties. Meanwhile, Chinese legal professionals also look forward to sharing their professional experience and expertise and contributing to the international rule of law and development.

Thank you.

**STATEMENT OF ECUADOR**

**MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2019**

**13 NOVEMBER 2019**

## Debate General

Tomó la palabra la delegación del Ecuador, y felicitó a la Directora General de IDLO, Irene Khan, por el trabajo realizado, destacando que se trata de la primera directora mujer de IDLO. Se resaltó la fructífera labor que desde enero de 2012 ha venido realizando la Directora Khan, en favor de los países miembros de las diferentes regiones, incluida la América Latina, donde la IDLO ha expandido su presencia y participación, y en donde se ha proyectado un incremento del 10% de los programas para el 2020.

Se señaló que para el Ecuador ha sido un honor brindar su colaboración y apoyo, en su calidad de miembro del Comité Permanente del IDLO. Destacó que el Ecuador considera al IDLO como un organismo de crucial importancia, por su misión de promover el Estado de Derecho, en los países donde la democracia se ve amenazada, motivo por el cual, señaló, la Fiscal General del Ecuador aceptó la invitación a participar en la Asamblea de las Partes como Jefe de Delegación. Explicó que lamentablemente, debido a ineludibles compromisos en su lucha contra la corrupción, no pudo estar presente. Expresó que el Ecuador tiene especial interés en los programas para el fortalecimiento de la paz y la democracia, principalmente en materia de lucha contra la corrupción, la transparencia y responsabilidad social, así como en el fortalecimiento de las instituciones, mediante acciones de asistencia técnica a la Fiscal, la Contraloría y la Corte Constitucional en el 2020.

**STATEMENT OF LIBERIA**

**MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2019**

**13 NOVEMBER 2019**

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY HON N. YABA FREEMAN-THOMPSON, ASSISTANT  
MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS-MINISTRY OF FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE IDLO  
ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES HELD AT THE ITALIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION—  
WEDNESDAY, 13 NOVEMBER 2019**

Madam Vice Minister of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

Madam Director General

Distinguished delegates

I bring you warm greetings and best wishes from His Excellency, Dr George Manneh Weah, President of the Republic of Liberia, the Government and people of the Republic of Liberia on the auspicious occasion marking the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Assembly of Parties in Rome. Allow me therefore to thank the Government and people of the Republic of Italy for the warm hospitality and kind gesture for hosting us.

Madam Director-General, I am honoured to be afforded this opportunity to express our profound gratitude as one of the newest member parties of the IDLO on behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Liberia. This gratitude is founded on the strides that the Country has achieved courtesy of the IDLO in albeit a short period of existence in the Republic of Liberia. The Republic of Liberia became an IDLO member party on the 7th of May of the current year, which connotes a formal existence of the IDLO in Liberia to be a little over 8 months. Yet in this short period, the gains that have been recorded are of significant note.

Prior to this formalisation, the IDLO initiated programs in Liberia in 2015 and opened an office in Monrovia in 2016. These initiatives culminated in the signing of the Host Country Agreement in the same year. The accession of Liberia to the IDLO was in fulfilment of its commitment to advance the rule of law, especially for the most vulnerable in Liberia. The Republic of Liberia remains and intent to strengthen institutions as it continues on its path to sustainable development and the realization of SDG 16 and Agenda 2030.

I wish to also note with satisfaction that the Government of the Republic of Liberia appreciates the foundation being positioned by the IDLO in support of the Rule of Law in Liberia. In particular, the sharp focus on women and children who are mostly vulnerable to Gender-based violence and the trafficking of persons.

The IDLO has increased access to justice for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, combating trafficking in persons, and institutional capacity building;

Under this intervention, the following has been achieved:

In close collaboration with the judiciary, the Ministry of justice, the Liberia National Police, the Sexual and Gender-Based Crimes Unit was established; which aims to strengthen Justice Institutions to Improve Access to Justice for Women and survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence;

The IDLO worked with the judiciary to increase the accountability of “Criminal Court E” the special court established in 2008 to deal exclusively with sexual crimes in conflict.

The establishment of the National Anti-Human Trafficking Taskforce, which aims to strengthen the capacity of the Police and Other Law Enforcement Agencies to Effectively Respond to Trafficking Persons

IDLO also facilitated the drafting of the National Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons 2019-2023.

Through these interventions the IDLO has both enhanced and streamlined the work of the Liberian Government’s efforts in the above areas. An example of this is that it has reconvened and supported the coordination of government ministries, agencies, the international community in Liberia and local CSOs in strengthening the anti-human-trafficking response in Liberia by the National Anti-Human Trafficking Taskforce. We appreciate greatly the aim by the IDLO to effectively align itself with existing efforts and scaling them up and achieving a much greater impact. They truly are a strategic partner in achieving our goals.

In fact, IDLO’s work in Liberia is highly complementary to Liberia’s development agenda as stipulated in Pillar (3) Three of Liberia’s Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD). Through this Agenda the Government focuses on the Rule of Law, ensuring access to justice for all, especially the most vulnerable, i.e. women; and strengthening the capacity of the judiciary. These are clear priorities of IDLO in Liberia and they have been absolutely instrumental in the Liberian Government achieving success in this area.

Therefore on behalf of the Liberian Government may I extend our sincere most appreciation to the IDLO for their presence in the Republic of Liberia. As I have tried to repeatedly allude to, your presence as an organisation is indeed felt. We trust that as a country we can continue to give you reasons to maintain the momentum with which you have begun in the country. I can assure that the Government of Liberia remains committed to supporting you to the best of its abilities. The Government of the Republic of Liberia takes this opportunity to assure you of its commitment to the advancement of the Rule of Law and welcomes all assistance it can get toward the attainment of this goal. We trust that we will continue to enjoy fruitful relations with the IDLO and once more we thank you very much and wish us all very fruitful deliberations.

I THANK YOU!

**STATEMENT OF MONGOLIA**

**MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2019**

**13 NOVEMBER 2019**



STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. JAMBALDORJ TSERENDORJ AT THE THEMATIC  
DISCUSSION AT ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT LAW  
ORGANIZATION

(13 November 2019)

Thank you Chair for the floor. Government of Mongolia have been actively engaging and developing remarkable collaboration with International Development Law Organization since its membership in 2015. Ever since, we have successfully organized number of activities, seminars in scope of strengthening rule of law and justice sector.

Currently, IDLO is helping Mongolia to address Gender-Based Violence in complex multi-stakeholder programming supported by the United States and Canada. IDLO has worked to coordinate a comprehensive justice sector response to domestic violence through victim-centered programming towards eradicating domestic and gender-based violence by improving response along the justice-chain and strengthening capacity of civil society.

To address challenges caused by Mongolia's growing economy, IDLO has worked since 2012 to improve economic legal environment in Mongolia. Together with European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, IDLO has worked on different aspects of commercial justice, including judicial training in mining, intellectual property, insolvency, insurance and corporate law. IDLO has also facilitated training of bailiffs and the creation of a commercial mediation center. Some 1500 officers already participated such events so far. This makes great contribution and impetus to improving capacity of law enforcement personnel of relevant authorities of Mongolia. IDLO is currently working to protect Mongolian consumers by advising legislative amendments to Advertisement law.

In the context of this work, IDLO and the Government of Italy are organizing and hosting an upcoming delegation this December from the Authority on Fair Competition and Consumer Protection (AFCCP) to learn from European standards for competition, advertisement and consumer protection.

In regards with reinforcing presence of IDLO as a recognized intergovernmental organization in Mongolia, Government of Mongolia is in final phase of ratification of Host Country Agreement. Following the finalization of Host Country agreement, it will solidify IDLO's presence in Mongolia and give a full fledge to full function of the organization.

On behalf of Mongolian Government, I wish every success in future endeavours and today's Assembly of Parties. Thank you!

**STATEMENT OF MOZAMBIQUE**

**MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2019**

**13 NOVEMBER 2019**

Address by His Excellency César Gouveia, Ambassador of the Republic of Mozambique to Italy, Permanent Representative to Rome Based United Nations Agencies

At Assembly of Parties of IDLO  
Rome, 13 November 2019

Thank You, Mrs. President,

At outset I would like to express gratitude to you, Mrs. President for convening this important Assembly of IDLO. We are confident that under your leadership this Session will be successful and productive.

I would like to bring to the attention of all participants the importance of the Thematic item chosen for this Assembly: “Accelerating action to achieve the 2030 Agenda: Leveraging the rule of law to build peace and sustainable development”

By addressing this item, we should focus our discussion on finding ways to improve the access to justice to all including women, children and those at risk of being left behind.

Mrs. President,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Director General, Iren Khan, for the comprehensive report, which high lights the work and challenges faced by IDLO over the past months. The report presents a clear vision and perspective of IDLO contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Agenda 2030, particularly SDG16.

In the last twelve months, IDLO has grown its membership and extended its programs and activities in many geographical regions, including Africa, with innovative approaches aimed to promote positive developments of investments, empowerment of women and girls, access to justice and therefore assistance in the implementation of the SDGs.

Mrs. President,

This Annual Session marks the end of Dr. Irene Khan Directorship of IDLO. We would like to commend the outstanding leadership she showed during the period she was on the front of IDLO. Her dedication and hard work shape the image of IDLO as reference of a promote justice and the rule of law.

We wish her success in the future activities she will be involved.

I Thank You!

**STATEMENT OF PAKISTAN**

**MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2019**

**13 NOVEMBER 2019**

IDLO Annual Assembly of Parties 2019  
Statement by Pakistan for General Debate

Thank you Chair,

I would like to thank the Director General for a comprehensive report, highlighting the organization's performance, growth and objectives. I would like to express my deep appreciation to outgoing Director General, Irene Khan for her diligence, leadership and vision for taking IDLO to where it is today. Irene through her tireless work and dedication did miracles for the organization. I am convinced that her efforts and achievements will be always remembered.

Over the last four years, I have been closely associated with IDLO. Pakistan served a two year term on the Standing Committee and since last year it is a member of the Audit and Finance Committee. By virtue of this close interaction, I have myself seen the consistently increasing engagements of IDLO in different countries across continents and the expansion of its scope and areas of operation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

IDLO's work for promotion of Law despite numerous challenges of funding is commendable. We need to work towards expanding its membership and the sources of funding to enable IDLO to attain its objectives across the globe.

Pakistan appreciates IDLO's plans of exploring new avenues. The organization's involvement in areas such as Commercial Law, anti-corruption, integration and protection of internally displaced people and refugees symbolizes its constantly growing horizon.

It is heartening to see the dedication with which the management and personnel of IDLO work towards the promotion of these objectives. The ever increasing membership is indicative of the recognition of the substantive and effective work of IDLO towards the promotion and protection of law.

I would also take this opportunity to welcome the new members this year to IDLO family. Increasing membership is a manifestation of how the world now views IDLO.

In conclusion, I would like to thank once again Irene Khan and her team for their hard work and dedication. I wish you well in your future endeavors Irene. Thank you for all you have done for IDLO.

I am positive that her successor would continue to guide IDLO with the same determination and steadfastness to continue her legacy. Pakistan would continue to work with IDLO towards the attainment of its goals and objectives.

Thank You.

**STATEMENT OF QATAR**

**MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2019**

**13 NOVEMBER 2019**

His Excellency the Director General of the International Development Law Organization (IDLO),

The Members of the Organization,

Peace be upon you,

We would like to thank the valued members of the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) for their acceptance of Qatar as a member thereof, the governmental organization that has consultative status with the United Nations. We also value the role of the Organization in enabling States to reform and strengthen their legal institutions and legislative systems, and to reform and strengthen these institutions and such laws to achieve justice and dignity, strengthen the work of the courts and facilitate access to them, and the commitment thereof to the highest standards of the rule of law so as to be the foundation of all the work carried out by governments; no legitimacy for any action that does not conform to the law.

The State of Qatar's accession to the Organization came as an implementation of the high directives of His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, on the importance and necessity of achieving an effective justice, developing the legislative and legal system of countries to keep pace with the rapid developments witnessed by the world in all fields. The participation of the State of Qatar in the Organization as an observer member and the direct review of the Organization's activities were the ways and motive towards the aspiration of full membership.

The State of Qatar is keen to support the international system in all that would consolidate the principle of the sovereignty of law, achieve justice and provide an appropriate environment for security, peace and social justice. Qatar's keenness on this partnership included the second national development strategy for the State of Qatar 2018-2022 which is a new chapter concerned with international cooperation under the name of "Global Partnerships for Development", aiming to strengthen the role of Qatar at all regional and international levels, to raise the level of international partnerships and to increase the status of the State of Qatar regionally and internationally, and to contribute effectively to build regional and international peace and security.

In harmony with the constants and commitments of the State of Qatar, we seek and aim to achieve global partnership and solidarity in the activation of the role of international and regional organizations, and the State of Qatar will not give up its role that is witnessed by all countries.

We believe in the institutionalization of international work and the need to join efforts in pushing the just international issues and assisting governments and peoples in developing and modernizing their legal systems, whether on the institutional or legislative side, in particular the interest in the human rights fields. We are proud that the experience of the State of Qatar is pioneering in this area, where the State is working on achieving all development plans at all levels, especially the "Qatar National Vision 2030" which aims to transform Qatar into an advanced country that is capable of achieving sustainable development and to ensure the continuation of decent living for its people across generations with the belief that comprehensive development is the main objective to achieve progress and prosperity for citizens.

Thank you for listening...

And peace, mercy and blessings of God be upon you...

Finally I would like to thank the director general of IDLO Irene Khan for her great Job done during her assignment and achievement, wishing her all the best and success on her life.



**STATEMENT OF SENEGAL**

**MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2019**

**13 NOVEMBER 2019**

## ASSEMBLEE DES PARTIES DE L'OIDD - SESSION 2019

Discussion thématique sur « Accélérer la réalisation du Programme 2030: Tirer parti de l'état de droit pour instaurer la paix et le développement durable »

Discours du Représentant du Sénégal

Excellence Monsieur le Ministre des affaires étrangères et de la coopération internationale d'Italie,

Monsieur le Représentant des Etats-Unis d'Amérique, Président de l'Assemblée,

Excellences Mesdames et Messieurs les Ambassadeurs,

Chers délégués, Mesdames et Messieurs,

Le programme 2030 est le symbole de la volonté commune de construire un monde où tous les êtres humains, en raison justement de leur humanité, jouissent d'une vie décente et réalisent leur plein potentiel.

Nous travaillons au quotidien à l'atteinte des différents objectifs déclinés dans cet agenda. Si la poursuite des ODD 1 et 2 (élimination de la pauvreté et de la faim) exerce une pression sur nous tous, l'atteinte de l'ODD 16 est essentielle pour réaliser ce vaste et ambitieux programme mondial.

Le lien entre la paix, la justice et le développement n'est plus à démontrer. L'impact des institutions politiques sur ces piliers reste également indéniable, qu'il soit positif ou nocif, selon les types d'institutions et leur animation.

C'est pour cela que nous sommes interpellés, en tant que dirigeants et décideurs, devant les lenteurs qui caractérisent nos sociétés dans leurs progrès vers la concrétisation de l'état de droit et la paix. Le monde avance à petits pas dans ce sens et il faut que nous accélérions la cadence pour permettre à nos sociétés d'atteindre l'idéal qu'elles poursuivent toutes sans exception, à savoir la paix et la prospérité.

Le Sénégal se tient debout aux côtés des Nations éprises de paix et de liberté, pour rappeler la noble mission d'instauration de la paix par la justice qu'il nous revient d'accomplir dans le cadre de l'agenda 2030.

En tant que représentant de la République du Sénégal, j'associe ma voix à celles de tous ceux qui se sont exprimés pour appuyer la vision et les initiatives de l'OIDD en faveur d'un monde plus juste et pacifique pour tous. En particulier, l'agenda politique mondial de l'Organisation nous paraît digne de soutien dans ses dimensions « justice pour les femmes et les filles » et « institutions judiciaires efficaces, accessibles et responsables ».

De ce point de vue, les objectifs d'action déclinés dans l'annexe 2 nous semblent très pertinents et leur atteinte capitale. Il est tout aussi capital d'élargir l'éventail des pays visés dans ces objectifs et nous espérons que la Direction continuera à nous faire des propositions dans ce sens et à déployer les programmes de l'Organisation dans les quatre coins du monde.

L'OIDD a engagé une réforme organisationnelle importante au cours de cette année, afin, entre autres, d'aligner ses pratiques en matière financière sur les Normes comptables internationales pour le secteur public (IPSAS). Cette réforme qui s'inscrit dans le cadre du cycle stratégique (2017-2020), devrait se poursuivre et nous la soutenons pleinement. Bien sûr, les membres doivent toujours en discuter pour s'accorder sur le contenu de la réforme proposée mais les initiatives majeures qui sont présentées dans le document de travail y afférent nous paraissent devoir et pouvoir améliorer les performances de l'Organisation quant elles seront mises en œuvre convenablement.

Je voudrais m'en limiter là en espérant que nos travaux au cours de cette session éclaireront nos décisions futures sur les chantiers de l'ODD 16 (Paix, Justice et Institutions efficaces).

Je vous remercie de votre aimable écoute.

**STATEMENT OF SUDAN**

**MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2019**

**13 NOVEMBER 2019**

Statement of the Republic of the Sudan  
Meeting of the Assembly of Parties  
IDLO, Rome November 13, 2019

Chairperson,

Distinguished Delegates,

The delegation of the Sudan would like to update the members of this august Assembly on the important positive developments that have taken place in the country during the last few months, especially with regard to the improvement of the rule of law.

After the success of the glorious December-April Revolution, and as a result of the negotiations between the Transitional Military Council, that took over after ousting the former long-time president Bashir, and the Forces for Freedom and Change FFC an agreement on the Transitional Arrangements was signed on August 17, 2019.

In line with the agreement the Military Council was dissolved, an 11-member sovereign Council and a new civilian government were established, for a period of 39 months. On Wednesday August 21, 2019, Mr. Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, took the oath of office as the Head of the Sovereign Council of the Republic of the Sudan. Later, on the day, the members of the Sovereign Council (six civilians, with a representation of two women, and five military) took the oath of office, before the Chairperson of the Sovereign Council. In the same evening, H. E. Mr. Abdallah Hamdok, chosen by the civilian FFC, swore in as Prime Minister of the Sudan.

On September 8, 2019, the new government, composed of 21 ministers, with a representation of 4 women, took the oath. HE Asma Mohamed Abdalla, was the first women in the history of the Sudan to be entrusted with the portfolio of the foreign office.

The process of empowering women continued to gain momentum more and more in all government levels. On October 13, Ms. Nimat Abdalla Mohamed Khair was appointed as the first women Chief Justice of the Sudan. Moreover, in the very near future a consultative and legislative assembly will be established with 40% of representation for women.

Prime Minister Hamdok, reiterated, in several occasions, including in his address to the UNGA last September and the European council of Foreign Ministers and the European parliament committee on Foreign Relations, a couple of days ago, that improvement of the rule of law, pursuing legal reforms, strengthening institutions are the most essential tasks to implement the most famous slogan of the revolution, Hurria, Salam waAddala, Freedom, Peace and Justice.

The judicial reforms are carried out to satisfy the aspiration of the Sudanese people to enjoy all their rights and freedoms, including freedom of expression, organization and assembly.

In the Prime Minister's words: the question of justice is not a matter of political gains. It is about addressing grievances, healing wounds, compensating the victims and the survivors during the last thirty years

Peace is of a high priority or importance for the transitional government. It is close to impossible to achieve the democratic transition or the economic progress and development without peace.

A Higher Council for Peace, was established to look after the peace talks that are supposed to discuss the security arrangements, the economic and social development, the legislations and laws and the government and administration, in a process that involve all stakeholders and persons affected by the war and conflicts in all areas of the country. The judiciary is also empowered and encouraged to deal promptly with all incidents that have taken place during the months of the revolution.

At the level of cooperation with the international community the government of the Sudan signed, last September, an agreement with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to open a UN Human Rights Office in Khartoum and field offices in Darfur, Blue Nile, Southern Kordofan and East Sudan. This office will help provide much needed technical assistance to the government in the area of human rights, besides monitoring and reporting on human rights situation all over the Sudan.

**STATEMENT OF THE NETHERLANDS**

**MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2019**

**13 NOVEMBER 2019**

First statement:

The Netherlands wants to thank the DG for her presentation, and also for her contribution to the growth of IDLO over the years of her tenure.

The Netherlands also welcomes all the countries who have recently joined IDLO: Liberia, Qatar and Uganda.

The year 2020 will be a time to further consolidate IDLO's growth in portfolios and programs. As The Netherlands, we have 12 programs with IDLO, including an extensive and ambitious criminal justice chain program in the Sahel. We note that for the first time, Africa will become IDLO's largest region of operations in 2020, and we welcome that, as well as the intention to expand into the MENA region. We also welcome IDLO's increased field orientation, including the fact that the Sahel program will be managed from the region.

At the same time, it will also be a crucial year for IDLO, with a new incoming DG and with a new multiyear strategic plan to draft. It will be a year of transition – and it is in all of our interests to ensure that this transition is as smooth and successful as possible.

IDLO has already undergone a number of critical reforms, but we believe further change management will be necessary.

IDLO is crucial to helping us achieve SDG 16.3, and the objectives of the Task Force on Justice.

From the perspective of The Netherlands, we would like to see IDLO increasingly focus its programs on people-centered justice, based on data and innovation. We welcome IDLO's focus on gender and consider those programs some of IDLO's finest.

We encourage a strong focus on monitoring, evaluation, and learning and a sharing of lessons learnt for the broader rule of law community. We welcome the steps that IDLO has made towards establishing its Program Results Frameworks.

We also encourage IDLO to take heed of the various lessons that have already been learned by the international community in terms of the effectiveness of institutional capacity building. While people-centered justice requires effective institutions, we hope that the emphasis will be on making institutions as responsive as possible to actual justice needs.

A main challenge for IDLO, and for the incoming DG, will be to continue to diversify IDLO's donor base, including the types of funding that IDLO needs to carry out its mandate. In this respect, we look forward to assisting IDLO in its outreach to the European Union.



**STATEMENT OF TURKEY**

**MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2019**

**13 NOVEMBER 2019**

IDLO Assembly of Parties  
13 November 2019  
Statement by Turkey

Esteemed Director General,

Distinguished participants,

IDLO, as the only intergovernmental organization exclusively devoted to promoting the rule of law and sustainable development, has maintained an important growth in recent years. Its program portfolio has extended and diversified. The number of member states is increasing.

While playing an important role in legal and institutional capacity development, technical legal assistance and policy advocacy on rule of law and access to justice, IDLO is also significantly contributing to the efforts for achieving 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with a particular focus on SDG 16 for peace, justice and strong institutions.

We attach importance to the programs carried out in various regions, which made positive changes in people's lives, such as women's participation in justice sector or access of disadvantaged groups to justice.

We would also like to thank Director-General Irene Khan for successfully leading the organization during her two terms and her valuable contributions to the organization. We believe that the new Director General and the Committees to be formed today will continue to advance IDLO's achievements further.

Turkey has emphasized its commitment to contribute to a sustainable world since the adoption of Agenda 2030. While taking necessary steps at national level, Turkey continues to contribute to the international efforts for realization of our common development goals.

Turkey as a member of Standing Committee and a candidate for the Audit and Finance Committee, will continue to serve for the institution in cooperation with all distinguished member states.

Thank you.

**STATEMENT OF THE UNITED STATES**

**MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY OF PARTIES 2019**

**13 NOVEMBER 2019**

## STATEMENT BY THE UNITED STATES AT THE GENERAL DEBATE

The United States would like to recognize Director-General Khan's visionary leadership and extraordinary commitment to the rule of law during her tenure at the helm of IDLO. We thank her for her work as her term comes to an end.

DG Khan, in your eight years, you have taken a small niche organization, grown it fourfold, and ensured IDLO has a seat at the international policy table.

Strong donor confidence, increasing membership, and the organization's expanding footprint are all a testament to the excellent results IDLO delivers on the ground, results that you have helped ensure meet the highest standards, often in difficult and challenging environments.

You also oversaw significant governance, management, and financial reforms that were a key priority for IDLO's major donors.

As this last report of yours to the Assembly of Parties demonstrates, you are finishing out your last quarter just as strongly as your first, with new members, a revised headquarters agreement, and additional programs in the pipeline. Thank you for your excellent stewardship of this organization.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome IDLO's three newest members, Qatar, Liberia, and Uganda, and are pleased to see Niger's request to join as well.

The rule of law is facing significant challenges around the world, and organizations like IDLO are doing critical work on the ground to ensure access to justice for all.

We would encourage all countries gathered here today to support this organization politically, by joining as a member or as a participant in the governance bodies, and financially.

As we close out 2019, let us commit to being even stronger partners with IDLO in 2020. Together, we can further the rule of law, and with it, build peace and sustainable development.