



# ECOSOC

United Nations Economic and Social Council

**TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE LIVES**

## **Statement by the President of the ECOSOC IDLO Assembly of Parties Meeting**

24 November 2020

**Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am honored to address the Assembly of Parties of International Development Law Organization (IDLO) in my capacity as the President of the ECOSOC.

IDLO is mandate unique: to promote development through law and laws for development.

Today, its work is fully anchored in SDG 16 which aims to “promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”.

The organization’s new Strategic Plan has broadened the scope of its programs by promoting, more directly, the utilization of relevant laws and regulations to advance development goals at the national and international level.

The strategic plan therefore rightly places renewed emphasis on further deepening IDLO’s partnership with the United Nations in advancing common goals embodied in the 2030 Agenda.

I am confident that IDLO’s new Director-General, Ms. Jan Beagle, with her vast experience at the United Nations, and its

Permanent Observer in New York, my dear friend Patrizio Civili, will steer the Organization in the right direction.

Let me also take this opportunity to congratulate my counterpart and colleague, Ambassador Jauhar Saleem of Pakistan, who is being elected as the next President of the IDLO Assembly at this important juncture.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

COVID-19 is the most severe health and economic crisis the world has faced in a century. It has profoundly altered economic, social and political conditions, reversing years of development gains and progress towards SDGs.

The unprecedented health and economic crisis triggered by Covid-19 has fully exposed the inherent inequalities embedded in the global financial and economic system.

As usual, the poorest and most vulnerable countries and groups are suffering the most. They do not have the fiscal space to redress the health emergency, revive economic growth and achieve the SDG targets.

Renewed global solidarity and concerted efforts are required to meet these unprecedented challenges.

The objectives agreed by the international community in the 2030 Agenda provide a roadmap to overcome the present crisis and to build forward better and create a just, equitable and sustainable socio-economic order.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The rule of law and the justice sector are concrete enablers of the response to and recovery from COVID-19.

In this regard, extension of IDLO's work envisaged in the new Strategic Plan toward issues such as climate justice, technology transfers, licensing of intellectual property, anti-corruption, and supporting developing countries, within its

mandate, to create a more level playing field in trade and investment, will enable it to make a distinctive contribution to the global response to COVID-19.

Such an approach will also address both the immediate consequences of the pandemic and the underlying conditions that have come so profoundly to aggravate the socio-economic crisis which the pandemic has unleashed.

One area where the IDLO can help is to strengthen domestic and international laws and regulations to prevent illicit financial flows.

I am glad to note that IDLO is currently participating actively as an observer in meetings of various subsidiary bodies of the Conference of the State Parties to the UN Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) including those in preparation of the upcoming special session of the General Assembly against Corruption.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The goals encompassed by SDG 16 are essential to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, as well as a sustainable recovery from COVID-19. IDLO's contributions will be essential to achieve SDG 16.

I wish your Assembly every success.

**I thank you.**

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