

SUSTAINING PEACE, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE RULE OF LAW

IDLO PARTNERSHIP FORUM

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Sala Conferenze Internazionali

Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation of Italy

Piazzale della Farnesina, 1

The IDLO Partnership Forum is a platform for dialogue between IDLO Member Parties, partner governments, international policy makers and development practitioners. It is held annually in conjunction with IDLO's Assembly of Parties with the objective of stimulating new ideas on critical rule of law issues and facilitating and strengthening partnerships. The 2017 IDLO Partnership Forum addresses the relationship between peace and development and the role that the rule of law plays to underpin both and promote stable and inclusive societies.

SETTING THE SCENE: Sustaining Peace, Sustainable Development: Challenges and Opportunities for the Rule of Law

KEYNOTE SPEECH: Mr. Fabrizio Hochschild, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Strategic Coordination

Through SDG 16 and its emphasis on non-discrimination, fair laws and effective institutions, the 2030 Agenda has placed the rule of law at the heart of development. SDG 16 has also served to highlight the link between access to justice and the construction of peaceful, just and inclusive societies. Building on this foundation, a new sustaining peace agenda is emerging that points to the prevention of conflict by addressing root causes, strengthening the rule of law and promoting inclusive, sustainable growth as necessary components of a comprehensive approach to peacebuilding.

The Opening Session of the Partnership Forum will address the following issues, amongst others:

How can we maximize the contribution that the rule of law can make in the implementation of this new international strategy for the mutual advancement of conflict prevention and sustainable development? What are the challenges and opportunities for the rule of law within and across the fields of peacebuilding, humanitarian intervention and development?

SESSION 1: Building Effective and Accountable Institutions to Sustain Peace

The SDGs recognize the importance of effective and accountable institutions for promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies. Justice institutions, including an independent judiciary, play a critical role in the effort to promote both peace and development by ensuring equitable access to services and resources, protecting the rights

of citizens, promoting social and economic inclusion, and resolving disputes before they spiral into conflict.

Building strong institutions is not a simple matter of transplanting “best practices” and providing knowledge and expertise but a long-term endeavor which requires sustained investment, the prioritization of function over form and the mobilization of political will for meaningful reform.

Drawing from the experiences of countries navigating conflict and fragility, this session will examine the importance of context sensitivity, local ownership and effective change management as essential elements for the success or failure of building resilient and effective justice institutions.

SESSION 2: Can there be Peace and Prosperity without Gender Equality?

When women succeed, the whole world benefits but despite substantial progress, gender equality is still a distant prospect. Law and custom continue to restrict women's rights and freedoms, dictate their submission to male relatives, limit what they may own, inherit or use, and turn a blind eye when they are subjected to violence.

Women’s leadership, voice and access to justice are critical to the advancement of gender equality as well as achieving global goals ranging from good governance and economic growth to peacebuilding and fighting climate change.

What are the challenges to accelerating the moves towards gender equality and women’s empowerment? And how can we maximize the contribution of the rule of law to ensure fair and equitable outcomes for women and girls?

SESSION 3: Partnerships for Inclusive Economic Growth

The SDGs aim to leave no one behind by eliminating poverty, promoting growth and supporting inclusive development. They recognize the potentially transformative effect of sustainable and well managed trade and investment and the critical importance of partnering with the private sector in strengthening weak economies and lifting people out of poverty. However, countries that can benefit the most from investment are often least able to access it because of fragile security, weak legal systems and insufficient human capital to manage large financial flows.

Strengthening the legal framework, promoting equitable access to economic opportunity and facilitating effective dispute resolution, can be powerful vectors of sustainable, inclusive economic development.

How can the legal and judicial capacity of developing countries be strengthened to promote such growth? What more can be done to help the Least Developed Countries

attract and manage investment? What contribution can the private sector make to advance the rule of law for sustainable development and economic opportunity?

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