

**Meeting of the IDLO Assembly of Parties  
28-29 November 2017**

Statement by The Netherlands

Transcribed as delivered

Thank you, Mr. President,

First of all, The Netherlands too wishes to express a warm welcome to Sweden, Mali and Montenegro. This year has seen important new elements to IDLO's work, as highlighted in the report of the Director-General. On the priorities of the work of IDLO, The Netherlands welcomes the fact that programs in Africa have grown continuously to now become the biggest focus for IDLO. As The Netherlands, we embarked on a new project with IDLO, in Rwanda, to train defense council in genocide trials in international law. We also have a good collaboration on projects in Mali, Kenya and Somalia. IDLO also is expanding its work on informal justice systems, in a way that will be a helpful contribution, considering the numbers of people that resort to informal justice in many fragile and post conflict states. The success of the work of IDLO is expanded through the effective partnerships the Organization undertakes. We welcome the new partnerships with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and UN Women. IDLO is also seeking a possible MoU with IOM. This would enable it to focus on working with refugee and migrant populations, which could be another important new line of work. Then, we welcome the organizational changes IDLO continues to work on. We believe the governance reforms will strengthen the Organization as a whole, allowing for more diversity in the governance organs, and an active role for the Board of Advisers. Secondly, we welcome that IDLO concluded work on a results-based framework and on improved project design, which we are also supporting through our project grant. New employee rules and a revised employment model will enable IDLO to strengthen its human resource base, particularly in the field. Finally, we welcome the progress toward output based budgeting, which will increase transparency and we encourage IDLO to keep working on issues of internal management, transparency, accountability, collaboration and governance in the years to come.

Dear colleagues, in 2018 The Netherlands will take its half of the divided seat with Italy in the UN Security Council. We look forward to working with IDLO and other Rule of Law partners to use our time in the Council to advance the agenda of accountability and Rule of Law. We will also continue to rely on IDLO's expertise in advancing the agenda of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. We are looking at a variety of initiatives that will seek to give an extra impulse to SDG 16 on Access to Justice ahead of the High-Level Forum in 2019. Finally, on gender equality, The Netherlands is firmly convinced that peace and prosperity and gender equality, go hand in hand. Apart from our own efforts in this regard, including the important initiative of 'She Decides' on a woman's rights to make her own decisions on sexual and reproductive health, we also seek to mainstream gender issues into all our shared development cooperation initiatives. In this regard, we welcome IDLO's work on its Gender Strategy and are gladly supporting its implementation through a project grant.

Thank you very much.