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Statement by Patrizio Civili, Permanent Observer of the
International Development Law Organization (IDLO), to the Sixth Committee of
the 67th Session of the General Assembly on
Agenda item 83: Rule of Law at the National and International Level

10 October 2012

Mr. Chairman,

Let me at the outset, thank you and, through you, the Committee, for giving us the opportunity to
~~intervene as we do every year in your debate on the rule of law at the national and~~

, the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) has come to regard your
of this agenda item as a welcome opportunity to share with the General Assembly
ments in our institution that have some relevance to the Assembly's rule of law work, and
play in our collaboration with different parts of the United Nations.

In my statement last year, I noted that, as the intergovernmental organization associated with the United
Nations exclusively devoted to advancing the rule of law and its contribution to socio-economic progress, IDLO
benefits immensely from the growing attention that intergovernmental debates and other events within the
Organization are giving to the whole problematique of the rule of law. I indicated then that IDLO very much
looked forward, and hoped to contribute actively to the High-level Meeting on the Rule of Law - its
preparations and, equally, its follow-up.

IDLO was deeply honoured to be inscribed in the list of speakers for the High-level Meeting. In her
intervention, IDLO's Director General Irene Khan, highlighting the timeliness of the renewed commitment to
the rule of law embodied in the Declaration, said that, across the world, the rule of law is undergoing a profound
"global crisis". She spoke of a dangerous deficit of public trust in institutions, and of a deep disconnect
between the formal mechanisms of the rule of law and people's lived experience of justice and equality.
Restoring people's confidence in justice systems – she said - is an enormous challenge that

institutions; working to enable governments to uphold human rights and empower people to claim them; and gearing the law to advance sustainable development and economic opportunity.

In the pledging process that accompanied the High-level Meeting's proceedings, IDLO put forward a specific pledge, undertaking to carry out a global survey of the role of women in justice sector institutions and of legal barriers to women's access to justice. We committed to do so with a timetable geared to the elaboration of the post-2015 Development Agenda, hoping to contribute to ensuring that women's increased participation in the justice system and legal reforms to enhance women's rights are accorded due priority in that Agendang

The United Nations itself is