

STATEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT LAW ORGANIZATION

THE SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE 70TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AGENDA ITEM 85 THE RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS

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New York

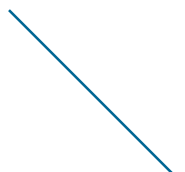
Remarks by Patrizio Civili, Permanent Observer

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Thank you Mr. Chairman

In my interventions in previous years under this agenda item, I have had occasion to emphasize the importance that IDLO attaches, and the attention it gives, to the opportunities, but also the duties, that flow from the Observer Status conferred to it by the General Assembly, on the recommendation of this Committee. In this perspective, we are grateful for the precious possibility that the annual debates on the rule of law in this Committee give us to provide to the General Assembly an overview of IDLO's engagement with the United Nations during the year, and to share with the Assembly highlights of our work and plans for the future.

As you may imagine, for an intergovernmental organization such as ours, with a mandate exclusively devoted to advancing the rule of law and its contribution to development, the UN processes leading to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda were, throughout the year, at the very center of our engagement with the United Nations. We have continued, during the negotiations this year, as we did the previous year in relation to the work of the Open Working Group, to purposefully refrain from promoting specific formulas or language in the process of elaborating the Agenda, recognizing that this is the exclusive prerogative of governments. What we have advocated instead has been a practical, results based approach to the rule of law. We have done so by bringing to the table evidence from our technical cooperation work of how greater justice at the national, as indeed at the international level, can contribute concretely to further and sustain development. At the same time, we have continued to emphasize the importance of national ownership and the diversity of challenges faced by countries



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states that strong institutions based on the rule of law and not on rule by law are essential for building peaceful societies, where people live free from fear and want. A culture of justice needs to be created and upheld to empower all people including the most marginalized. Breaking down silos through building partnerships across sectors and among all stakeholders is the condition for the implementation of Goal 16 and all other sustainable development goals. These words reflect very well the thrust of IDLO's contribution to the SDGs debate, and the approaches that will continue to guide our work in the future.

My final point has to do with the wisdom of investing in the rule of law. Progress towards the rule of law is a long

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