Background Note

Building on the outcomes of the Summit of the Future, the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) and its host country, Italy, will mark with an event IDLO's 40th anniversary, during International Law Week of the General Assembly's Sixth Committee. The panel discussion followed by a reception will provide a platform to reflect on the rule of law's contribution in fostering an inclusive, just and peaceful future.

The integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda

The 2030 Agenda starkly reminds us that "sustainable development cannot be realized without peace and security and peace and security will be at risk without sustainable development." The 2030 Agenda positions human beings at the centre of a comprehensive concept of sustainable development, encompassing social, economic and environmental dimensions, as well as justice, inclusivity, dignity and freedom from violence. A related principle emphasized in the 2030 Agenda is the indivisible, interlinked and integrated nature of the Goals. The interrelated challenges – both natural and man-made – that have hindered progress on the Agenda underscore the critical, yet often overlooked, need for integrated and mutually reinforcing responses.

The rule of law as an enabler of the 2030 Agenda

Over the past 15 years, there has been a significant evolution in understanding the contribution of the rule of law in enabling and accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. A key turning point in this evolution, which the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) has worked to shape and articulate, is the Secretary-General's vision of the rule of law as an integral component of his "Our Common Agenda." Another milestone is the outcomes of the Summit of the Future, which reflect widespread recognition of the rule of law's essential contribution to fostering human progress, as part of both the actions to accelerate SDG implementation, and those regarding peace and security. It is imperative to ensure that these two sets of actions are deliberately pursued in a mutually reinforcing way.

The rule of law builds and sustains peace

In both development and peace and security sectors, the rule of law and people-centred justice systems aim to foster inclusion, provide mechanisms for conflict prevention and peaceful resolution, address inequalities and create a level playing field for economic and political actors. They are essential for rebuilding trust between people and the state, as well as among different population groups. This is critical for sustaining development, preventing conflict, and fostering peace. The International Law Commission (ILC) plays a vital role in this context, emphasizing the importance of international law as a fundamental component of the rule of law at all levels. Its dynamic mandate, focused on "the progressive development of international law", positions it as a timely instrument for advancing the rule of law in a rapidly changing world.

Speakers:

- H.E. Mr. Maurizio Massari, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations, will deliver welcoming remarks. Italy hosts IDLO Headquarters in Rome, and partners with UN DESA and IDLO to co-organize the annual global SDG 16 Conference;

- Ms. Jan Beagle, Director-General of IDLO, will share insights from IDLO's 40 years of championing the rule of law to advance peace and sustainable development through an integrated approach combining programmes, research, and policy advocacy. She will also offer forward-looking perspectives on mobilizing political and financial support for the rule of law, and on leveraging IDLO's partnerships and observer status at the UN, to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the commitments made at the Summit of the Future;

- Mr. Giuseppe Nesi, a member of the International Law Commission (ILC), will address the development and implementation of international law as a fundamental and integral aspect of the rule of law at both the international and national levels. He will emphasize the relevance of the ILC's activities and its current work programme in r