



## INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT LAW ORGANIZATION

### STATEMENT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL, Ms JAN BEAGLE

#### 14<sup>th</sup> UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

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#### Check against delivery

Mr. President,  
Executive Director Waly,  
Excellencies,  
Colleagues and Friends,

It is an honour to address the Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on behalf of the International Development Law Organization.

As the only international intergovernmental organisation dedicated to promoting the rule of law and access to justice, IDLO was an early advocate for SDG 16.

We work to promote its essential contribution to sustaining both peace and development in over forty countries globally, including in some of the most fragile and challenging environments.

Mr. President,

Allow me to share three insights from IDLO's work.

First, we have seen in complex contexts, such as the Sahel and Somalia, that effective laws and accessible justice institutions can play an important role in preventing conflict and sustaining peace.

Research from the World Bank and other sources shows that insecurity exacts a heavy toll on development, and that poverty is becoming increasingly concentrated in fragile and conflict affected settings.

By fairly resolving disputes, promoting peaceful collaboration, and reducing crime and violence, justice systems can help break the cycle of violence that holds back the development potential of countries and individuals.

My second point is that the criminal justice system is key in tackling corruption, which undermines confidence in public institutions, and is a major impediment to sustainable development.

IDLO works in countries as diverse as Armenia, Bahamas, the Philippines and Ukraine to promote integrity and transparency of justice institutions, and to strengthen their ability to investigate and prosecute corruption.

COVID-19 has dramatically aggravated both the scale and impact of corruption as countries mobilise and disperse significant emergency relief and recovery funding.

Ensuring that this support is put to its intended use, and benefits those who need it most, will be essential in rebuilding people's trust in governance and laying the foundations for a more just, equitable and sustainable recovery.

My third and final point is that while COVID-19 has dramatically exposed underinvestment and weaknesses in the functioning of the justice sector, it has also inspired adaptations and innovations.

Over the past year, IDLO has supported its partners to mitigate the impact of the crisis on justice systems and justice seekers through virtual legal aid hotlines, digitised case management systems, and alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

These justice innovations have the potential to transform criminal justice systems, increasing transparency and efficiency, while expanding access to previously excluded groups.

Mr. President,

IDLO welcomes and endorses the Kyoto Declaration.

We look forward to expanding our cooperation with Member States, the UN system, and other partners in its implementation, as part of our shared commitment to realise the 2030 Agenda.

Building a culture of justice requires time, effort and sustained commitment. It is the best investment we can make in our collective future.

Thank you.

*The International Development Law Organization (IDLO) enables governments and empowers people to reform laws and strengthen institutions to promote peace, justice, sustainable development and economic opportunity.*