

22ND SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES TO THE ROME STATUTE

**United Nations Headquarters, New York
7 December 2023**

Statement by the International Development Law Organization

Excellencies, distinguished colleagues,

It is my honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the International Development Law Organization, the only global intergovernmental organization exclusively devoted to promoting the rule of law and access to justice to advance peace and sustainable development.

We gather at a time when trust is in short supply, both across and within states. This lack of trust permeates national and global governance structures. Moreover, conflict-related deaths and international law violations have dramatically increased in the last few years. We cannot talk of justice without acknowledging the plight of those that justice is intended to serve.

We have one message: It is in these times universal adherence to the rule of law, justice and accountability is paramount.

In its 40 years of operating across the globe, IDLO has sought to foster a culture of justice at the national and local levels by strengthening access to people-centred justice, whether through formal courts of law or customary and informal mechanisms. We welcome, therefore, the role that states, as well as civil society actors, have played in addressing atrocity crimes and supporting the victims and affected communities.

The rule of law and justice must be pursued consistently in all situations regardless of where such atrocities occur. This is key to rebuilding trust and ensuring that justice and accountability is truly equitable and universal.

IDLO's support has included assisting states to improve rule of law and justice sectors, including those that support their efforts to seek justice through international mechanisms, as is the case with our support to the office of the Prosecutor General in Ukraine.

Excellencies,

These times are a tough test for the rule of law, justice and human rights across the globe. Multiple crises have put peace and sustainable development at risk. As we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the 25th Anniversary of the Rome Statute, as well as the 40th anniversary of IDLO, we dedicate ourselves to working with all partners to champion the rule of law as a catalyst for transformative change.