

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 in 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 that in these times universal adherence to the rule of law, and justice and accountability are 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 and should continue to play in addressing atrocity crimes and supporting victims and affected communities.

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

For its part, IDLO has supported state efforts in strengthening rule of law and justice sectors, including those that 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, and for justice and human rights across the globe. Multiple crises have put peace and sustainable development at risk. As we celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Rome Statute, as well as the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of IDLO, we dedicate ourselves to working with all partners to champion the rule of law as a catalyst for transformative change.