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**UNITED NATIONS, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL  
COUNCIL (ECOSOC)  
2023 PARTNERSHIP FORUM**

**Tuesday, 31 January 2022**

**United Nations Headquarters, New York**

**Statement by the Henk-Jan Brinkman, Permanent Observer of the  
International Development Law Organization (IDLO) to the  
United Nations in New York**

Excellencies,

On behalf of the International Development Law Organization, the only global intergovernmental organization exclusively devoted to promoting the rule of law to advance peace and sustainable development, I am grateful for this opportunity to contribute the experience of my organization to this Forum's debate on how best to leverage partnerships to build peaceful, just, and inclusive societies.

The importance of effective and innovative partnerships to navigate the crises that the world is facing cannot be overemphasized. These crises are interlinked and cascading and requires multidimensional and multistakeholder partnerships. It is imperative that all forces in society – public as well as private – be harnessed to overcome them with a strong sense of common purpose and in the spirit of networked multilateralism as the Secretary-General has stressed.

Partnerships are the essential seeds that make multilateralism work. They will flourish and can be sustained only if they are grounded in shared principles. The rule of law and SDG16 – with their emphasis on inclusivity, equality, equity and gender, economic, social, and environmental justice – offer the basic principles that will enable partnerships to succeed and bear fruit.

An important way to leverage the rule of law in support of developing countries' efforts is to strengthen legal frameworks at all levels to ensure private investment serves as an effective catalyst for sustained progress. This includes addressing corruption, or lack of transparency and accountability. It also requires a strengthening of governments negotiating capacity to avoid weak contracts and exposure to costly dispute settlement procedures that end up curtailing investments' contributions to government revenues. Insufficient attention and responsiveness to the social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development embodied in the SDGs is another frequent cause for investments to fail in contributing to durable progress.

IDLO has sought to help address these challenges through a public-private partnership, the Investment Support Programme for Least Development Countries (ISP/LDCs) designed in cooperation with OHRLLS [the UN Office of the high representative for the LDCs, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States] and supported by the European Union, Italy and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development.

ISP/LDCs provides legal and technical support and complementary capacity building to LDCs on investment-related matters, including negotiation and dispute settlement, drawing on a worldwide roster of experts from private law firms, professional associations, universities, research centers and non-governmental organizations on a pro-bono or reduced-fee basis. Through its support to contract negotiations and dispute settlement,

IDLO aims to make a broader, distinctive contribution to the development of fair, transparent and coherent legal and policy frameworks at all levels.

The commitment and active participation of the private experts on the ISP/LDCs roster plays a critical part in its success. Moreover, the private sector is not only a provider but also a recipient of capacity development, as ISP/LDCs can also support under-resourced small- and medium-sized enterprises in LDCs.

Since its operationalization in November 2019, ISP/LDCs has delivered technical support and capacity development upon request to, e.g. Ethiopia, The Gambia, Liberia, Malawi, Rwanda and Uganda. Support is currently being provided to Mauritania, Mozambique, Senegal and Somalia.

The value of ISP/LDCs has been acknowledged in the Doha Programme of Action for LDCs, which includes a commitment to a further strengthening of the Programme, encourages LDCs to make wide use of its facilities and invites donors to support the Programme.

The particular partnership formula of ISP/LDCs could usefully be applied with the necessary variations to other areas where LDCs lack sufficient technical capacity to take full advantage of support and/or funding available to advance their development goals. The international effort to combat climate change is one such area. IDLO would be pleased to provide any further information about its experience in managing this Programme.

Thank you.