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**UNITED NATIONS, GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
INFORMAL CONSULTATION ON THE POLITICAL  
DECLARATION OF THE SDG SUMMIT 2023**

**Friday, 3 February 2023, 10:00 a.m.**

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

Excellencies,

I would like to thank the Permanent Representatives of Ireland and Qatar for convening this consultation. It is a pleasure to take the floor on behalf of the International Development Law Organization (IDLO), which is the only global intergovernmental organization exclusively dedicated to promoting peace and sustainable development through the rule of law.

I have one central message: SDG 16 is a critical enabler for all SDGs and an important instrument to address the interlinked crises that the world are facing, which should be reflected in the political declaration.

Progress on the SDGs has slowed and, in some cases, even backtracked due to COVID-19, conflicts and climate change. Vulnerable countries in particular are struggling to build capacity and resilience against shocks, including food and energy prices and climate-related disasters. The absence of or weak legal frameworks to respond to these crises and shocks have only served to exacerbate the challenge.

The Summit will be a key moment to take stock of SDG implementation and to scale up actions to address myriad challenges that hinder the realization of the 2030 Agenda.

The political declaration is an opportunity to be innovative and ambitious. It should be action-oriented with specific attention given to partnerships, effective institutions and peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

In this regard, IDLO recognizes the centrality of SDG 16 in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. To quote the Secretary-General, “[Goal 16] is a critical enabler for the other SDGs.” Effective institutions and access to justice that are just and inclusive can have a catalytic effect across the SDGs. They are key to increasing capacities of authorities to deliver public services and strengthen resilience against global crises. Providing clear guidance and concrete steps for Member States and other actors on how to bolster action around Goal 16 can revitalize action on all the SDGs.

To achieve this, the political declaration of the SDG Summit should incorporate findings and recommendations from upcoming events and summits that will bring together a wide range of actors. The HLPF in 2023 will be one such event.

Another is IDLO’s annual SDG 16 Conference, organized in partnership with UN DESA and Italy, which will explore interlinked crises and the catalytic contribution that SDG 16 can make in addressing them. While offering a platform for Member

States to discuss key themes related to Goal 16, the Conference will also provide space for diverse voices and thought-leadership through the participation of civil society, academia, women, youth and marginalized groups. Outcomes from gatherings such as these should be used to create a declaration that reflects the transformative and innovative conversations that are taking place across the wider international system.

The SDG 16 conference and the SDG Summit are important opportunities to share good practices and lessons learned toward implementation of the 2030 Agenda, which should be reflected in the political declaration. This will only be achieved through an inclusive process built on partnerships that utilize the capacities and expertise of all stakeholders in a holistic approach.

IDLO will continue to contribute to this process and remains at the disposal of Member States in this common endeavor.

Thank you.