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SIXTH COMMITTEE DEBATE ON THE RULE OF LAW
USING TECHNOLOGY TO ADVANCE ACCESS TO
JUSTICE FOR ALL

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Statement by Henk-Jan Brinkman, Permanent Observer of the International Development Law Organization

Mr. Chair, Excellencies,

As the only global intergovernmental organization dedicated to promoting the rule of law, IDLO has long recognized the potential of digital technology and innovation as a means in which to strengthen access to justice.

As the Secretary-General recognized in his July 2023 report on Strengthening and coordinating UN Rule of Law activities, digital technologies provide new means for people to seek and obtain remedies through formal and informal justice institutions. They provide the potential to build more inclusive and accountable institutions that, when properly designed, can respond to the needs of people and communities and advance access to justice by creating easy, inclusive and accessible filing or complaint mechanisms and processes.

This is even more critical at a time where over two-thirds of the world's population lack access to justice in a meaningful way.

We must therefore, harness the potential of new technologies to ensure implementation of SDG16.

IDLO has developed a body of experience in using technology in the delivery of justice services to strengthen the rule of law and access to justice. This includes promoting justice to strengthen justice systems and processes, making them more transparent, accountable and efficient.

In Afghanistan, for example, prior to the Taliban takeover, IDLO expanded efforts to improve access to justice for women and girls by designing, setting up and maintaining an online database for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW) Units, which was used to record, track and report cases of violence. We are checking with Afghan office what if anything is left of this.



In Kenya, IDLO collaborated with a range of public and private stakeholders to implement a groundbreaking project enhancing access to commercial justice, *inter alia*, digitally automating all processes under the Commercial and Tax Division of the High Court.

And in Ukraine, IDLO has strengthened a people-centred approach to governance by developing a legal framework for electronic public registers and governance tools

well as developing case management technologies. It will involve building capacity and digital literacy for all concerned be they judges, community paralegals or justice seekers.

It will also require i