

**PRESS RELEASE**

Juba – December 18, 2007

**IDLO HOLDS ROUNDTABLE ON THE FUTURE OF SUDAN'S  
LEGAL TRAINING**

The International Development Law Organization (IDLO) is holding a *'roundtable'* discussion with key figures from the Sudanese judiciary and Government Ministries to map out initial steps for the establishment of the South Sudan Institute for Legal Studies. The talks will take place today and tomorrow (December 18-19, 2007) in Juba, South Sudan.

More than a year after the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), the rule of law in Sudan is at a fledgling stage of development; existing laws are not consistently applied, judicial independence is not guaranteed, access to justice is very poor, and on a practical level, human rights are still far from being protected.

There is a critical need to strengthen the capacity of the judicial system, which is suffering from a severe lack of functioning courts and professionally qualified judicial personnel.

The IDLO Roundtable aims to begin addressing some of these issues by bringing together crucial stakeholders, including: the Judiciary of Southern Sudan; the national Supreme Court; relevant Government Ministries; Sudanese legal education experts; and international donors.

Speaking ahead of the roundtable, IDLO Legal Consultant, Jasteena Dhillon said:

*"Compulsory high-quality legal education and professional skills training is fundamental in ensuring the effectiveness and transparency any justice system. A national institute for legal education will enable Sudan to begin taking significant steps forward in providing a credible, accountable national service to its people."*

**(ENDS)**

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## **NOTES:**

*IDLO (International Development Law Organization) is an international, inter-governmental organization with a mandate to promote the Rule of Law and good governance in developing countries, countries in economic transition and countries emerging from post-conflict situations. Since its establishment in 1983, IDLO has contributed to the training of more than 17,000 lawyers, magistrates and officials from approximately 176 countries.*

*IDLO has its Headquarters in Rome, Italy and two Regional Offices; in Cairo, Egypt, covering Arabic-speaking countries and in Sydney, Australia, covering the Asia Pacific area. IDLO currently operates Project Offices in Afghanistan, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Kyrgyzstan.*

*IDLO is funded by contributions from its 18 Member States and other donors.*

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