

## Speech of Mr Jose Beraun Aranibar, Ambassador of Peru

Thank you Mr. President.

Dear Representatives of Member States, colleagues and friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Mongolia's leadership as the Chair of International IDEA during 2016 helping this organization to enhance its role and its value in this changing and unpredictable world.

My recognition to the Secretary-General, Yves Leterme and to the Director of External Relations and Governance Support, Ms. Karin Gardes and the whole team of IDEA Secretariat for their hard work and commitment.

Peru appreciates the confidence that the Member States have expressed by electing it to Chair the Council of International IDEA, for the year 2017, another important year for this organization, where we all have the ambition to adopt a new Strategy of IDEA for the next 6 years.

Peru will work and cooperate with IDEA Secretariat and the Council members, both at Headquarters and in the regional offices during its Chairship.

Peru warmly welcomes the Republic of Benin to the Organization.

The Peruvian Government promotes respect for the dignity of the human being as a fundamental condition of social well-being and considers that it is the primary role of the State to create conditions to guarantee that all citizens enjoy their essential rights, and to create representative institutions that guarantee equality of opportunity and the exercise of its free initiative.

Peru promotes the defence of representative democracy and inclusive participation without distinction as to sex, race, physical condition, religious belief, and economic and social status.

The Peruvian State also seeks to consolidate the democratic system, the respect for the Constitution and laws and to guarantee the fundamental rights and freedoms that allow a free exercise of citizenship and press. This also implies an institutional legal system where honesty, transparency, efficiency, the highest position based on merit, the vocation of service and solidarity with those in need, prevail.

Peru shares with the Member States of IDEA the same democratic principles and values. Democracy and human rights are the centerpiece of our State Policies, which are:

- I. Democracy and rule of law
- II. Equity and social justice
- III. Country Competitiveness
- IV. Efficient, transparent and decentralized state

These policies have been outlined by the National Agreement that brings together the government and the civil society as a whole. It is a good example of the value that Peru assigns to dialogue to consolidate and strengthen democracy in our country.

The President of Peru has recently stated in the United Nations, that we must join forces to meet the challenges posed by the international economy and to project to the world the same

ideas, such as transparency, respect for human rights, democracy and an open and inclusive economy.

Democracy also faces continuous challenges and opportunities in the world. International Idea is one of the good news and plays an important role in this process of renewed opportunities, but today good news have to be transmitted, shared and understood by the people in a creative and innovative way.

In the second quarter of 2016, and before the general election for President and members of the congress that took place in April and June 2016, thousands of people in Peru had access to information on the candidates and the electoral race through different tools that enhanced the ability of the Peruvian citizens to be informed and vote accordingly. This is a concrete result of the work of IDEA with the people of Peru.

Most recently, The Working Group on Electoral Reform has just been installed within the Constitutional Commission of the Congress of the Republic of Peru with the aim of unifying initiatives and proposals with a view to the elaboration of an Electoral Code and a Code of Electoral Procedures. Progress on substantial reforms is expected within a period of 120 days: Key topics such as internal party democracy, contributions to electoral campaigns and accountability will be issues to be addressed.

Finally, at the level of government management, the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of Peru has been encouraging an open government and transparency in order to promote efficient administration, citizen involvement and the incorporation of information and communication technologies.

It is important to be in contact with the people, the government of Peru understands this and has in International IDEA a good partner. That explains why we are here today in front of you all to offer our cooperation.

Thank you.