

SPEECH OF MRS. CRISTINA RONQUILLO DE BLODORN, AMBASSADOR OF PERU

Dear Ambassador Urs Bucher, Ambassador of Switzerland to the European Union and Vice Chair of the International IDEA Council of Member States,

Dear Mr. Amgalan Anand, Minister Counsellor of the Embassy of Mongolia on behalf of the Mongolian Chair of the International IDEA Council,

Dear Mr. Andrew Bradley, Director and Head of International IDEA to the European Union

Dear Ambassadors and distinguished colleagues,

It is an honor for me to be here today as a representative of Peru, in the context of the forthcoming assumption, in 2017, of the Peruvian presidency of the Council of Members States of IDEA INTERNATIONAL, whose formal transfer is being coordinated in the central headquarters of IDEA in Stockholm, Sweden.

On this occasion, I wish to reiterate that Peru has a strong commitment towards democracy and its principles which are enshrined in our Political Constitution and regulated in our legal framework.

In effect, our legislation incorporates the most important universal and international democratic principles for the protection of human and political rights, which are promoted by IDEA indeed. For instance, at the constitutional level, one fundamental right of the person is “to participate, individually or in association with others, in the political (...) life of the Nation”. In that sense, “Citizens, in accordance with the law, have the right to elect (...) public authorities (...)”.

In the light of this, the ‘**National Agreement**’, forum composed by public sector and different stakeholders, created in Peru in 2002, establish a diverse number of State Policies which are guidelines of the State action, as a whole, no matter the political orientation of the ruling government. These State Policies are gathered in four main objectives, which are:

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

The 2016 electoral process – which allowed Peruvian citizens to elect the President of the Republic, the Congress and the Andean Parliament - marked the fourth consecutive democratic elections in Peru, an important landmark for the country. In this regard, it would be convenient to underline that its transparency was verified by international Electoral Observation Missions upon invitation of the National Electoral Board.

While the democratic character of these elections can not to be contested, the process in itself left us many lessons that will demand to tackle some reforms in the short, middle and long

terms. Some of them are the enactment of a “Electoral Code” and a “Code of Electoral Procedures”, and legal mechanisms in order to strength political parties and prevent popular disaffection from growing, above all among youth that needs to rebuild its confidence in the political class.

In Peru, all sectors in society are fully aware of the importance of political organizations, such as political parties, movements, or alliances as a channels of expression of the will of the people but there is awareness as well of the necessity to perfection the law which in order to set forth the rules aiming to ensure the proper democratic operation of these organizations and the transparency concerning the origin of their financial recourses.

Finally, I would like to underline the important role that IDEA International is carrying out in different parts of the world, including Peru, where has a permanent office. Its work is becoming increasingly relevant, since through its initiatives, activities and studies is supporting the strengthening of democracies, providing assistance to achieve stronger institutions and processes, more sustainable, effective and legitimate, as well as by providing comparative knowledge and help in the democratic reforms. In this regard, Peru, in the framework of its presidency the next year reiterates its broadest support and disposition toward the promotion of the activities of IDEA International and the achievement of its goals

Many thanks.