



**Remarks**

**by**

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**President of the 68<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations**

**General Assembly**

**to the**

**Twenty-Third Meeting of the**

**Sixth Committee**

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*Please check against delivery*

Ambassador Kohona, Chairman of the Committee,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for this opportunity to address the Sixth Committee delegates and the many legal scholars and experts here today.

Allow me first and foremost to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, and the other Members of the Bureau, on the successful manner in which you have been conducting the Committee's work. I also wish to commend the Secretary of the Committee for his supportive role throughout this session.

While I have no doubt that the items on your agenda have been richly and constructively debated, I am equally confident that - consistent with the legacy of the Sixth Committee - you will arrive at carefully considered recommendations for the General Assembly to adopt by consensus. And let me add that I am pleased you are very much on track to do so.

Distinguished Delegates,

The United Nations has played, and continues to play, a key role in the development and promotion of international law. The Sixth Committee has made signature contributions in this regard. By facilitating dialogue on emerging international legal issues and furthering the codification of international law, your work brings us closer to a goal the UN's founding fathers articulated in the preamble of the Charter. Specifically, this Committee's work seeks to establish conditions under which justice, as well as respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law, can be maintained.

I am pleased to learn that during this session you have made substantial progress in your deliberations on issues relating to the promotion of justice and international law. I would also like to commend the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law and the

International Law Commission for their accomplishments, which not only greatly facilitate the Committee's work, but one may even say lie at its very core.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we acknowledge these achievements, we must be ever mindful of our unfinished work. The finalization of a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism is a high priority for the United Nations, but it remains inconclusive. Nonetheless, I appreciate Member States' unequivocal commitment in condemning terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and your continued support for the United Nations Global Counter-terrorism Strategy. In your further deliberations in the sixty-ninth session, as well as during the intersessional period, I encourage you to vigorously employ all efforts to address the outstanding issues in order to bring us closer to finalizing a comprehensive convention and to ensuring a robust legal framework that combats the scourge of terrorism.

Distinguished Delegates,

The high-level meeting during last year's General Assembly dedicated to the rule of law at the national and international levels was convened upon the wisdom and guidance of the Sixth Committee. That meeting was indeed historic and the Declaration adopted by consensus marked a major milestone for the United Nations; it confirmed the fundamental role of the rule of law in furthering international peace and security, human rights and development. The Declaration further confirmed that when we respond to the complex political, social and economic transformations before us, the rule of law must be central. It states that the rule of law is [quote] "the foundation of friendly and equitable relations between States and the basis on which just and fair societies are built" [end quote].

The Sixth Committee has been an important forum for bringing about a common understanding of the rule of law at the national and international levels and no doubt it will remain so. At the same time, as our Leaders have acknowledged the rule of law must become more deeply integrated into other global processes, including, the post-2015 international development

agenda.

As announced in my acceptance speech on 14 June 2013, I shall convene a thematic debate that will specifically address the rule of law in the post-2015 development agenda. I count on your support and active participation to ensure that the debate fosters a better understanding of how the rule of law can be incorporated into the post-2015 development agenda. My hope is that ultimately the new agenda will recognize, as our Leaders have in the Declaration, that the advancement of the rule of law at the national and international levels is essential for sustained and inclusive economic growth, sustainable development, the eradication of poverty and hunger, and the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you move into the final stages of the Sixth Committee's work, I encourage you to continue working in a constructive and cooperative spirit, with a firm focus on consensus building. I also urge you to continue respecting the time and resources allocated to this Committee, as this is crucial for the overall success of the 68<sup>th</sup> session.

Please rest assured that my entire team and I stand ready to work with you to ensure that your efforts here in this Committee reach a successful conclusion. We appreciate your cooperation and your many contributions to the work of the Organization.

I wish you continued success in your deliberations.

Thank you.