



**THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC
OF AZERBAIJAN TO THE UNITED NATION**

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**Agenda item 83:
The rule of law at the national and international levels**

**Statement by
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Third Secretary
of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Azerbaijan
to the United Nations**

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, let me join the previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as Chairperson of the Sixth Committee and assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation. We are confident that under your able leadership this Committee will gain fruitful results.

Azerbaijan aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. At the same time, I would like to make the following remarks in my national capacity.

Let me start by thanking the Secretary-General for his recent reports entitled "Strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities" (A/67/290) and "Delivering justice: programme of action to strengthen the rule of law at the national and international levels" (A/66/749), which reflect major developments and challenges in this area.

We are convinced that the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the rule of law at the national and international levels held on the eve of 67th session of General Assembly, on 24 September 2012, will further increase the international attention to the importance of this issue.

Mr. Chairman,

Azerbaijan reaffirms its commitment to an international order based on international law and the rule of law and develops its bilateral and multilateral relations guided by this principle. At national level, Government continues its path of reforms with the aim of strengthening the principle of rule of law, which is enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan regards the protection and promotion of human rights as an issue of priority for its internal and foreign policy agenda. All human rights and fundamental freedoms set forth in the international documents are enshrined in the Constitution of Azerbaijan. Since regaining its independence in 1991, Azerbaijan became a party to all major universal and regional human rights treaties.

Mr. Chairman,

We take note of the subtopics suggested by the Secretary-General for the discussion in the Sixth Committee on the rule of law and would like to share our observations on some of them.

We believe that the multilateral cooperation based on the rule of law and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations is essential for effectively addressing the current and future global challenges, and important tool for ensuring sustainable development and peaceful coexistence between States.

We share the Secretary-General's observation reflected in his report (A/67/290) that while international law-making is at times necessary, the challenge lies in ensuring implementation of and compliance with the existing legal framework. In that regard, greater efforts are needed to ensure a unified approach to the rule of law and to address the major threats and challenges that continue to affect the basic elements of the international legal order, to undermine the national unity, territorial integrity and stability of States, and to regenerate disregard and contempt for human rights.

Meantime, further efforts, in particular through resolute measures aimed at ensuring the strict compliance of parties to armed conflict with their

obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law, remain crucial and must be an absolute priority.

The lack of agreement on political issues in situations of armed conflict and military occupation cannot be used as a pretext for disrespect of international humanitarian and human rights law. The fact that illegal situations continue because of political circumstances does not mean that they are therefore rendered legal. Law and justice are more important than force.

With respect to such situations, we proceed from the importance of reaffirming the continuing applicability of all relevant international legal norms, putting an end to activities aimed at the consolidation of foreign occupation, initiating urgent measures towards removing the adverse effects of such activities, and discouraging any further practices of the same or a similar nature.

Mr. Chairman,

We support the measures and policies undertaken by the United Nations aimed at strengthening the rule of law at national and international levels, as well as within the Organization itself. The United Nations should continue to play the leading role in supporting and coordinating efforts to this end. We noticed in the report that the United Nations is providing rule of law assistance in close to 150 Member States spanning every region of the world. The activities take place in all contexts, including development, fragility, conflict and peacebuilding.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that, in order to achieve the goal of the rule of law, we should uphold fundamental principles, adhere to the uniform application of international law and promote the democratization of international relations.

Thank you.