



Misión Permanente de Chile
ante las Naciones Unidas

**PRESIDENCIA
PRO TEMPORE**



67^o Período Ordinario de Sesiones de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas

**INTERVENCION DE LA REPRESENTACION PERMANENTE DE CHILE ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS
A NOMBRE DE LA COMUNIDAD DE ESTADOS LATINOAMERICANOS Y CARIBEÑOS, CELAC**

Tema 83

El estado de derecho en los planos nacional e internacional

Nueva York, 10 de octubre de 2012

-Cotejar con texto leído-

67th Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations

**STATEMENT OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF CHILE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON BEHALF OF
THE COMMUNITY OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARRIBEAN STATES, CELAC**

Item 83

The rule of law at the national and international levels

New York, October 10, 2012

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Mister Chairman:

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, CELAC.

The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States would like to thank the Secretary General for his *Annual report on strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities (A/67/ 290)*, which presents a useful overview of the achievements and challenges of the UN and its specialized agencies in strengthening the rule of law at the national and international levels.

The discussion on this topic in the Sixth Committee is a relevant opportunity to take stock thereof, as well as to reflect upon the outcome of the High Level Meeting on the Rule of Law held last September and on the ways and means forward.

Mister Chairman:

The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States reaffirms its commitment to the rule of law and recognizes its importance for friendly and equitable relations and for building just and fair societies, as acknowledged in the High-Level Meeting Declaration.

As Members of the United Nations, and as stated in the high level Declaration, we are determined to establish a just and lasting peace all over the world, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. We rededicate ourselves to support all efforts to uphold the sovereign equality of all States, to respect their territorial integrity and political independence, to refrain in our international relations from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations, and to uphold the resolution of disputes by peaceful means and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, the right to self-determination of peoples which remain under colonial domination and foreign occupation, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for the equal rights of all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion, international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and the fulfillment in good faith of the obligations assumed in accordance with the Charter.

We Stress that there is still room for improvements to avoid duplication and increase efficiency in rule of law activities. In this regard, we note the efforts made by the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group and the Rule of Law Unit.

CELAC recognizes that respect for the rule of law at the international level implies compliance with the existing international legal framework, in which the rule of law applies to all States equally and to international organisations, including the UN and its principal organs. In our view, such respect for the rule of law also means refraining in our international relations from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations and settling international disputes by

peaceful means. In this regard, we reaffirm the obligation of all States to settle their international disputes by peaceful means, inter alia through negotiation, enquiry, good offices, mediation, conciliation, arbitration and judicial settlement, or other peaceful means of their own choice, and duly taking into account the relevant General Assembly Resolutions.

We are convinced that good governance at the international level is fundamental for strengthening the rule of law, and stress the importance of continuing efforts to revitalize the General Assembly, to strengthen the Economic and Social Council, and to reform the Security Council, in order to turn it into a more effective, democratic, representative and transparent organ in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions.

We take note of the important decisions on reform of the governance structures, quotas and voting rights of the Bretton Woods institutions, better reflecting current realities and enhancing the voice and participation of developing countries, and we reiterate the importance of the reform of the governance of those institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions.

Mechanisms in our Latin American and Caribbean region play a significant role in fostering the rule of law within their Member States. Members of CELAC are committed to strengthening and promoting the rule of law in its member states and contribute to this end through dialogue, cooperation and by fostering solidarity among its members.

We recognize the importance of national ownership in rule of law activities. The rule of law implies the existence of a transparent legal system accessible to all, solid democratic institutions and laws, independent and impartial judicial systems and adequate redress mechanisms for human rights violations, as a framework for political and social development.

CELAC recognizes the necessary link between the rule of law at the international and at the national levels. These are not two parallel and separate concepts. On the contrary, both levels inform each other and are interlinked.

The Community of Latin American and Caribbean strongly urges States to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries.

As we mentioned last year, strengthening the rule of law is not an exclusive problem of certain countries or regions but a global aspiration to be governed by agreed values, principles and norms, created through open predictable and recognized processes that take into account national perspectives.

We welcome UN programs and activities aim at strengthening the rule of law. We reiterate the importance that such UN assistance be broad in scope, in order to also include challenges regarding economic growth, sustainable development, and

eradication of poverty. In this context, CELAC recalls that the rule of law and development are strongly interrelated and mutually reinforcing, and 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, all of which in turn reinforce the rule of law.

Mister Chairman:

CELAC emphasizes the importance of continuing our consideration and promotion of the rule of law in all its aspects to further develop the linkages between the rule of law and the three main pillars of the United Nations: peace and security, human rights and development.

We welcome the advances in the promotion of the rule of law at the regional level and reiterate CELAC's commitment to this objective.

Thank you.