



**Permanent Mission of the State of Eritrea**

Statement by

H.E. Mr. Araya Desta  
Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations

On item 83: The Rule of Law  
at the National and International Levels

At the Sixth Committee of the 67<sup>th</sup> session of  
the United Nations General Assembly

11 October 2012

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation aligns itself with the statements made by Egypt on behalf of the African Group and the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement on an agenda item titled "the rule of law at the national and international levels".

Respect for the rule of law is a cornerstone for the peaceful coexistence among nations and an essential prerequisite that governs relations among States.

The convening of the High-level Meeting on the rule of law at the international and national levels on 24 September 2012 was a special occasion for the international community to underline the need for universal adherence to the rule of law at both the national and international levels. Eritrea wishes to stress the importance of a balanced approach in developing the international and national dimensions in regard to the rule of law.

My delegation believes that the discussion of this agenda item must continue at the Sixth Committee in order to reach a common view on the rule of law among the Member States of the United Nations.

Mr. Chairman,

Eritrea is deeply committed to upholding and developing an international order based on the rule of law with the United Nations at its core. International law and the rule of law are the foundations of the international system. Clear rules, respect for and adherence to the rules, and an effective multilateral system to prevent violations of the rules are preconditions for lasting international peace and security.

The notion of peaceful settlement of disputes is not only one of the main purposes of the United Nations but also one of the fundamental principles of the international legal system. My delegation shares the view of the overwhelming majority of the UN Member States that an effective multilateral system could only be realized, if it is based on unambiguous and transparent rules that apply to all players without selectivity, polarization and double standards. The non-uniform application of the rule of law at the international level has not only left many critical issues and conflicts unresolved and unattended, but it has also given rise to the lack of confidence in the multilateral fora. Moreover, states must also refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral measures that is inconsistent with the international law and the UN Charter and which might impede peace, security and development of other states.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, the need to restore confidence by strengthening the rule of law at the international level should be emphasized as this will effectively contribute to a just, secure and peaceful world order. This must include the urgent reform of various international institutions such as the Security Council and other UN institutions as well as international financial institutions, as reaffirmed yesterday in the African group statement on this agenda item.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.