

## **Statement by Greece at the Sixth Committee on Agenda item 83**

### **“The Rule of Law at the national and international levels”**

**United Nations**

**New York, 10 October 2012**

Mr. Chairman,

Since this is the first time my delegation is taking the floor, let me congratulate you for your election as Chairman of the 6<sup>th</sup> Committee.

Greece aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union in relation to the Rule of Law at the national and international levels and it also wishes to welcome the reports of the Secretary General of 16 March and of 10 August 2012 as well as the Declaration of the High-Level Meeting on the Rule of Law at the national and international levels adopted by the General Assembly on 24 September 2012.

In this respect Greece would like to stress that it firmly believes that our common aims of maintaining international peace and security, ensuring the realization of human rights for all and promoting sustainable development can be achieved only through the establishment and consolidation of rule of law institutions. Greece attaches great importance to the pre-eminence of international law, respect for the UN Charter, the resolution of disputes among States through peaceful means, including the international courts and tribunals and the development and the effectiveness of the International Criminal Court - a most valuable tool in the fight against impunity.

At a time of a severe financial and economic crisis, rule of law institutions are more than essential for an inclusive and sustained economic growth, as well as for the effective and efficient implementation of measures adopted to this effect. The fair distribution of costs and benefits of our economic policies is critical for preserving social cohesion.

At the domestic level, the rule of law is one of the main pillars of our national legal order. It consists of accountability mechanisms, a comprehensive system of judicial remedies and a wide range of independent authorities and national human rights institutions. We will continue to take measures to improve the practical operation of our justice system and the functioning of all public services which are relevant to the rule of law, as well as to foster transparency and to fight corruption, to combat organized crime, including trafficking in human beings, and to adopt a gender perspective with a view to achieving substantial gender equality.

Mr. Chairman,

Pledges are a useful tool in setting up national priorities and, most importantly, ensuring implementation of and meaningful follow-up to all measures adopted to strengthen the rule of law.

Within this framework, Greece has registered a voluntary pledge to prepare a National Anti-Corruption Action Plan. The Anti-Corruption Action Plan will be prepared by the end of 2012 and will be implemented from 2013 to 2015, through the following steps:

First, it will take measures towards harmonizing national legislation with the recommendations of international organizations relating to fighting corruption. Second, my country will elaborate, develop, implement and supervise specific rules, initiatives and actions against corruption at the political and judicial level. Third, measures will be taken as a matter of top political priority for the implementation of such legislation.

Lastly, Greece together with Argentina, Austria, Chile, Costa Rica, Norway, Slovenia, Switzerland and Uruguay will contribute to efforts made at national, regional and international levels to promote truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence. In particular we will lend our support to the work of the Special Rapporteur created by the Human Rights Council to deal with these questions.

Mr. Chairman,

Greece attaches great importance to the consideration of the rule of Law item in a cross-cutting manner by the General Assembly and its Committees. We stand ready to actively participate in the relevant discussions of this item in the 6<sup>th</sup> Committee, with a view to further enhance and promote this issue at the national and international levels.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.