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STATEMENT

BY

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HONOURABLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
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ON

AGENDA ITEM 83:
“THE RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS”

AT THE

SIXTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK

10 October 2012

Mr. Chairman,

I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your assuming the chairmanship of the Sixth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly. I also congratulate the other members of the Bureau on their election.

Mr. Chairman

I would like to begin by congratulating the United Nations for having hosted for first time a successful High-Level-Meeting on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, last month. In particular, I congratulate the Co-facilitators for their efforts in the process of preparing the outcome document of the Meeting, member States, and other stakeholders, whose active involvement in negotiations led to the finalization of the outcome document.

I thank the Secretary-General for his report A/66/749. I also recognize the sincere efforts of the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group and the Rule of Law Unit in this endeavor.

Mr. Chairman

The outcome document reaffirms commitment of the international community towards the rule of law and adhering, for their purpose, to the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law.

It takes stock of the contemporary political, social and economic conditions and stresses upon the implementation of the rule of law related principles, in order to achieve the objective of the maintenance of international peace and security, peaceful co-existence and development.

The document stresses the importance of continuing efforts to reform the Security Council. We consider it essential to reform the Security Council at the earliest possible to make the body broadly representative, efficient and transparent.

It strongly condemns the acts of terrorism wherever, whenever and by whomever committed. We stress for collective action in the fight against terrorism, which continues to pose a serious threat to the international peace and security.

Mr. Chairman

India believes that the advancement of the rule of law at the national level is essential for the protection of democracy, economic growth, sustainable development, ensuring gender

justice, eradication of poverty and hunger and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

We consider that the law making activity at the national level is exclusively the domain of the national legislature.

Mr. Chairman

We thank the Secretary General for his report A/67/290 entitled "Strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities", submitted pursuant to the General Assembly resolution 66/102. The report throws light on the achievements and challenges in strengthening the rule of law at the national and international levels through the past year.

We agree with the assertion in paragraph 12 of the report that the challenge lies in ensuring implementation of and compliance with the existing international legal framework. We stress for the honest and effective implementation, by States, of international legal framework to combat terrorism including ensuring denial of safe havens to terrorists in any part of the world.

Mr. Chairman

We took note of the list of sub-topics in paragraph 70 of the report of the Secretary-General and those suggested by some states in an Annex to the report. We consider it appropriate that the Sixth Committee, after due consideration, takes a view with regard to the sub-topics. We prefer to take up fewer topics at one point of time to be able to concentrate in a proper manner.

Mr. Chairman

We reiterate the importance of strengthening the capacity of States, especially the developing and the least developed States, to enable them to carry out the rule of law related activities and to fulfill their obligations.

The rule of law assistance should be in line with the national priorities of the recipient States to ensure proper utilization and the benefit of assistance.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.