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

**S T A T E M E N T**

by

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**to the United Nations**

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Mr. Chairman,

First of all I would like to congratulate you Mr. Chairman and other members of the Bureau on your election. Let me also stress that Poland align itself with the statement made by the European Union on this agenda item.

Poland welcomes this year's focus on the rule of law, the principle embedded in the core of the United Nations and welcomes the outcome of the High-Level Meeting on the rule of law, specially because respect for the rule of law is enshrined in Poland's Constitution and is also at the heart of the sustained Poland's democratic system.

Let me also express the opinion that the results of the High-Level Meeting held last month made an important step forward in the rule of law discussion, as they contain a strong common vision on the subject and change the way in which the United Nations deals with the rule of law issues.

The High Level Meeting of the General Assembly and its Declaration, adopted by consensus, as well as pledges submitted by Member States and some organizations sum up preliminary stage of implementation of the commitment provided for in the 2005 World Summit's Outcome Document. At the same time they are point of departure for the further common efforts of all stakeholders, to convert the rule of law into a strong, stable foundation of human relations at national and international levels. These efforts may become a starting point for fully achieving the rule of law as a constitutional rule of the world order.

In this context let me underline that the success of the High-Level Meeting has resulted to a great extent from background materials submitted by the Secretary-General for the HLM, namely:

- the report "Delivering justice: programme of action for strengthen the rule of law at the national and international levels" (A/66/749); and
- the report "Strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities" (A/67/290), that complements the proposals of the Secretary-General contained in the above mentioned report.

They both represent important value as they reflect in a comprehensive manner all areas of human activities dealing with rule of law. They also illustrate key achievements and challenges in strengthening the rule of law at the national and international levels, and emphasize continuing progress and next steps to be taken towards developing a more comprehensive and joint United Nations approach in support of dealing with national and international priorities and challenges.

The new report of the Secretary-General requested by the High-Level Meeting must be comprehensive, must reflect the cross-cutting nature of the issue and include views and contributions of Member States. The pledges submitted at the United Nations are also very important and helpful tools for this purposes.

We would also like to extend our thanks to the co-facilitators for their tireless efforts in negotiating the text of Declaration, the Outcome Document of the Meeting, in the manner that helped us to arrive at consensus on this important document.

Mr. Chairman,

We need to promote the rule of law through the UN as a solid foundation to achieve peace, international security, human rights and sustainable development. Each of the principal organs, including Secretariat and its various departments and offices, in addition to the UN funds and programmes, engages in a wide range of rule of law activities. Many other multilateral actors and bilateral donors, private foundations and non-governmental organizations take part in such activities.

The scope of rule of law activities and the number of actors involved create challenges in their prioritization, coordination and coherence.

And what should be done now? How should we proceed?

As a first step we should broadly disseminate our current knowledge on the rule of law. The knowledge based not only on what results from our own pledges and commitments. We have to try to look a bit further and to find out how the issue in question is seen by others. To this end we will continue analyzing the debate at the High Level Meeting and submitted pledges which will enable us to draw conclusions.

At our national level we intend to inform widely on the results of the HLM all public institutions, including civil society organizations in order to create a mechanism ensuring their direct commitments and meaningful engagement.

This would allow us to build our standpoint according to our national priorities as well as in the interest of the whole international human society and to participate actively in further, cross-cutting discussion on the rule of law, which builds upon the work of the various committees of the General Assembly, including, of course, the Sixth Committee.

Poland has already responded to the Secretary-General's specific appeal regarding the rule of law and human rights, offering our active cooperation as well as submitting concrete specific pledges.

Let me also remind that these commitments were submitted by the President of the Republic of Poland at this year's General Assembly debate.



He stated inter alia that Poland “readily offers support to and shares experience with countries and societies who embark on a road of democratic transformation in North Africa, Asia or Eastern Europe”.

He also underlined that stability and regulation of international legal order will require a more extensive engagement of multilateral institutions, as well as norms and mechanisms securing their observance. Only the United Nations system may ensure it. That is one of the reasons why Poland is committed to work for observance of UN rules, for the integrity and full implementation of the output of our Organization, for its effectiveness in exercising the tasks that we ourselves impose on it, so that the UN may meet the expectations that we have in store for it.

Mr. Chairman,

In the context of rule of law, I would like to draw your attention to this year’s Treaty Event at which States manifested once again their strong belief in the importance of international treaty. The high number of States, including Poland, becoming Parties to various treaties makes this event one of the most important Treaty Events in recent years. These legally binding international norms and standards create firm and comprehensive legal framework regulating the conduct of nations. These norms also become an important part of the rule of law and are indispensable for strengthening this rule.

Implementing the rule of law required sustainable and comprehensive efforts, as short-term responses are not enough. A comprehensive approach to addressing the rule of law is needed.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman