

**УКРАЇНА**



**UKRAINE**

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**STATEMENT**

**By**

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**Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations**

**on Agenda item 83**

**"The Rule of Law at the national and international levels"**

**at the Sixth Committee**

**67<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly**

**New York, 10 October 2012**

*Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Delegates,*

While my Delegation has aligned itself with the statement that has been delivered this morning by the distinguished representative of the European Union, we would also like to speak on this important topic from our national perspective.

*Mr. Chairman,*

Respect to the rule of law at the international level is a basis for international peace and stability, a key precondition for prevention and settlement of conflicts, and a guarantee of predictability and legitimacy of international relations. We share the view that the respect for the rule of law at the international level begins with the strict adherence to the UN Charter by all Member States and the UN main organs.

The United Nations is actively engaged in the efforts dealing with a wide range of global challenges of our time ranging from climate change, terrorism, human rights protection, settlement of conflict, peace-building, each of which is closely linked to the rule of law issue. We notice with appreciation the Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities, and the Report of the Secretary-General entitled "Delivering justice: programme of action to strengthen the rule of law at the national and international levels". The Delegation of Ukraine commends the activities of the UN Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group and the Rule of Law Unit and looks forward to their further work to drive the Organization towards better coordinated and more effective rule of law assistance.

We feel and value the UN efforts in Ukraine where, for example, the Regional Bureau of the United Nations Development Programme has successfully implemented for the last few years a number of projects that stand out in the area of the rule of law including: (1) Measuring the Rule of law in Public Administration; (2) Legal Empowerment of the Poor; (3) Enhancing Transparency and Integrity; and (4) Support to the Office of the Ombudsman

Ukraine welcomes the successful completion of the High Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the rule of law at the national and international levels held on September 24, 2012. The adoption of the outcome Declaration of the High-level Meeting had been a positive step forward in formulating a common comprehensive vision among all States on further dialogue and cooperation in this area.

The Delegation of Ukraine is confident that international efforts to strengthen the rule of law should remain centered around the United Nations. We think that among the priorities in strengthening the rule of law at the international level should be increasing the effectiveness of international judicial and quasi-judicial institutions, providing a new impulse to the process of global nuclear disarmament and efforts to strengthen the nuclear nonproliferation regime, a key element of which should be the ensuring of legal security guarantees for the states which renounced nuclear weapons.

*Mr. Chairman,*

We commend the voluntary pledges made by many UN member States to strengthen the rule of law. Sharing the common values of democracy, rule of law and respect for human rights the Government of Ukraine, represented at the High-Level Meeting by Minister for Justice of Ukraine, joined the voluntary steps of our partners by reaffirming determination of the leadership of Ukraine to fulfill the commitments undertaken within the international Initiative “Open Government Partnership”. The commitments contained in the concrete National Action Plan, are aimed at ensuring the effective methods of public administration, involvement of civil society into the process of defining and implementation of governmental policy as well as equal access to justice for all and effective fight against corruption. It is worth mentioning that members of the civil society took an active part in drafting the Action Plan by submitting more than 400 proposals, including during public events held in regions of Ukraine. The document was also discussed at the National Round Table involving Prime Minister of Ukraine, representatives of civic society organizations, and media. The event was covered live on-line.

Ukraine is moving steadily along the path of reforms aimed at strengthening the rule of law at the national level. The rule of law as a principle is contained in the Constitution of Ukraine. In the last few years the Government of Ukraine has made a number of steps to strengthen this principle in different domestic areas. It includes public administration reform, judicial reform, large-scale anti-corruption programs and comprehensive criminal procedure reform, which had been a “crucial challenge” for the Ukrainian authorities for years.

We value the level of fruitful cooperation between Ukraine and a number of regional organizations in the area of the rule of law. For instance, cooperation with the Council of Europe, particularly its Venice Commission, assists us in undergoing consistent reforms necessary for realization of our European integration’s aspirations. This process is actively promoted by the Constitutional Assembly – a special political institution established in Ukraine to find a nationwide consensus on the provisions of the Constitution of Ukraine.

*Mr. Chairman,*

In conclusion I would like to notice with appreciation that the High-Level Meeting on the Rule of Law proved to be a topical and effective event which encourages Member States to unify and strengthen cooperation at international level as well as instigate them to intensify progress domestically. We look forward to receiving a report of the Secretary General with proposals on ways and means of developing further linkages between the rule of law and three main pillars of the United Nations: peace and security, human rights and development.

The Delegation of Ukraine strongly supports and will contribute to organization of further comprehensive GA-level discussions on this important issue.

*Thank you.*