

**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AMBASSADOR CHITSAKA CHIPAZIWA
AT THE SIXTH COMMITTEE DEBATE ON THE RULE OF LAW AT
NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL: 10 OCTOBER 2012**

Since this is our first intervention in this Committee, allow me to congratulate you Mr. Chairman and other members of the Bureau on your election to preside over the deliberations of this Committee. I am confident that under your able stewardship, the Committee will deal diligently with all issues on its agenda. I would like to assure you of my delegation's full cooperation in your work.

I align myself with the statements delivered by the delegations of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non Aligned Movement and Egypt on behalf of the Africa group. I would also want to add a few points from our national perspective.

Two weeks ago, Heads of State and Government participating at the High Level meeting on the Rule of Law at National and International levels, adopted a Declaration which delicately captured and balanced diverse views of member states on the subject. The facilitators are to be commended for managing to produce an outcome document when at one point views appeared to be irreconcilable. We accept that Declaration as a compromise and a triumph for multilateral diplomacy. We believe that the rule of law at international level can only thrive if it is based on multilateralism. Genuine multilateralism eschews coercive actions to adhere to the rule of law at the international level.

We re-affirm our commitment to the Charter of the United Nations which outlines the principles that guide inter-state relations and the rule of law at international level. These include:

- The sovereign equality of states
- Non-interference in the internal affairs of states
- Respect for the territorial integrity of states
- The right of people to self determination and to chart their own destinies.

We believe that all states should be committed to settling their disputes by peaceful means and refrain from the threat or use of force.

The United Nations is the foundation and pillar of multi-lateralism. We therefore find it regrettable that some States often resort to unilateral actions. In our view, this is contrary to the rule of law and due process. The rule of law should apply to all States equally, in a fair, just, transparent and non selective manner. Double standards and selective application of international law for singular national interests undermine the rule of law at the international level.

At the national level, Zimbabwe is making significant progress in strengthening the rule of law, respect for human rights and democracy. Under our inclusive political dispensation, three independent Commissions on Human Rights, the Media and Elections have been established. We are also at an advanced stage of developing a people driven Constitution which will reflect our own national aspirations. We are confident that progress in all these processes will augur well for the core challenges of economic development and poverty eradication.

Zimbabwe is committed to the rule of law and stands ready to cooperate with other Member States who share the same perspective.

I thank you