



STATEMENT

BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS

TO

THE 68<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE GA

AGENDA ITEM 85: THE RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL  
LEVELS

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*Check Against Delivery*

Mr. Chairman,

As this is the first time my delegation is taking the floor for this session of the Sixth Committee, I wish to join other delegations in congratulating you and the other members of the Bureau on your election and to assure you of my delegation's support and cooperation.

We would like to thank the Secretary General for his report on "Strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities", as contained in document A/68/213. We share the view on the necessity of strengthening the coordination among UN structures that assist with rule of law activities in order to secure the interlinkage of the rule of law to the three pillars of the United Nations: peace and security, human rights and development.

Albania has aligned with the Statement delivered by the EU. I wish to make a couple remarks on my national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

More than two decades ago, Albania embraced the rule of law agenda as the backbone of its political change into a democratic system, thus detaching itself from a totalitarian regime where the rule of man was above the rule of law. It is because of this reason that we felt, probably more acutely than anyone else in the recent past, the benefits of this new regulation in the society, in the establishment and development of a market economy, and in the establishment of a political system that is based on fundamental freedoms and respect for individual rights. Ever Since, we have irreversibly committed to it.

As new standards in the rule of law agenda continue to develop, in cooperation with our partners and friends, and with a further commitment to bringing it in line with the European Union "*aquis communautaire*", the huge task ahead of us is the strengthening of a modern civil service administration and the full implementation of this new repertoire of laws. We are well aware that this process represents a challenge, which needs time, assistance and perseverance, as well as broad domestic support. We think that results in adopting rule of law standards will come through:

- targeted awareness raising campaigns for laws governing a particular area and therefore informing individuals and the society of their respective rights and obligations;
- increased public participation in the lawmaking process;
- strengthening law enforcement agencies, while respecting human rights;
- a realistic and effective anti-corruption campaign. We have experienced firsthand that corruption and the rule of law cannot live together. They are in a permanent conflict. It is not easy to create conditions in which law prevails over injustice, but

it is our duty to make a society based on the rule of law succeed, since there is no other alternative to building a just and equal society, a society for all.

We will do our part and if needed, we will call upon our partners, including the UN, to assist us in this endeavor.

Mr. Chairman,

Albania is part of the Balkan region which, as we all know, is composed of relatively new democracies. As all countries in the region, Albania included, strive to strengthen the rule of law within their own boundaries, cooperation among us has become easier and more fruitful due to the common understanding that the rule of law should be at the basis of our relations. Many bilateral and regional agreements continue to shape the relations among us, and Albania remains committed to continue further into this path.

Mr. Chairman,

The Rule of Law agenda has especially touched and shaped the lives of populations in South East Europe. Countries in this region now share the same understanding that only through the full respect for the rule of law we could enjoy a lasting peace, security, tolerance, cooperation and understanding between all and for all. Only through the rule of law we could achieve solutions and continued dialogue, which has indeed brought transformation of relations in a region where, less than two decades ago, conflict and wars were imposed as the means of communication among nations. Thankfully, that time is far behind us and the normalization and building of relations through agreements and treaties has since prevailed. The latest prove is the agreement reached on April 19, 2013, between Kosovo and Serbia on the principles of normalization of their relations. We strongly praise this new way of thinking and of political behavior, and call on both countries to further continue on this path.

Mr. Chairman,

Albania has been a supporter of the international criminal justice mechanisms, including the ad hoc tribunals, as guardians of the international rule of law where the national justice systems were not able or were just not keen to pursue justice. These tribunals, for years now, have been very powerful tools of ensuring accountability, ending impunity, restituting trust to the legal system, healing wounds, restoring peace and paving the way towards reconciliation. Albania highly values their judicial and moral legacy.

We remain committed to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. We are in the process of analyzing the necessary steps within our domestic legal system for the adoption of the Kampala amendments to the Rome Statute.

Let me conclude by reiterating once more the importance we attach to the rule of law, as the best regulator and guarantor of peace and security, development and human rights, within our national borders and beyond.

Thank you.