



**Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania  
to the United Nations**

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

**STATEMENT BY**

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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC  
OF TANZANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE 68<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON AGENDA ITEM 85:  
THE RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL  
LEVELS**

**NEW YORK, 9 OCTOBER 2013**

**Mr. Chairman,**

At the outset we wish to align ourselves with the statement made by the Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

In addition we welcome the importance being attached to the promotion of the rule of law and the peaceful settlement of international disputes. It is as an important endeavor in support of initiatives by the United Nations as well as Member States.

We also see it as a reaffirmation of the declaration of the High Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Rule of Law and its relevance at the national and international levels. It marks the beginning of a new phase in strengthening the rule of law within the United Nations system and globally.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The rule of law is a core principle of the international system. However, without strong rule of law capacities at the national level, efforts at strengthening rule of law at the international level are undermined. The United Nation's system must therefore sustain its focus in providing integrated and effective assistance in strengthening the rule of law, both at the national and international levels.

While responsibility for strengthening the rule of law only rests with the Member States, we believe that the United Nations is ideally placed to support those efforts and to provide integrated and effective assistance. In this regard we would also do better by enhancing effectiveness, synergies and coordination among the varied national rule of law initiatives.

There is therefore need for the UN agencies and other actors to focus on promoting the exchange of good practices and the formulation of common policies. At the same time all actors must refrain from the one-size fits all approaches or approaches that extend beyond the confines of the rule of law mandates.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The rule of law is the cornerstone of Tanzania's programme of democracy and good governance. Our adherence to the rule of law underpins current national efforts at the formulation of a new constitution for the United Republic. The exercise has been deep



and broad in scope, and encompassing citizens at every walk of life. We see this as yet another opportunity to strengthen our democracy and the legitimacy of our institutions of governance and the rule of law. It is also a reflection of the Government's commitment to discharge its obligations and responsibilities in a democratic environment.

Tanzania firmly believes in the importance of safeguarding and upholding the rule of law. We therefore stress our commitment to and efforts in promoting the rule of law in the conduct of international relations. The promotion of and commitment to peaceful settlement of disputes consistent with the United Nations' Charter remains one of the cornerstones of Tanzania's foreign policy. We advocate for the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means and through the rule of law as embodied in the principles and purposes of the Charter.

We have participated actively in various multilateral negotiations, and used peaceful mechanisms to resolve disputes. Our view is that disputes, including those over territorial sovereignty can and should be resolved peacefully and in accordance with international law, including through the International Court Justice. It is in this respect that at regional level, Tanzania has actively involved herself in the promotion of peace and security in the region, including our effort in the Great Lakes region of Africa.

**Mr. Chairman,**

International humanitarian law has made remarkable contribution toward strengthening the rule of law at both national and international levels. Indeed the formation of the ad hoc criminal tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia gave special impetus to the establishment of the International Criminal Court. We commend their accomplishments and pledge our support for the International Residual Mechanisms for the Criminal Tribunals, a branch of which we are honored to host at Arusha, Tanzania.

**Mr. Chairman,**

It will be remiss on our part if we do not comment on the matter regarding the current state of affairs between the International Criminal Court and Africa. In his address to the General Assembly, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, H.E. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, noted that the adoption of the Rome Statute establishing the ICC was a

major milestone of the international criminal justice system, and that its creation as a machinery for fighting impunity was only possible with the support of Africa.

President Kikwete expressed our regret at the rift that has grown between the Court and the continent. The Court's perceived irresponsiveness to what are, in our view, legitimate concerns of Africa demand greater empathy that neither undermines its integrity nor the confidence of its member states. We believe this balance is practical, attainable and strengthens the rule of law at the national and international levels.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The approach of the international community to peaceful settlement of disputes continues to evolve in response to the changing nature of global threats to peace and security. In this context, the United Nations, the International Court of Justice, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea as well as the International Sea Bed Authority, among others, remain key actors.

We should continue efforts at strengthening the process of the peaceful settlement of dispute. The challenge for the international community is to strengthen the rule of law and promote effective adherence. This is a challenge the United Republic of Tanzania is committed to provide positive contribution.

**Thank you Mr. Chairman**