

MRS. Z ARROUK



# TUNISIA

Statement of H.E. Mr. Mohamed Khaled Khiari,  
Ambassador and Permanent representative of Tunisia to the United Nations

At the occasion of the General debate of the Sixth Committee on the rule of  
law and peaceful settlement of international disputes

9 October 2013

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

**Mr. Chairman,**

At the outset, I would like to thank the Secretary General for its report entitled «Strengthening and coordinating United Nations action in the field of rule of law» which points out the extensive efforts undertaken by the Organization to meet requests for assistance and strengthen the rule of law at the national and international level.

I would like also to seize this opportunity to renew the support of Tunisia to the efforts and activities of the UN in favor of the promotion of the rule of law and transitional justice all over the world and highlight the willingness of my delegation to contribute actively to the enrichment of our discussions within the sixth committee on such an important topic, which requires indeed a greater attention from us.

Building on the momentum generated by the High-level Meeting on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels held on 24 September 2012, which marked a milestone in the setting of a common understanding of the rule of law, we think it is particularly important in our discussions to delve deeper into the topic of the rule of law and reflect on how to improve our coordination to develop the linkages between the rule of law and the three main pillars of the United Nations: peace and security, human rights and development.

Tunisia is a strong supporter of the rule of law both at the national level and international level. At the national level, we believe that the rule of law is crucial for democracy, dignity, stability and growth. Moreover, we believe that the rule of law is best respected when people are empowered to voice their rights. *As Tunisia is moving forward in its democratic transition, we are particularly committed to adopt a new Constitution; a consensual one which consecrates the civil nature of State and lays the foundations of a really democratic regime in the country.*

At the international level, we consider that the rule of law is the cornerstone for peaceful co-existence and cooperation among states and strengthening international peace and security in a rapidly changing world. It accords predictability and legitimacy to actions of states, strengthen their sovereign equality and builds trust and mutual confidence among them.

Moreover, the several, complex and interconnected challenges before us require more than ever the full integration of the principles of rule of law into the management of international relations as well as the mechanisms envisaged in the UN Charter for pacific settlement of disputes.

we welcome, in this context, the adoption last year by the sixth Committee of the resolution 67/95 on the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Manila declaration on peaceful settlement of disputes, which Tunisia was among its main co-sponsors, as well as the choice of this year's theme in the sixth committee on «the rule of law and the peaceful settlement of international disputes».

The Peaceful settlement of international disputes should indeed continue to be at the center of the endeavors of the Member states and of the United Nations, in accordance with the UN Charter which requires from all members to settle their international disputes by peaceful means and provides us, in addition, clear guidance on the appropriate mechanisms to achieve that goal, mainly negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlements, resort to regional agencies or arrangements, or other peaceful means.

The mechanisms of peaceful settlement of disputes have proved to be of valuable contribution in achieving a more peaceful world, as reflected inter alia by the immense work of the various UN envoys, special representatives and political missions, which has been, in the same context, critical in easing tensions and in achieving many negotiated settlements. The increase of cases before courts and tribunals established under international law, including the International Court of Justice and the International tribunal for the law of the sea, conveys also the confidence of Member States in their value.

We express, in the same context, our hope that the current negotiations between Palestinian and Israeli Parties be crowned by a durable, just and comprehensive peace putting an end to the occupation and recognizing the the Palestinians' rights to an independent and Sovereign State, within the borders of 4 June 1967 and with East Jerusalem as its capital. The international community should spare on its part no efforts to make these negotiations successful.

Mr. Chairman,

Despite the clear evolution of the mechanisms of peaceful settlement of disputes, there is still a need to optimize their use. Furthermore, they should be further developed to respond adequately and timely to the more complex problems we face today. I would like to highlight a few ways forward in this respect:

- The importance of further promoting mediation, as a promising and cost-effective tool in the peaceful settlement of disputes. And to that end, Member states should work especially on further strengthening national and regional capacities in mediation, on leveraging up resources allocated to activities of mediation, and fostering gender balance in mediation posts.

- The necessity of reinforcing ties of the UN with regional and sub regional organizations which are well positioned to pinpoint crises early and develop, in this regard, appropriate mechanisms to decide how to work together when a crisis erupts and mobilize required resources to that end.

We are of the view that this theme should continue to deserve a greater attention from us in our future debates within the sixth committee. My delegation remains firmly committed to contribute actively in this regard.

Thank you for your attention.