



**Permanent Mission of Eritrea to the United Nations
New York**

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**STATEMENT BY MS. STEPHANIE GEBREMEDHIN AT THE SIXTH COMMITTEE
OF THE 70TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON
AGENDA ITEM 85: THE RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND
INTERNATIONAL LEVELS
15 OCTOBER 2015**

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation aligns itself with the statements made by the delegations of Iran and South Africa on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and African Group respectively.

Eritrea attaches great importance to the promotion and strengthening of rule of law at the national and international level.

Mr. Chairman,

Strengthening the rule of law is vital for the maintenance of peace, promotion of social and economic development and enhancing international cooperation. The lack of compliance with international law is one of the root causes of many of inter-state tensions and conflicts.

Eritrea remains committed to upholding and developing an international order based on the rule of law with the United Nations at its core. The notion of peaceful settlement of disputes is not only one of the main purposes of the United Nations but also one of the fundamental principles of the international legal system. The need to restore confidence by strengthening the rule of law at the international level should be emphasized as this will effectively contribute to a just, secure and peaceful world order.

Mr. Chairman;

Strengthening rule of law at national level is critical for social and economic progress, political stability and promotion and protection of human rights. In the

past two decades, Eritrea has been taking measures to achieve peaceful and inclusive societies through ensuring comprehensive, efficient and effective justice system. In a region unfortunately troubled with instability, Eritrea has been able to maintain a peaceful and harmonious country, including through:

1. Enhancing access to and participation in a justice system. To boost accessibility for ordinary Eritreans to the judicial system the Government of Eritrea enacted Proclamation 132/2002 to establish community courts. The community courts elects the judges through public election for a two year term; one of who must be a woman. Electing women in each community court contributes to the national efforts to ensure greater emancipation of women and their involvement in the judicial process.
2. Improving the justice system. In May of 2015 the Ministry of Justice published new Penal and civil Codes and their related procedures. The codes have been designed to reflect the concepts, values, and norms of the society as well. The drafting and the deliberation process of these Codes took more than eight years of public consultations; and examination of more than 80,000 customary laws from all over the country was part of the exercise. International and universal human rights issues were also taken into consideration. To ensure wider understanding of these laws by all sectors of the society, today extensive and concerted sensitization campaign has been launched to civil society. These timely legal documents are already translated into Tigrinya, Arabic and English.
3. Strengthening the capacity of the justice system. The Ministry of Justice and law enforcement and implementing bodies in cooperation with international partners are fully engaged in enhancing the institutional and human capacity of the judiciary organs as well as police and other law enforcement agencies.

While hailing the achievements in the areas of strengthening the rule of law at national level, the Eritrean government is cognizant that advancing rule of law is an evolutionary process that requires sustained involvement of every sector of society and stakeholder.

I thank you Mr. Chairman