



STATEMENT OF GEORGIA
ON AGENDA ITEM 'RULE OF LAW AT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL'
Delivered by Ms. INGA KANCHAVELI, Counsellor at the
Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations
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Mr. Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Georgia fully shares the notion that the rule of law is a crucial prerequisite for peace, security, human rights and development. In this context, we believe that the UN's continuous efforts to strengthen the rule of law, both at the national and international levels, are of utmost importance.

Existing challenges prove that more efforts need to be placed for the full and effective implementation of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, promoting peace and good governance and recognizing the rule of law as an essential pillar in achieving equitable economic growth, inclusive social development and environmental sustainability. In this line, we also attach great importance to the Doha Declaration that sets a global agenda for strengthening the commitment of implementing comprehensive crime prevention and criminal justice policies and strategies and promoting the rule of law at the national and international levels.

Hereafter, we align to the EU statement underlining the key role of multilateral treaties in promoting and advancing rule of law. To this end, the Treaty event, annually organized by the Secretary General, significantly contributes to the universal adherence to the most important multilateral treaties.

During the last two decades, Georgia has proven its commitment to the rapid pace of successful reforms. A wide range of reforms for bolstering the rule of law, transparency and accountability of the government has earned Georgia a reputation of a state with modern, innovative approaches to good governance and participatory democracy. We continue to improve our legal system to bring it in full compliance with high international standards.

During the past years, Georgia has further acceded to the whole range of international instruments, including the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence

against women and domestic violence and Kampala Amendments to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Aimed at ensuring a genuine independence of the judiciary from any outside interference and building a public confidence in the courts system, Georgia has implemented the 4-phased reform to liberate the judicial branch from political, financial or any other influences whatsoever. As a result of the 4th phase of the reform, Georgia's first standalone legal act - the Juvenile Justice Code was adopted in June 2015.

In addition, significant measures have been undertaken with the view of depoliticizing and strengthening the institutional independence of the Chief Prosecutor's Office. In particular, the Minister of Justice - a political appointee - relinquished her prosecutorial powers in favor of the Chief Prosecutor of Georgia.

Furthermore, consistent and decisive steps have been carried out in order to combat torture, identify ill-treatment in the places of confinement and ensure timely, independent and effective investigation on every single case. The progress made by the Government of Georgia in this regard was observed by the UN Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment - Mr. Juan Mendez during his visit to the country in March 2015.

Georgia's first ever National Human Rights Strategy and Anti-Discrimination Law have further contributed to consolidating institutional democracy and promoting equal enjoyment of rights for everyone. Both documents were elaborated in close cooperation with international organizations and civil society.

Last but not least, the Government of Georgia, supported by the CoE and the EU, is about to finalize a two-year work on the revision of the Criminal Code aimed at liberalization and modernization of Georgia's substantive criminal law to ensure its full compliance with relevant international standards.

Mr. Chairman,

While focusing on the rule of law, we should underline the necessity to promote norms and principles of international law. After 70 years from the creation of the UN one of the co-founders persists to disregard its international obligations by annexing the territories of neighbours, occupying 20% of my country - Georgia and conducting an open aggression against sovereign Ukraine. The rule of law both at national and international levels could be achieved only if the UN member states stand firmly for the principles enshrined in the UN Charter and other multilateral instruments, for the peace and stability in the world.

I would like to conclude by reiterating my Government's commitment to work with the United Nations and regional organizations to ensure greater adherence to the rule of law, among others through the good-faith implementation of multilateral instruments.

I thank you.