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Statement

**Mr. Achsanul Habib
Minister Counselor**

**Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia
to the United Nations, New York**

At the

**70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
Agenda Item 85: The Rule of Law at the National
and International Levels**

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Mr. Chairman,

Let me begin by aligning my statement with the statements made by the distinguished representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Lao PDR on behalf of Non-aligned Movement and ASEAN, respectively.

I thank the Secretary-General for his annual report on strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities, as contained in document A/70/206.

I will focus my statement on the subtopic, "The role of multilateral treaty processes in promoting and advancing the rule of law", as suggested in the last year's resolution.

Mr. Chairman,

Rule of law is an indispensable component for attaining peace and security; furthering development; as well as promoting and protecting human rights, at both international and national levels.

To be more precise, at the national level, rule of law is critical for the maintenance of stability, which, in turn, is an enabler for development to take place. Moreover, respect for the rule of law is a clear indication of the performance of a government.

At the international level, the rule of law serves as a foundation for global order, and friendly relations among international actors. It guarantees predictability and legitimacy of actions of the actors, which are demanded in our efforts to maintain global peace and security.

Mr. Chairman,

It is not without reason that the multilateral treaty process plays an instrumental role in strengthening the rule of law at the international level. By nature, a multilateral treaty process is an inclusive process based on the principle of sovereign equality of all States. It facilitates consultation, or even debate, on issues of common concern, aiming at concluding a clear set of rules that are agreeable to all parties involved.

As a result, the multilateral treaty process remains the most desirable method in international law-making activities.

Looking at the true spirit of the multilateral treaty process, my delegation takes note of some reflections that can be useful for the UN and its member States in their efforts to implement the rule of law at the international level.

First, the multilateral treaty process demands that all parties implement the agreed outcome in good faith. The same demand can also be expected by the UN Charter, which, to our belief, remains one of the most fundamental multilateral treaties ever concluded.

Accordingly, Indonesia underlines the importance of all States to strengthen compliance with the UN Charter; and to incorporate, in their international relations, the principles as contained in Article 2 of the Charter.

It is also critical for the UN to adhere to its Charter responsibilities, particularly in the maintenance of international peace and security. All principal organs, therefore, must be mindful of their Charter roles, and to promote a harmonious and balanced relationship among them.

It is imperative for the Security Council to discharge its duties in a just and objective manner; and enforce its own resolutions in respect of all States in an impartial manner.

The UN will also be in a better position to address global challenges when the General Assembly, as the representative of all Member States, performs its Charter roles in standard-setting and deliberation of issues of peace and security.

Second, the principles contained in the UN Charter must also apply equally to all States, regardless of their size, level of development, or economic and military capacities.

This is the core of the principle of sovereign equality of all States, and is an essential pillar for implementing rule of law.

On account of that principle, my delegation also underlines the paramount importance of the accountability of States, in cases of non-compliance with the UN Charter or other relevant international laws. In a similar vein, we also wish to emphasize the principle of peaceful settlement of international disputes, and the role of the International Court of Justice, and other international tribunals, on strengthening rule of law.

And **third**, the capacity of States to implement the rule of law at the international level, to some extent, depends on their ability to respect the rule of law at the national level. We therefore encourage the UN to be more focused on assisting States to strengthen the rule of law, as well as good governance, at the national level, including by incorporating States' responsibilities arising from international instruments into respective national mechanism, on the basis of the principle of national ownership.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me conclude by underlining Indonesia's commitment to continue adhering to the Declaration of the High Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, concluded in 2012.

In that regard, Indonesia reiterates the continued validity of principles incorporated in the Declaration on the applicability of rule of law to the UN and its organs. In view of this, we hold that ensuring the adherence of the UN to its own Charter contributes not only to the strengthening of international rule of law, but also to the achievement of its purposes.

I thank you.
