



Statement

by

Lebanon

**at the
Sixth Committee**

Item 85: “The rule of law at the national and international levels”

New York, October 15, 2015

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Mr. Chairman,

My delegation welcomes today's discussion on *the role of multilateral treaty processes in promoting and advancing the Rule of Law*, and takes note of the Secretary-General's recent report on Rule of Law activities, contained in document A/70/206.

I would like to commend the Mission of Singapore for organizing, in May of this year, a side-event entitled "*Multilateral Treaty-Making: Perspective of Small States and the Rule of Law*", and also thank the Head of the UN Treaty Section, Mr. Santiago Villalpando, for his briefing to the sixth committee delegates few weeks ago.

Both events provided us with substantive background information for our discussion on the subtopic of today.

Mr. Chairman,

70 years ago, in the summer of 1945 in San Francisco, five delegates from Lebanon took part in the negotiation of a milestone treaty, the United Nations Charter.

A few months later, Lebanon played a key role in the elaboration of another landmark document, the Universal Declaration of Human rights.

Proof, Mr. Chairman, of my country's historic commitment to the elaboration of multilateral legal instruments that promote peace, human rights and international cooperation, all of which are bedrock foundations for the advancement of the Rule of Law. As multilateral treaties contribute to the development and codification of international law, they need to achieve universal acceptance and be fully and faithfully implemented.

Hence the importance to ensure wide and inclusive participation at all stages of the treaty formation.

Mr. Chairman,

All States have an undeniable role in multilateral treaty processes. However, for States with limited capacities, sustaining long-lasting negotiations is often arduous because of the lack of adequate infrastructure, manpower, and financial resources. On the other hand, States with greater amount of resources not only enhance their abilities to negotiate more favorable treaty terms, but also reduce transaction costs when performing their obligations therein and at the enforcement stage.

Thus, keeping in mind that the elaboration process bears on the content of the treaty, my delegation is of the view that it is essential to promote an environment that improves genuine participation and leverage of States with limited capacities, in multilateral treaty negotiations.

In this regard, we wish to underscore the pivotal role of the General Assembly in the treaty-making process, as it is a unique forum of deliberations for all States. We welcome in this respect preambular paragraph 6 of the latest resolution on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly that reaffirms the role of the General Assembly "*in the process of standard-setting and codification of international law.*" (A/RES/69/321)

In seeking to improve negotiation conditions of less well-equipped States, attention could also be directed to available legal services and expertise in multilateral settings.

In the same way, capacity-building activities may help in addressing the practical challenges these states face. We welcome in this regard the headquarters and regional training courses conducted by the UN Treaty Section.

The UN Programme of assistance in the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law, which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, is also of critical importance as it aims, through its international law courses, at providing better legal knowledge of international law *as a means of strengthening international peace and security and promoting friendly relations and cooperation among states.*

To conclude, M. Chairman, my delegation reiterates its support to the promotion of the Rule of Law at the national and international levels, and expresses its appreciation to the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group for its valuable work in advancing this fundamental concept that consolidates the three main UN Pillars.