

**Statement by the Representative of Turkey at the Sixth Committee
for the 70th Session of the General Assembly
on agenda item 85 "The Rule of Law"**

**"The role of multilateral treaty processes in promoting
and advancing the rule of law"
(14.10.2015)**

Mr. Chair,

Turkey firmly believes that an international order based on the rule of law and international law is essential for peaceful coexistence and cooperation among States, as world leaders emphasized in the 2005 World Summit Outcome document.

Without doubt, this depends on the compliance of States with generally accepted rules and principles, particularly those embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, and those arising from obligations under international law in general, including multilateral treaties. In this context we welcome the theme for this year's discussions "The role of multilateral processes in promoting and advancing the rule of law".

Mr. Chair,

Multilateral treaties, by setting international standards and harmonizing rules, have enhanced predictability in international relations, and paved the way for greater international cooperation in many fields, from transport to trade, from health to communications.

Multilateral treaties have also contributed to the enhancement of global peace and security, through arms control and disarmament treaties, as well as counter-terrorism. I would like to mention in this regard the UN Conventions on countering terrorism, which are crucial instruments for addressing one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, as well as the UN Conventions on criminal matters, such as the Convention on Transnational Organized Crime, to which Turkey is party.

More recently, treaty processes have adapted to respond to new challenges and the need for an ever more globalized world. In this regard, treaties in the field of the environment are a case in point. For instance, the adoption of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, was a major step forward in tackling the problem of global warming.

Last but not least, the international human rights regime has largely been carved through multilateral treaties, either at global or regional levels. Turkey firmly believes that becoming party to international human rights instruments and taking the necessary measures for full implementation is key for the promotion and protection of human rights, which is among our priority policy objectives. Turkey is party to all the principal human rights conventions of the UN and to important number of Council of Europe conventions. Turkey has been instrumental in the conclusion of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention).

Mr. Chair,

As can be seen from the examples above, the UN and the General Assembly have played a key role in these developments, by convening and finalizing multilateral treaty processes. Also, the role played by the Office of Legal Affairs in discharging the UN Secretary General's functions of depositary of multilateral treaties and their registration and publication is significant in this regard, in particular taking into account the steady increase in the number of treaties concluded.

More generally, Turkey welcomes this commitment by the UN to advancing the international rule of law. We strongly support the efforts and activities of the UN in this field at both the international and national levels. We also note the recent report of the Secretary General released on 27 July 2015 on the "Strengthening and Coordinating UN rule of law activities (A/70/206)", which constitutes a thorough presentation of the activities of the UN in the field of the rule of law. We believe that the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group and the Rule of Law Unit

play a key role in the coordination and coherence of the various activities of the UN and affiliated bodies as regards the rule of law.

Mr. Chair,

The rule of law is not only an indispensable tool for peaceful international relations, it is also at the basis of any peaceful, stable, prosperous society.

Good governance, the rule of law and accountability are essential components of an enabling environment for sustainable development. In that sense, they are among the key enablers for the achievement of the 2030 sustainable development agenda, that our leaders have recently adopted.

Thank you.