



Statement

by

Lebanon

**at the
Sixth Committee**

Item 84: “The rule of law at the national and international levels”

New York, October 5, 2016

Check Against Delivery

*Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations
866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 531, New York, N. Y. 10017*

This item is another opportunity to voice my country's support to the advancement of the Rule of Law at the national and international levels, as Lebanon strongly believes that it consolidates the three main pillars of the United Nations, namely, human rights, peace and security, and development.

Although there is no agreed definition of the concept of the Rule of Law, it lies on intangible values such as equality before the law, accountability, and guarantees of fundamental rights.

These principles can be found in numerous legal instruments that are at our disposal, and mainly in the UN Charter. Consequently, it remains imperative to achieve universal, fair and just implementation of the existing relevant norms, in particular the UN Charter.

Unfortunately, we tend to see selective application of international law. It has critically undermined the universality of the Charter, along with the credibility and reputation of the UN.

We are also of the view that the rule of law cannot be dissociated from justice and cannot be achieved without ending foreign occupation, because the latter violates human rights on a daily basis, infringes on peace and security, and hampers development because it deprives occupied populations from fully exploiting their resources.

Furthermore, we encourage activities that promote the Rule of Law at the international level.

Last year marked the 50th anniversary of the UN Programme of assistance in the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law. This Programme provides, through its training courses in international law, the audiovisual library, better legal knowledge of international law and contributes to the objective of strengthening international peace and security and promoting friendly relations and cooperation among states.

Turning to one of the subtopics of this item, "*practical measures to ensure access to justice for all, including the poorest and the most vulnerable*", I will briefly highlight the following:

Our domestic legislation guarantees the possibility to receive free legal assistance, in particular for the poor and the children.

In this context, let me mention the critical role of the NGOs. Indeed, Lebanon has historically had a dynamic and vibrant civil society and offers a platform for NGOs to carry out their activities on a wide range of political, social, humanitarian and developmental issues. That is why, for instance, Lebanon collaborates closely with the civil society to improve the access to justice for the poorest and most vulnerable categories of our population. Some NGOs also help migrant domestic workers in courts, by providing them with interpreters for instance.

In 2014, a law on domestic violence that seeks to improve women and children's rights and safety was adopted. This resulted in the assignment of a member of the public prosecutor's office in each governorate, to receive complaints and investigate domestic violence.

The internal security forces also established within their services a special unit to process complaints.

To close on this subtopic, I will reaffirm that my country, consistent with our Constitution, which recalls Lebanon's abidance by the Charter, its covenants as well as the Universal Declaration of Human rights, and in line with other relevant international norms, is committed to ensure access to justice for all.