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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SIXTH COMMITTEE

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THE RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS

Mr. Chairman

We thank the Deputy Secretary-General for his intervention yesterday and welcome his invaluable contribution as the chair of the United Nations' Rule of Law Coordination and Resources Group. The United Nations has come a long way on this important cross-cutting agenda item. As the Deputy Secretary-General mentioned, Liechtenstein has for over 10 years been advocating for a strong and stable system based on the rule of law at the national and international level. It is instrumental to address the multitude of challenges we are facing today and requires our joint efforts, as outlined in the **report on strengthening and coordinating the United Nations rule of law activities**: from the codification of norms, to implementing treaties, to making sure that the laws are upheld in a court room. We value the assistance of the United Nations and its agencies in all these endeavors, in particular its support for all international and hybrid tribunals.

Mr. Chairman,

We would, however, like to point to an important omission in the Secretary-General's report. While listing many recent ratifications of international treaties and amendments thereto, the

report fails to mention that **several States have ratified the Kampala amendments on the crime of aggression** and on war crimes to the Rome Statute over the duration of the last year. We hope this oversight will be corrected in next year's report. By now, 32 States Parties of the International Criminal Court have ratified the aggression amendments. Having reached the threshold of 30 ratifications, the requirement for the activation of the Court's exercise of jurisdiction over the crime of aggression has been met. **We look forward to this activation by the Assembly of States Parties in 2017** and recall the statement made by the Informal Ministerial Network for the ICC to this end. The crime of aggression completes the Rome Statute as conceived in 1998 and will ensure that perpetrators of the most serious forms of the illegal use of force can be held to account at the international level, for the first time since the Nuremberg and Tokyo trials. This is a very significant step forward for the rule of law. We call on all States that have not yet done so to ratify the Rome Statute and in doing so to follow the example of El Salvador, which ratified the amended version of the Statute. And we look forward to various ICC States Parties completing their national ratification processes of the Kampala amendments.

Mr. Chairman,

Turning to the first subtopic of today's debate, ***the implementation of multilateral treaties***, Liechtenstein is actively working on the domestic implementation of the **2030 Agenda** for Sustainable Development. The Agenda contains numerous goals and targets that incorporate important elements of the rule of law – such as access to justice, equality and non-discrimination, anti-corruption and good governance. It fully recognizes the rule of law as an indispensable enabler, as well as an outcome, of sustainable development. We look forward to increasing our joint efforts to reach these goals, in particular the targets outlined in Goal 16. In capitals, we need to ensure that Ministries work closely together to advance the implementation process. At the international level, we need a system-wide approach which includes the United Nations, States, civil society and the private sector. We particularly

welcome the Global Compact's *Business for Rule of Law* initiative as a concrete effort to involve the private sector in rule of law assistance.

With regard to the second subtopic for today's debate, ***access to justice for all – including for the poorest and most vulnerable***, Liechtenstein will soon **ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure**. The optional protocol empowers children in a very significant way and elevates the Convention to the same level as the other human rights treaties.

Mr. Chairman,

Yesterday, we learnt that António Guterres will be recommended by the Security Council to the General Assembly for the position of Secretary-General of the United Nations. We welcome his endorsement and we hope that as the **next Secretary-General**, he will give **high priority to the rule of law** as the building block of all three pillars of the United Nations: peace and security, human rights and development. We look forward to working with him and the rule of law unit to this end.

I thank you.