



**THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
TO THE UNITED NATION**

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**Statement by Mr. Tofiq F. Musayev
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**at the Sixth Committee of the seventy-second session of the United Nations
General Assembly under agenda item 85: "The rule of law at the national and international
levels"**

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Mr. Chairman,

In recent years, international attention to the importance of the rule of law at the national and international levels has significantly increased. However, greater efforts are needed to ensure a unified approach to the rule of law and to address the major threats and challenges that continue to affect the basic elements of the international legal order.

As the Secretary-General points out in his report on strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities (A/72/268, p. 13, para. 61), “[c]hallenges to peace and security call for a strengthening of the international legal order.”

The report of the Secretary-General also underlines (p. 3, para. 2) that “the rule of law provides the basis for political dialogue and cooperation, the peaceful settlement of disputes, ensuring accountability for international crimes and enabling solutions to global problems.”

Indeed, the principle of the peaceful settlement of disputes is one of the cornerstones of the Charter of the United Nations and the international legal order. Its primary objective is to commit States to respect each other’s sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence, and refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force.

International law requires not just an outcome in preventing or resolving conflicts, but that such an outcome be accompanied by a process that is consistent with particular norms. It is important that conflict prevention and conflict settlement frameworks and mechanisms not be used as a tool to entrench the situation achieved as a result of aggression and ethnic cleansing and promote solutions that are *a priori* illegal. Attempts to impose or encourage such solutions will fail to provide the foundations necessary for sustainable peace and long-term stability.

As a matter of priority, special attention should be given to the implementation of resolutions adopted by the principal organs of the United Nations, in particular those relating to the peaceful settlement of disputes and the prevention and resolution of conflicts.

As the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, the International Court of Justice plays an important role within the international legal system in promoting the rule of law and encouraging the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means. The value of judicial settlement is high.

Besides, the Court's advisory opinions on legal questions may also be useful, especially in situations where actions in contravention of the Charter of the United Nations and international law are accompanied with apparent misinterpretation of legal norms and principles. The authoritative legal opinion can also contribute to ensuring that peace settlement efforts are in line with international law.

It is also important to underline the role of the rule of law in establishing a stable and durable peace. The imperative of shedding light on real facts and combating impunity is undeniable. Such efforts must be free of selectivity and politically motivated approaches.

However, the harsh reality is that where the political interests prevail, international law and any commitments become ineffective. As a consequence, double standards in the application of the principles guiding inter-State relations contribute to instability and obstruct the effective preventive and conflict resolution efforts.

Unfortunately, in some situations of armed conflict, including those of a protracted nature, issues of accountability for violations of international humanitarian and human rights law have not received due attention and a response at the international and regional levels. As a result, wrongs of the recent past left unpunished and unrecognized continue to impede the progress in achieving long-awaited peace and reconciliation.

Among the possibilities of ensuring accountability, the practice of *ad hoc* and mixed tribunals, as appropriate, can obviously benefit national efforts to pursue justice.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that, in order to achieve the goal of the rule of law, it is critical to uphold fundamental principles, adhere to the uniform application of international law and ensure strict compliance with international obligations.

Thank you.