



## BANGLADESH

### Statement under Agenda Item 84: *The Rule of Law at the National and International Levels* at the Sixth Committee of the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly

Statement by: Mr. Tareq Md. Ariful Islam, Deputy Permanent Representative

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Mr. Chairman,

Bangladesh thanks the Secretary General for his comprehensive report on “Strengthening and Coordinating UN Rule of Law Activities”. It is useful to have an overview of the rule of law assistance being provided by the UN in national contexts responding to diverse needs and challenges.

We also thank the Deputy Secretary General for underscoring the cross-cutting contribution of rule of law to achieving the SDGs and suggesting a related sub-topic for next year’s discussion in this Committee. Bangladesh supports this timely suggestion.

Bangladesh also takes note of the Secretary General’s report on the “Review of the regulations to give effect to Article 102 of the UN Charter” pursuant to Resolution 71/148. We consider the review to have adequately captured recent developments and the corresponding need for revisiting the existing regulations through further concrete steps by Member States.

We thank the Secretary General for highlighting in the first report some critical issues for enhancing the effectiveness, coherence and sustainability of the UN’s rule of law assistance across the three pillars of the organization. We wish to share our preliminary thoughts on those areas:

**First**, it is critical that UN’s rule of law assistance is duly factored into the ongoing reform initiative in the peace and security pillar. We note the Secretary General’s suggestion for housing the Office of the Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI) under the proposed Department of Peace Operations (DPO). It would be, however, crucial that the rule of law assistance is reflected in the prioritized and sequenced mandates that we urge the Security Council to design in response to the evolving ground realities in mission settings.

It also needs to be seen how the rule of law activities could be further factored into deliberations on peacebuilding and sustaining peace. This particular linkage would be important since the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) is envisaged to be the ‘hinge’ for interface of the peace and security pillars with the development and human rights pillars.

**Second**, in the context of the 2030 Agenda, we agree with the Secretary General that rule of law can have impact on eliminating poverty, reducing inequalities, supporting gender equality, and protecting the

environment and building inclusive and strong institutions. We believe, in addition to the General Assembly, ECOSOC should facilitate in-depth discussion in this regard, with the participation of relevant civil society organizations that have charted how various SDG targets reinforce each other towards promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies. It would be particularly interesting to learn from Member States' experience and innovations in this regard, including as part of their Voluntary National Review (VNR).

We recommend the Secretary General's report next year to navigate the rule of law assistance being provided under the development pillar. As a case in point, during the high-level week, the Office of the High-Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS launched, together with IDLO, a project for providing legal support for investment promotion and protection for LDCs and their eligible enterprises.

**Third**, the rule of law issues pertaining to UN peacekeeping operations are regularly discussed within the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C-34). We suggest that the questions raised in the report concerning mission transitions, resourcing and role of UN police be raised during relevant informal briefings for C-34 for informed discussions in this regard. Bangladesh advocates needs-based rule of law support for host countries, including through result-based planning and flexible budget provisions for the concerned missions. I am pleased to inform that we have provided, for the first time this year, two correction officers for UN Mission in South Sudan.

**Fourth**, Bangladesh attaches high importance to effective cooperation between the UN and the International Criminal Court, and reiterates the call for addressing the financial concerns of the Court for conducting investigation and prosecution into cases referred to it by the Security Council. Despite certain limitations, the Court has traversed new grounds in ensuring accountability for international crimes, and needs to be unequivocally supported in its endeavours while upholding its independence and competence.

Bangladesh takes interest in the UN's support for national accountability and justice systems, as in Mali and Colombia during the reporting period. We reaffirm our readiness to share our experience in ensuring justice for the crimes against humanity and genocide committed during our Liberation War in 1971, though our national judicial system is in compliance with relevant international standards.

**Fifth**, in the backdrop of the establishment of the Office on Counter-Terrorism, we reiterate our call for accelerating work on developing a Comprehensive Convention on Terrorism, and suggest sustaining the momentum of ongoing consultations. We stress the urgent need for developing internationally agreed norms and standards for combating terrorist threats and attacks and related transnational organized crimes in cyber-sphere. We acknowledge the multi-stakeholder consultations being organized under the aegis of the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the Security Council, and urge commencing inter-governmental normative exercise under the General Assembly at an early date.

To conclude, we have taken note of the strong case made in favour of the Global Focal Point arrangement for coordinating UN's rule of law assistance at the national level. We would underscore the need for sound monitoring and evaluation of its performance as it is considered as an option for scaling up further.

I thank you.