

GHANA



PERMANENT MISSION OF GHANA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
19 EAST 47TH STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017
TEL. 212-832-1300 • FAX 212-751-6743



Please-Check-Against-Delivery

STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED

BY

GHANA TO THE SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL

ASSEMBLY ON THE AGENDA ITEM 84:

“THE RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND
INTERNATIONAL LEVELS” - 5TH OCTOBER, 2017

4TH OCTOBER, 2017

**Thank you,
Madam Chair,**

Let me from the outset congratulate you and the other members of the bureau on your election. You can count on Ghana's cooperation and support, my delegation wishes to align itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representatives of Algeria on behalf of the Africa Group and the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non Aligned Movement. We welcome the report of the Secretary General contained in document A/72/268 dated 1st August, 2017 which highlights developments and activities with respect to the rule of law both at the national and international levels during the year under review. We express our appreciation to the Rule of Law Unit, particularly for the briefings that it organized throughout the year. We also welcome the information provided in the report on the subject related to the codification, development and promotion of an international framework of norms and values, highlighting the treaty actions that were undertaken by member states this past session. My delegation is of the view that the Report affords another opportunity to assess the commitments we made and our adherence to them while exploring ways of improving the implementation of the rule of law at both the national and international levels.

We welcome the emphasis placed in the report to issues related to capable and accountable justice and security institutions, community-oriented security and armed violence reduction, access to justice for marginalized groups, security and justice for women and girls, culture of lawfulness among others in the promotion of the rule of law.

Madam Chair,

Access to legal representation and legal aid are provided for under the Constitution of Ghana and reinforced in the Legal Aid Scheme Act of 1997, Act 542. The Legal Aid of Ghana together with Non-Governmental Organisations and Civil Society Organisations, have developed a robust mechanism of ensuring that all citizens of Ghana, especially the poorest and the most vulnerable, have fair access to the legal system. The legal aid mechanism ensures that a person requiring such assistance is availed of it by representation through a lawyer, including such assistance as is given by a lawyer, in the steps preliminary or incidental to any proceedings or arriving at or giving effect to a compromise to avoid or to bring to an end any proceedings, at the cost of the government.

An example of such assistance is the Justice for All Programme which affords prisoners on remand access to legal representation.

Madam Chair,

The processes prescribed under Ghana's 1992 Constitution for treaty ratification require that the experts involved are fully equipped and cognizant of what needs to be included in the bill being drafted for the consideration of Parliament while ensuring that the intent of the treaty are not departed from. My delegation notes that to realize the full benefits of advancing the rule of law both at the national and international level, capacity building and technical assistance is crucial and to this end, activities and programmes undertaken within the ambit of the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law is important to the attainment of this goal.

The focus of the programme of Assistance is to contribute to the teaching and promotion of international law particularly among lawyers from developing countries. The Audiovisual Library of International Law, one of the core activities under the programme of assistance, plays a unique role by providing a resource of high quality international law training and research materials to a wide constituency of researchers, government lawyers and teachers of international law, not only from developing countries but developed as well. The regional courses in international law which are held in Africa, Asia Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean, seeks to deepen the knowledge of participants on issues of international law and there is no doubt that the publications are also

essential to fulfilling its mandate as a core activity of the General Assembly, thereby contributing to building the capacity of representatives of member states.

Madam Chair,

With reference to paragraph 48 of the report, which highlighted the dispute concerning Delimitation of the Maritime Boundary between Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire in the Atlantic Ocean, my delegation wishes to take this opportunity to thank ITLOS and its staff for the professional manner in which they handled the case and the judgment that was delivered on 23rd September, 2017. It is, gratifying to state that Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire have accepted the verdict in good faith and jointly made a declaration to that end. We encourage all states to follow the example of Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire and resort to the rule of law to peacefully settle disputes of such nature.

Madam Chair,

In concluding, I wish to reiterate my country's commitment to the rule of law, which underpins Ghana's 1992 Constitution, and to ensuring that the institutions of government established under the constitution abide by the tenets and principles set forth in the constitution. The separation of powers and the independence of those institutions are all relevant to the rule of law, good governance and accountability. Ghana has embedded these principles in its national culture over the years, and is making

progress in deepening them. This is because we believe the rule of law underpins the fundamental rights of our people and the overall development of our country. It is in this vein that Ghana embraces every occasion that presents an opportunity to further develop our capacity in the Rule of Law and would continue to engage and utilize such opportunities to the benefit of our country.

I thank you.