



**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-third session of the United Nations
General Assembly under agenda item 86: "The rule of law at the
national and international levels"**

09 October 2018

Mr. Chairman,

As the Secretary-General points out in his report on strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities, "[t]he rule of law is an accelerator towards the realization of the ambitious agenda in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, and in preventing conflict, sustaining peace and advancing the universal protection of human rights" (A/73/253, p. 2, para. 1).

The challenges facing the world nowadays call for a strengthening of the international legal order and a rekindling faith in multilateralism and confidence in the United Nations.

First and foremost, all States must strictly comply with their international obligations, particularly those relating to respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and inviolability of their internationally recognized borders.

The established principle of the inadmissibility of the use of force for the acquisition of territory and the ensuing obligation of non-recognition of situations resulting from serious violations of international law must be enforced unconditionally and without exception.

These principles and obligations are constituents of the common rule-based international order; they are universally binding and apply to all situations and conflicts whatever their distinct root causes and nature.

It is critical that conflict settlement frameworks and mechanisms not be exploited as a shield for entrenching the situations resulting from the unlawful use of force, war crimes, crimes against humanity, acts of genocide and ethnic cleansing.

Equally important is to ensure the implementation of resolutions adopted by the principal organs of the United Nations. It is unacceptable that armed aggressions against the sovereign States and the resulting military occupation of their territories continue notwithstanding the Security Council resolutions.

The faithful implementation of international treaties is one of the key prerequisites of the global system of harmonizing international relations and of individual and collective efforts towards confronting the threats and challenges to peace, security and stability.

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.

Furthermore, the imperative of shedding light on real facts and combating impunity is undeniable. 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 national and international 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.

In his report, the Secretary-General reiterated the primary obligation of Member States to comprehensively and genuinely investigate and prosecute serious crimes under international law committed within their jurisdiction, noting in particular that “[t]he absence of or delayed justice for victims and their families often prolongs conflicts, generates frustration and retaliation among communities and obstructs national reconciliation” (A/73/253, p. 16, para. 78).

In conclusion, I would like to underline that, in order to achieve the goals 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.