



## **Permanent Mission of Eritrea to the United Nations New York**

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**STATEMENT BY THE ERITREAN DELEGATION AT THE SIXTH COMMITTEE  
OF THE 73rd SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON  
AGENDA ITEM 86: "THE RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND  
INTERNATIONAL LEVELS"**

8 October 2018

Mr. Chair,

My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by the delegations of Iran and The Gambia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the African Group respectively.

Eritrea underscores that the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and the principles of international law are paramount to peace and security, rule of law, economic development and social progress. It also stresses the need to restore confidence by strengthening the rule of law at the international level, and equally, shared respect for the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and non-interference in domestic affairs will further contribute to a just, secure, and peaceful world order.

Mr. Chair,

The Government of Eritrea has signed and ratified more than 108 International Conventions and Instruments. These include 83 accessions 7 of which are human right instruments. A number of these have been reflected in the new national Penal and civil Codes. International and regional treaties and conventions are taken seriously and pursued rigorously. As such, ample time is taken to analyze their provisions and ensure that international instruments are reflected in Eritrea's efforts.

The Ministry of justice has also drafted a working document on the implication of international and regional instruments of which Eritrea is a party to. The fundamental approach is, however, to advance the effort in line with internal

dynamics and the progress in institutional and organizational capacity. It also considers the development of national laws and legislations and the capacity to implement them effectively.

Mr. Chair,

Strengthening the rule of law at the national level is critical for social and economic progress, political stability and promotion and protection of human rights. Enhancing the institutional capacity of the justice system to promote the rule of law is a key component of the Eritrean government's development policy. Over the past two decades, Eritrea has been taking measures to achieve peaceful and inclusive societies through ensuring a comprehensive and effective justice system through:

1. Enacting Proclamation 132/2002 to establish community courts. The community courts, 430 in total operate with jurisdiction at a village or locality level. They form the most reliable, accessible and practical part of the system. The judges serve a two year term and are elected through a public election, of the three judges, one must be a woman, this contributes to the national efforts to ensure greater emancipation of women and their involvement in the judicial process. It further enhances people's equitable access to justice at local level, empowers citizens to use their mother language in the judicial process, and have access to judicial services within their vicinity resulting in fewer expenses. Roughly 85% of judicial cases have been dealt with by Community Courts with more than 90% of these settled through arbitration;
2. Shortly after independence Eritrea established a Special Court under Proclamation No 85/1996 with mandates to investigate corruption. A 2016 study found that corruption in Eritrea is insignificant. The analysis is based on police reports, consultations, informal interviews and recorded corruption allegations and overall data from 1994-2016. The assessment was conducted from 1,919 cases in which 93.3% of the cases were charged in the due process of law in line with the government's policy of "zero tolerance for corruption". The efforts made have strengthened the basic values and promoted the collective interests of the people.

3. In recent years the government of Eritrea has partnered with UNODC to continue to enhance the rule of law and human security domestically and across the Eastern Africa region, through activities specifically tailored to combat existing challenges and address emerging threats. Moreover, the Eritrean Police Force identified key areas of cooperation namely; crime prevention, crime investigation, and human resources development to guarantee domestic efforts and countering transnational organized crimes in close collaboration with the region.

Mr. Chair,

Eritrea recognizes the importance of national ownership in rule of law activities and underlines the importance of strengthening national capacities of Member States in the domestic implementation of their respective international obligations, including through enhanced technical assistance and capacity-building and the need for those activities to be undertaken at the request of interested governments.

I thank you, Mr. Chair