

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



Rwanda Statement

On Agenda Item 84 “Rule of Law at the National and International levels” Before the Sixth Committee; 73rd session of General assembly

September 8th 2018

Mr. Chairman,

1. I congratulate you and your team for being elected to lead the six committee and I can assure of my delegations support and to constructively engage in deliberations of the work of this Committee.
2. RWANDA aligns herself with the statement delivered on behalf of the Africa Group and the statement delivered on behalf of NAM.

Chairperson, Colleagues

3. We all recall that this agenda item “*Rule of Law at the National and International Levels*” has been on the agenda of the six committee for some time. The principal objective for inclusion was to strengthen the United Nations attention to the Rule of Law at all levels.
4. In that regard, Rwanda joins others to commend various efforts undertaken by the UN and its agencies in promoting the activities related to the strengthening of the rule of law.
5. At the national level, Rwanda agrees with the United Nations approach *inter alia involves*, strengthening national ownership of reform initiatives, providing support to national reform

constituencies, developing strategic approaches aligned with national assessments and coordinating activities with key stakeholders including civil society and private sector.

6. In addition, Rule of law applies to all, regardless of their political activism. Rule of law cannot be waved for those considered to be political activists, they should still abide to the law
7. At the international level, Rwanda agrees with the UN approach which stresses the need for fostering the rule of law by codification, development, promotion and implementation of an international framework of norms and standards by analyzing the role and contribution of international courts, tribunals and non-judicial mechanisms.
8. I want to add that, the application of rule of law or International law and universal principles of Justice must take into account a country's historical and socio cultural contexts into consideration, because Justice is not an abstract concept, it is about accountability for the wrong doers and a form of Justice for the victims of wrong doing.

Chairperson

9. When we speak about dispensation of rule of Law for the wellbeing of our societies, **Rwanda's** experience following the genocide is a stark example. From a purely legal perspective, there were hundreds of thousands of perpetrators and a strong case for a punitive approach.

However, to best serve our priorities of both justice and social harmony, we sought to balance the strict application of the punitive provisions of the law with restorative alternatives. **Our** home-grown solution through the gacaca courts process served us better than any other system could have.

Chairperson

10. The imperatives for ensuring practical equality among States require ensuring inclusivity in the development of international law, and, a just and fair application of those laws and principles. The development and implementation of international legal norms have the key role in achieving the goal of international peace and stability and in bringing the discipline in human life.
11. As well, International judicial system must be strengthened to promote adherence to the principles of the international law and avoid biased and political manipulations. Let's not forget that- Good governance at the international level is fundamental for strengthening the rule of law.

Mr. Chairman

To conclude: Rwanda reiterates the call for strengthening the capacity of States, especially of developing States, as the rule of law assistance has sometimes been piecemeal and, in some instances, donor-driven and not in line with national priorities of the

recipient countries. There is an urgent need to move towards approaches that are nationally-driven and sustainable.

I thank you