



**Permanent Mission  
of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan  
to the United Nations – New York**

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**The Delegation of Afghanistan**

**Sixth Committee of the 74<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly**

**Agenda Item 85: The rule of law at the national and the international levels**

**11 October 2019**

**NEW YORK**

**(Please check against delivery)**

**Madame Chair,**

I begin by thanking the Assistant Secretary General for Strategic Coordination for presenting us the report of the Secretary General on “Strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities” this morning.

My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The rule of law constitutes the very foundation of every modern society and is a prerequisite to achieve durable peace, justice, democracy, human rights, and sustainable development.

As such, promoting and strengthening the rule of law has been the overarching goal behind the existence and activities of the United Nations. Since its establishment, this organization has played an important role in advocating for the enforcement of the rule of law at the national and international levels.

In this regard, we support the continued consideration of this agenda item in the deliberations of the 6<sup>th</sup> committee, and we thank the Secretary General for his report contained in document A/74/139.

**Madame Chair,**

In Afghanistan, the rule of law has been the key objective of our efforts in the past 18 years towards developing and consolidating a constitutional order, aimed at the institutionalization of democracy and the promotion of the fundamental human rights of our citizens.

Just two weeks ago, we held our presidential elections. People from all across the country braved the security threats and went to the polls to determine their political destiny.

The elections followed the adoption of certain measures to strengthen the legal frameworks required to ensure transparency and credibility. These included the adoption of a new election law, the appointment of new commissioners to the election commissions, and new mechanisms for voter verification to ensure transparency in the vote process.

As the election commissions are proceeding with the counting of votes and addressing the electoral complaints, the Afghan Government is committed to ensure that they perform their tasks in an independent manner, free from any interference. We thank our international partners, including the United Nations, for providing financial and technical support to our elections process. Regardless of what the outcome will be, recent elections once again proved our people's firm belief in democracy and their steadfast support to the rule of law.

**Madame Chair,**

Despite the ongoing challenge of terrorism and insecurity, Afghanistan has made notable gains over the past years on its path towards self-reliance.

At the Geneva Conference in November last year, Afghanistan and the international partners agreed on a renewed set of mutual commitments under the "Geneva Mutual Accountability Framework". The Communique of the Conference acknowledged efforts by the Afghan Government to fight impunity, achievements in civil service reform and the development of an Anti-Corruption Strategy, while also calling for more efforts to ensure effective investigation and prosecution of corruption cases.

To fulfill our commitments in combating corruption, we have continued to strengthen our oversight mechanisms and the institutional and legal frameworks to ensure justice and accountability. Our National Strategy for Combatting Corruption was revised twice in November 2018 and February 2019 with a view to streamlining its goals and benchmarks, making them more clear and easier to measure. We have succeeded in implementing most of the benchmarks of the Strategy across all its 6 pillars of strengthening political institutions and leadership, ending corruption in the security sector, merit-based appointments in the civil service, prosecuting the corrupt, following the money and improving economic institutions.

Moreover, the coordination of anti-corruption reforms at the highest decision-making level in the High Council for Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption, the continued progress by the Anti-Corruption Justice Center in investigating and prosecuting corruption cases, including those involving senior Government officials, and the codification of all mandatory corruption offences in accordance with the United Nation's Convention against corruption in the new penal code provide strong evidence for our unwavering commitment to combat corruption.

**Madame Chair,**

With respect to human rights, in particular the rights of women, we continue to build on and consolidate our hard-won achievements of the past 18 years.

We continue to make steady progress in the implementation of our National Action Plan for the UN Security Council Resolution 1325, with the second phase of the plan begun in August this year. We have developed a National Strategy to Prevent Violence against Women, as well as an Anti-Harassment Law, criminalizing harassment of women. We have also established a Deputy Office for the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Office of the Attorney General.

The Report of the Secretary General includes reference to operationalization of specialized courts on countering violence against women across the country.

**Madame Chair,**

We believe that a more strengthened and responsive UN is a vital need for strengthening the rule of law at the international level. We therefore welcome the comprehensive reform agenda of the Secretary General across the security, economic and development pillars. The past year has seen important progress in the implementation of his agenda, which has generated renewed confidence among all member-states in the UN's operational capacity to defend and promote the core principles and objectives enshrined in the Charter of this organization. Afghanistan stands fully committed to the success of the Secretary General's efforts on this issue of paramount importance.

Moreover, another key imperative remains the reform of the Security Council, as the main organ of the UN responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security. An adjusted Security Council that better reflects the scope and nature of contemporary challenges and other present day realities is long overdue.

Strengthening the rule of law at the international level is also dependent on the need to ensure the timely and proper implementation of UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. In this regard, the onus is on all member-states to fulfill their pledge as a fundamental facet of their commitment to the spirit and objectives of the UN Charter.

**Madame Chair,**

In conclusion, Afghanistan reiterates our abiding commitment to advancing the rule of law at the national and international levels. This commitment will continue to prevail as a strategic objective to achieve stability and prosperity in our society; and more broadly for the benefit of promoting a rules-based global order, based on peace, harmony and global cooperation.

**Thank you Madame Chair,**