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**STATEMENT
ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP**

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**BEFORE THE SIXTH COMMITTEE
74th SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**UNDER AGENDA ITEM 83
"RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS"**

NEW YORK, 11th OCTOBER 2019

Mr. Chair,

I thank you for the floor, as I deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group. The African Group aligns itself with the Statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The African Group graciously thanks the Secretary-General for his report as contained in document **A/74/139**, which highlights the United Nations rule of law developments and activities at the national and international levels over the past year. The report provide insights into mechanisms and practices that promote the effective implementation of international law by Member States. We welcome the sub-topic for this session's debate, "sharing best practices and ideas to promote the respect of States for international law", and notes that developments related to "Ways and means to further disseminate international law to strengthen the rule of law" is still integral in this regard.

Mr. Chair

The African Group is deeply concern about the proliferation of hate speech and incitement of violence in the world. As stated in the report of the Secretary-General on the current item, the African Group welcomes the two positive urgent initiatives set in motion by the Secretary-General in the following manner: (a) the drawing up of a United Nations plan of action to fully mobilize the system to tackle hate speech, led by his Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide; and (b) an effort led by the United Nations High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations to help to ensure the safety of religious sanctuaries.

The African Group remains committed to its support to rule of law at both national and international level. Therefore, the United Nations continued support to rule of law and security institutions in every diverse setting, particularly in conflict and post-conflict situation countries. We commend the UN for its continued support for

accountability and prevention approach to building peace and sustaining peace strategies across the world.

Mr. Chair,

The African Group is of the view that dissemination of international law is one of the best options to strengthen the rule of law at the international level. In this regard, this process can take place both through bilateral and multilateral cooperation. Technological means can be instrumental to enhance dissemination of international law.

Dissemination of international law contributes inevitably to the strengthening of international peace and security and the promotion of friendly relations and cooperation among States. It is even an obligation to disseminate international humanitarian law as treaty-based obligations for States parties to the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their 1977 Additional Protocols. .

Mr. Chair,

At the level of our region, the African Union Commission on International Law constitutes a good lever of dissemination of international law. This commission serves as an advisory organ of the Union. The establishment of this organ was guided by the importance of accelerating the socio-economic development of the Continent through the promotion of research in all fields.

It was also inspired by the common goal to strengthen and consolidate the principles of international law. The AU Commission on International Law is encouraging the teaching, study, publication and dissemination of literature on international law, in particular the laws of the Union with a view to promoting acceptance and respect for the principles of international law, the peaceful resolution of conflicts, and respect for the Union and recourse to its Organs.

Mr. Chair

At a different level, the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization is a good example of dissemination of international law to strengthen the rule of law. It is an example of cooperation between two regions of the world in terms of exchange of views, experiences and information relating to international law. This international governmental organization participates in the sessions and the work of the General Assembly. We believe that this example could serve as a model for further cooperation between other regions.

Concerning dissemination of international law at the multilateral level, the United Nations plays an important role. One of its objectives is the promotion of international law, and the African Group calls upon the UN Secretariat to explore further ways and means to disseminate international law in order to strengthen the rule of law at the international level. The UN Charter itself contains a provision, in Article 102, regarding the obligation to Member States to register treaties and international agreements to which they are parties to with the UN Secretariat and published by it.

Mr. Chair

In closing, we encourage the continued efforts by the United Nations to promote international law through its Programme of Assistance in the teaching, Study, dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law. This programme contributes actively to a better knowledge of international law through the international law fellowship programme, the Regional Courses in International Law, the Audiovisual Library of International Law and the preparation and dissemination of publications and other information relating to international law.

I thank you for your attention.