



**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-fourth session of the United Nations
General Assembly under agenda item 83: "The rule of law at the
national and international levels"**

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Mr. Chairman,

I would like to focus on the following key points with regard to the topic under consideration.

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 is one of the constituents of the common rules-based international order and must be enforced unconditionally and without exception. This principle and the ensuing obligation of non-recognition of situations resulting from serious breaches of international law, along with abstention from aid or assistance that contributes to their consolidation, are universally binding and need to be consistently maintained with regard to such situations regardless of their distinct root causes and nature.

International law requires not just an outcome in preventing or resolving conflicts, but that such an outcome be accompanied by a process that is consistent with particular norms. Whatever the choice of States as to the mechanisms adopted for resolving their disputes or conflicts, no settlement can be reached which is inconsistent with international law, particularly where peremptory norms are concerned, such as the obligation to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States.

It is, therefore, critical that conflict settlement frameworks and mechanisms not be exploited and misused by the violators of international law 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.

The effective and accountable functioning of the rules-based international order necessitates the implementation of decisions adopted by the principal organs of the United Nations. Article 25 of the Charter of the United Nations is clear about the obligations of Member States to that effect. It is unacceptable that armed aggressions against sovereign States and the resulting territorial acquisitions continue, Security Council resolutions notwithstanding.

The faithful implementation of international treaties is also 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 judgments and advisory opinions of the Court is high, 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, combating impunity for violations of international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, is undeniable and requires redoubled efforts at all levels. Unfortunately, in some situations of armed conflict, including those of a protracted nature, accountability has not received proper attention and perpetrators continue to enjoy impunity. As a result, wrongs of the recent past left unpunished and unrecognized continue to impede the progress in achieving long-awaited peace and reconciliation. It is important that the United Nations continue to advocate in favour of responses that address the rights, needs and expectations of the victims.

In conclusion, 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.