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البعثة الدائمة لدولة إريتريا لدى
الأمم المتحدة
نيويورك

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE STATE OF ERITREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

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**STATEMENT BY AMANUEL GIORGIO AT THE SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE 75th
SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON AGENDA ITEM 86:
"THE RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS"**

22 OCTOBER 2020, NEW YORK

Chair,

I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report contained in A/75/284, submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 74/191 and in accordance with resolution 63/128. My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by the delegations of South Africa and Iran on behalf of the African Group and Non-Aligned Movement, respectively. Eritrea recognizes the importance of strengthening the rule of law at international and national levels. It has so far signed/acceded to 121 international instruments. The most notable recent accessions/acceptance include ILO convention No 82 (Worst Forms of Child Labour), the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, and five instruments in relation to treaties under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The provisions of many of these treaties were given due regard in the newly drafted Civil and Penal codes, including provisions from treaties from which Eritrea is not yet a state party.

Chair,

Currently, the Eritrean Ministry of Justice is designing a comprehensive strategy aimed at improving the quality of justice and at intensifying effective and efficient access to justice. The

strategy tries to look at the quality of the system of delivery of justice in a holistic manner, and it endeavors to strengthen the institutional capacity of the justice sector and make it easily accessible to the public considering the historical, social, economic and cultural norms and practices of the country. On the basis of its priorities, Eritrea is, thus, partnering with UN agencies and others to further strengthen its institutions. In this connection, several workshops were held on improving access to justice, investigating and prosecuting financial crimes, addressing cross border crimes, updating maritime law enforcement and law of the sea, including on enhancing the rule of law and human security topic within the context of UNODC's regional program for the Eastern Africa region. Before the onset of Covid-19, one of the capacity building measures was the study tour organized by UNDP which allowed Eritrea's academia, judges, law enforcement agencies and lawyers to travel and interact with their counterparts in Rwanda on the e-justice system, the traditional justice mechanisms, the bureau of investigation and police, and the outcome of the Gacaca court system.

Chair,

General Assembly resolution 74/191, invites Member States to focus their comments during this session on a subtopic of "Measures to prevent and combat corruption". Corruption is a serious problem which is very difficult to monetize. Yet its scale and scope is widespread, and saps the global economy of trillions of dollars threatening the stability and security of societies and undermining economic and social progress. Therefore, preventing and combating corruption is critical in the advancement of the rule of law at the national and international levels. Doing so will help address poverty and inequalities and contribute to achieving sustainable development as well as promoting respect for human dignity.

Chair,

At the national level, sensitization of the people and government institutions has been carried out to prevent and combat corruption since the independence of Eritrea in 1991. Though development resources and practices are promptly employed with high levels of accountability to the people, administrative malpractices do surface in daily life and are vigorously dealt with,

both legally and administratively. Hence, continuous efforts are made to deny space to instances of favoritism, bribery, negligence in public responsibility and lack of accountability. To give effect to the zero-tolerance policy on corruption, under Proclamation No 85/1996, Eritrea established a Special Court with the mandate to investigate corruption, abuse of power and misuse of public resources. It also introduced Proclamation No. 175/2014 on Anti-Money Laundering which four years later was amended by Proclamation No. 181/2018. The draft Penal Code of 2015 also contains several specific provisions on corruption.

To better determine government's anti-corruption efforts, it is important that proper assessments are carried out. In this regard, in 2016 a study was conducted on corruption in the country. The report was based on police reports, consultations, informal interviews and recorded corruption allegations and overall data from 1994-2016. The assessment was conducted from about 2000 cases in which 93.3% of the cases were charged, punished, and obliged to recover embezzled government resources and ill-gotten gains. Others also faced administrative sanctions and suspensions in accordance with the law. Eritrea believes enforcement of the applicable laws strengthens the basic values and promotes the collective interests of the people.

Finally, addressing corruption and speculation will remain one of the top priorities of the government to ensure judicious, responsible and accountable use of resources. The fight against corruption should be stepped up and intensified at all levels. The UN's continued support to states in the development of anti-corruption strategies and in the investigation of complex cases of corruption is important and should continue. We look forward to the special session of the General Assembly against corruption which will be held in 2021.

Thank you