

**Statement by Nepal at 76<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly at the Sixth committee under Agenda Item No. 85: Rule of Law at the National and International Levels**

**New York, 7 October 2021**

**Time: 7 Minutes**

**Madam Chair,**

I would like to thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report under this agenda item.

Nepal aligns the statement delivered by Iran on behalf of the Non -Aligned Movement.

**Madam Chair,**

Respect for the rule of law is an essential condition for peace, stability and development and needs to be pursued at both national and international levels.

Rule of law is directly linked to the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and it is an indispensable foundation of a more peaceful, prosperous, and just world.

It is therefore important that every nation whether big or small should promote the rule of law as an overarching principle of governance.

It is even more crucial in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic as it has affected not only the lives and livelihoods of people but also the use of State power to control the people's lives.

As we are focusing to address the pandemic and public health issues, our efforts to maintain good governance may be compromised.

Similarly, the fundamental rights may be denied, access to justice may be delayed and democratic norms and values may be curtailed.

However, we must do every possible effort for not to make the rule of law the victim of COVID-19.

Universal adherence to and implementation of the rule of law is essential at international level for peaceful coexistence and cooperation among the nations.

We commend the role of the International Court of Justice, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, and the International Law Commission

for their continuous works for the progressive development of international law and its codification.

**Madam Chair,**

At the national front, the aspiration for rule of law has firmly been institutionalized in our Constitution.

The Constitution of Nepal guarantees the internationally accepted norms of rule of law, human rights, and fundamental freedom. It ensures democratic governance, independent judiciary, periodic election, and proportional representation.

The constitution fully recognizes equality and non-discrimination before the law and offers independent and effective judicial remedies for its enforcement.

Nepal adheres to legal obligations arise out of treaty obligations and customary international law to respect, protect and promote human rights including civil, cultural, economic, political, and social rights.

We greatly value the role of international treaties and their observance as central in maintaining good relations among States, upholding the rule of law at the international level.

We strive to take all necessary steps to provide fair, transparent, effective, non-discriminatory services that promote access to justice for all, including legal aid.

We have always worked to strengthen an independent judiciary, and we are committed to ensuring transitional justice in the spirit of the Comprehensive Peace Accord, various directives from the Supreme Court and relevant international commitments, concerns of the victims and the country's ground realities.

To further align the progressive developments and codification of international law with the domestic judicial systems, Nepal has enacted the National Civil (Code) Act and National Penal (Code) Act and their procedures.

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of Nepal is an independent constitutional body for protecting and promoting human rights. It is fully compliant with the Paris Principles and enjoys "A" category status.

Nepal firmly adheres to the principle of sovereign equality among States and for the democratic, inclusive, just and fair international order.

We also value the Goal 16 of the Agenda 2030 as an important element to ensure the rule of law that aims to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development.

However, global challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, conflicts, complexities of artificial intelligence, cybercrime and other risks associated with technological advancement have posed a serious threat to the effective implementation of the rule of law at all levels.

The strongest defense against these challenges is our solidarity and unity based on rule of law at the international level.

To ensure the rule of law, Madam Chair, an integrated and comprehensive approach has to be taken across the national and international level, including in the UN system, based on coherence between peace and security, and development and human rights activities.

Let us work collectively towards this direction.

I thank you for your attention!