



Statement
on behalf of the Republic of South Africa
by

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Before the Sixth Committee of the
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Under Agenda Item 85
“The rule of law at the National and International Levels”
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Chairperson,

On behalf of my delegation, I would like to thank you for this opportunity to speak on agenda item 85, the “Rule of Law at the national and international level.” We thank the Secretary-General for his report and wish to reiterate our strong support for this item.

Chairperson,

International law and the rule of law are the foundations of the international system. The rule of law at the national level and the rule of law at the international level are inextricably connected. The COVID-19 pandemic has emphasized the importance of the rule of law both at the national and international levels. The pandemic has highlighted the deep inequalities in the distribution of wealth and resources, justice and security and the protection of human rights. As a result, citizens are losing public trust and there is an increasing demand for justice and a rule of law that is more people centred. The rule of law is at the centre of inclusive growth strategies that improve the lives of citizens and lead to better access to economic and other opportunities.

Chairperson,

At national level, South Africa is committed to the rule of law and good governance through strengthening accountability law, and justice institutions. Our Constitution is rooted in the democratic values of human dignity, equality, freedom and the rule of law.

South Africa continues to uphold the rule of law which has been evident during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our strong judiciary has allowed citizens to approach the courts where they have felt that their rights have been infringed during the pandemic. This has once again highlighted our Constitution to be firmly rooted on the rule of law.

Chairperson,

South Africa also encourages the United Nations to continue to support Member States' requests for capacity building, technical assistance and strategic reforms to institutions. We firmly believe that the rule of law cannot exist without a transparent legal system therefore the United Nations should continue capacitating Member States in order that countries have strong enforcement structures and an independent judiciary to protect its citizens.

Chairperson,

In conclusion, South Africa is fully committed of the effective implementation of our international obligations at the national level. We also encourage States to continue to exchange information, knowledge and best practices under this agenda item.

I thank you.

