



**THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN  
TO THE UNITED NATION**

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**Statement by Mr. Tofiq F. Musayev  
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

**at the Sixth Committee of the seventy-sixth session of the United Nations  
General Assembly under agenda item 85:**

**"The rule of law at the national and international levels"**

***12 October 2021***

Madam Chair,

We note the report of the Secretary-General on "Strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities" (A/76/235).

Azerbaijan commends the assistance by the United Nations to Member States in promoting the rule of law at the national and international levels, fostering a global rule of law culture, supporting compliance with international law and accelerating the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The challenges facing the world today necessitate the strengthening of the international legal order, multilateralism and international cooperation.

The purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations constitute the foundational normative framework in international relations. They are universally binding and remain as important as ever for the maintenance of international and regional peace and security and the promotion of sustained economic growth, sustainable development, human rights and justice.

If the Charter of the United Nations and international law are to mean anything, and it is indeed so judging by statements at this session's high-level General Debate, then selectivity and double standards should simply have no place in international relations.

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 to non-interference in internal affairs.

We cannot but agree with the Secretary-General that continued cooperation and redoubled collective efforts are needed to counter terrorism and its root causes.

Furthermore, combating impunity for violations of international law and broader transitional justice are undeniable and require more energy and dedication. Unfortunately, in some situations, issues of accountability for violations of international humanitarian and human rights law have not received due attention and a response at the national and international levels.

Under international law, States are required to investigate, without undue delay, reports of war crimes and other serious offences committed during armed conflicts, and to prosecute and punish the perpetrators. This obligation is explicitly set out in the 1949 Geneva Conventions for the protection of war victims, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and other international instruments. This obligation has also been repeatedly reaffirmed by the General Assembly and the Security Council.

While accountability and redress serve to provide for the rights and interests of the victims, it is also an essential preventive tool and one of the key prerequisites on the path to genuine reconciliation.

It is also critical that the United Nations continue mobilizing the world against racism and confronting hate speech and hatred of all kinds.

The faithful implementation of international treaties is 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.

In conclusion, I would like to underline that, 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.