

**Statement Delivered by Lemlem Fiseha Minale: on behalf of
the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia: 76 session of
the Sixth Committee: Agenda Item 85: the rule of law at the
national and international levels**

Thank you madame chair for giving me the floor

We thank the Secretary General for his report

**Ethiopia aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf
of the Africa Group and the Non Aligned Movement.**

Madame Chair,

Ethiopia commends the focus given to rule of law in the report of the Secretary General under “our common agenda”. Predictable legal system with competent and legitimate legislative and independent judicial organs is a corner stone of national governance. This is especially true, for countries with social and political pluralism.

With the advent of the Covid 19 Pandemic, the work of state institutions faced unprecedented level of disruption. The impact of the pandemic on regular functions of institutions affected the individual and the community to an unforeseen level. Furthermore, fundamental democratic and constitutional processes such as elections had to be postponed in several countries including mine.

In the case of Ethiopia, the independent and competent institutions and constitutional mechanisms we have invested on prior to the pandemic salvaged our process, by administering a

free, fair, credible and democratic national election. The motivation of the Ethiopian public that, against all odds, voted with a record number of voter- turn out was also a testimony for the popular ownership and franchise we created on our national processes.

With regard to attenuating the impact of Covid- in the justice system, we noted with interest, the works of the UN to cooperate with member states, to find alternative means and solution for the global pandemic. My delegation believes, with the right contextualization this lesson can be scaled up to other developing countries.

Madame Chair,

The past year has also been a time of unprecedented trial for my country Ethiopia. Attack waged against federal institutions, including the defense force, by a lawless criminal group with a clear motive to bring the survival of the nation to the brink was reversed with an extensive national effort.

Rule of law and competent and independent institutions built at times of peace rescued the nation during this national crisis. The experience has also been one where Ethiopia drew a lesson on the timeless need to augment implementation of equality before the law, equal representation and administration of diversity. Such a system is necessary to build a sustainable and durable rule of law apparatus.

Madame Chair,

Rule of law at the international level and within our international institutions still suffers from serious shortcomings. That is why many heads of states including mine reflected during this years' general debate; the need to preserve the UN Charter and model our rule-based order accordingly. This is inspired by the inadequacies in ensuring rule of law at the international level.

Our existing international system is rife with unilateral coercive measures, the privatization of politics and foreign policy, the agenda driven interpretation and application of international norms and treaties, and the predisposition to serve might instead of justice.

Ethiopia will continue playing its rightful role to contribute towards our state practice in ensuring rule of law in our national system and participate in our international institutions for a consistent implementation of rules and laws we agreed to abide by.

I thank you madame chair,