

STATEMENT

BY

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AMBASSADOR OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA TO
THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS

ON

"THE RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND
INTERNATIONAL LEVELS"

AT THE 76TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL
ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK

8 OCTOBER 2021

Madam Chair,

My Delegation commends you and members of the Bureau for steering the affairs of this Meeting. We commend the Secretary-General for his report on the strengthening and coordination of the United Nations rule of law activities.

2. My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by the Representatives of the African Group and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). All aspects of human development are linked to the rule of law. It is, therefore, imperative that focus on the rule of law is given priority by Member States.

Madam Chair,

3. Adherence to the rule of law is necessary, especially in the international system to guide actions of States and to hold them accountable for their actions or inactions, in accordance with established laws and regulations, and as embodied in the UN Charter. There is a nexus between the rule of law and other issues on the agenda of the UN, most importantly sustainable development goal 16.

4. Nigeria commends the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), for providing an avenue for Member States to exchange views and best practices in the fight against corruption, illicit financial flows and human trafficking, among others.

5. Nigeria also commends the United Nations General Assembly for bringing world leaders to the first ever UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) against corruption which took place in June 2021. World leaders were able to discuss challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation.

6. We commend the Secretary-General for his unwavering advocacy and support for the rule of law and peaceful resolution in addressing conflicts across the globe.

Madam Chair,

7. Respect for the rule of law promotes peaceful co-existence and respect for the time-honoured principles of sovereignty, integrity, and independence of States to the right of self-determination, as well as the right to development. All the

instruments leading to the adherence of rule of law at national and international levels make the "rule of law architecture" whole.

8. The corresponding regional and sub-regional instruments in Africa embedded in the African Union (AU) Constitutive Act and ECOWAS protocols are the fundamental principles that guide Nigeria and Africa as a whole. Adherence to them have advanced Nigeria's development.

Madam Chair,

9. Nigeria considers the rule of law a prerequisite for the establishment of justice and the foundation for peaceful co-existence and respect of human rights, all of which are entrenched in our Constitution. We envisage the promotion of the rule of law at all levels as a vital means of strengthening cooperation, establishing enduring peace and security in Nigeria and globally. It is in this light that even during conflict and under serious attacks from terrorist, Nigerian officials prioritise the protection of the rights of all.

10. Rule of law at the national level must be consistent with international laws. Our policies on human rights and gender equality are an indication of how serious we take the implementation of rule of law at the national level. The policy on gender equality focuses on women and girls' empowerment and equal representation, as well as the elimination of discriminatory practices that impede their growth and development.

Madam Chair,

11. The promotion and protection of peoples' rights strengthen democratic institutions and ensures efficient and inclusive government. At the national level, the work of the various anti-corruption agencies such as the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), the Independent Corrupt Practices and Related Offences Commission (ICPC), the Nigeria Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU), the Nigeria Police Force, (NPF) and the Code of Conduct Bureau and Tribunal, are meant to ensure that due process is respected and implemented in accordance with established laws.

12. At the international level, Nigeria has consistently pursued a foreign policy anchored on the promotion and achievement of global security, as well as the protection of the dignity of all persons. Nigeria recognizes the important role of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), International Criminal Court (ICC) and other international tribunals in the peaceful resolution of international disputes. Our support for peacekeeping since independence in 1960 is an expression of our commitment to international peace, security and the rule of law.

13. In the administration of justice, judicial independence is important as it guarantees that the judiciary is free from interference and manipulation to adjudicate impartially, in accordance with established laws without fear or favour, control, or improper influence from other parties. Rule of law are core obligations in the Treaty on international cooperation between judicial and prosecutorial bodies of sovereign States.

Madam Chair

14. Nigeria appreciates various initiatives of the United Nations to promote the rule of law and transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict societies. Without strengthening the rule of law at the national level, there will be no platform upon which the rule of law would stand at the international level. Therefore, Member States should collectively work to attain a world where the rule of law, accountability and social justice are implemented unconditionally.

15. Nigeria has consistently demonstrated strong political will to fulfill its international obligations through the domestication of relevant international instruments. In concluding, Nigeria would like to reiterate its unwavering commitment to her international obligations, by continuing to adhere to international laws and respect for human rights and promotion of social justice.

16. I thank you madam Chair.