



**Statement on Item 84 – The Rule of Law at the National and International levels
Sixth Committee, 77th Session of the UNGA
New York, 7 October 2022**

Thank you Mr. Chair,

Georgia aligned itself with a statement delivered by the European Union and I would like to make the following remarks in my national capacity.

Let me start with thanking the Secretary-General for his Report on “Strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities” (A/77/213) and welcoming the UN’s coordinated efforts towards promotion of the rule of law.

Mr. Chair,

As duly noted in the SG’s report, “challenges to the rule of law remain on almost every front” including with “violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law.”

Rule of Law is key for maintaining International peace and Security and rules based international order. Russia’s unjustified and unprovoked full-scale military aggression against Ukraine has once again demonstrated grave violation and disregard of international principles that we are all bound to uphold. Most recent clear example of these were the illegal “referenda” held by Russia on the Ukrainian territories and their illegal annexation, which are temporarily under the Russian occupation. We condemn them in a strongest terms and do not recognise their legitimacy, as we are confident that a blatant violation of the international law and their outcome has no legal force and implication.

Mr. Chair,

We share the view of the Secretary-General that “the rule of law is the foundation of a fair and just society, a guarantee of responsible government and independent, accessible justice, and a core component of peace, security and sustainable development.”

Therefore, we believe that protection and promotion of the rule of law can bring us closer to realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to the democratic and sustainable development of a country. The SDG16 in particular serves as a key enabler and catalytic for the success of this vein.

Mr. Chair,

We acknowledge the vital role of digital technologies for protection and promotion of human rights, for bettering effective governance, as well as accelerated achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Nevertheless, as duly noted in the report, digital technologies are too often used to violate rights, especially of people who are already vulnerable or being left behind.

It becomes evident when authoritarian states use new technologies as a tool to spread disinformation and misinformation, and unleash cyber-attacks targeting democracies, which many countries, including my own, have experienced on several occasions.

Against this backdrop, there is an urgent need for more inclusive and efficient multilateralism. In this spirit, we look forward to the future Global Digital Compact that ensures universal connectivity as an enabler of the 2030 Agenda and a cross-cutting issue embedded in every SDG, protects data and human rights online.

Mr. Chair,

Georgia also believes that rule of law can be better implemented through participation in ensuring accountability.

With this in mind, as a responsible party to the Rome Statute, Georgia continues to invest efforts in strengthening the International Criminal Court (ICC) in terms of

institutional and budgetary means. Georgia also contributes to strengthening the ICC as a core legal institution, among others, by donating sums to the Trust Fund for Victims.

We reiterate our readiness to continue our close cooperation with the ICC in order to ensure that justice will be served for the victims of the most serious crimes of international concern in Georgia and elsewhere.

Mr. Chair,

Having said that, let me recall that the obligation of the occupying power arising from the international law, to ensure the well-being of the population living in the occupied territories is continuously violated by the Russian Federation, which has been exercising effective control over Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions of Georgia. The historical judgment of the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) of 21 January 2021 on the case of GEORGIA v. RUSSIA (II) once again reaffirmed the responsibility of the Russian Federation as the occupying power for the grave human rights violations therein.

In closing, let me reiterate that Georgia continues to give utmost priority to the strengthening of rule of law at the national and international levels. We firmly believe that collective response of International community, guided by the rule of law, is a precondition for building better future for states with strong and credible public institutions.

I thank you!