



SIXTH COMMITTEE

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement by

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The Rule of Law at the National and International Levels

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Thank you Mr. Chair for convening this important annual debate.

At the outset, I would like to highlight the importance Israel attaches to this topic and to reiterate Israel's commitment to the rule of law at both the international and the national levels. Democracy, equality and human rights are at the basis of our society, and in light of the continued challenges the international community faces, the paramount importance of having independent, fair and reliable systems of justice in place on the local level becomes increasingly clear. Our active and autonomous judiciary, which is yet another pillar of Israel's democracy, further ensures equality and democratic rights. Israel's judiciary, including our Supreme Court, grants broad standing rights and direct access to citizens, as well as non-citizens, in order to allow them to pursue justice when there is a concern that basic rights or civil liberties have been infringed upon, as we will elaborate today.

Mr. Chair,

We take pride in Israel's achievements and its undying commitment to democracy and equality, as enshrined in Israel's Declaration of Independence and in our Basic Laws. Israel has made some paramount achievements in promoting human and civil rights this year, and I would like to briefly present three main such achievements.

Firstly, in the realm of LGBTQ rights, Israel's Supreme Court ruled last year that all people, including single men and same-sex male couples, may access surrogacy in Israel on an equal footing with women and heterosexual couples. This is another step taken by the Israeli legal system for the promotion of rights of the LGBTQ community.

Mr. Chair,

In June 2022, the Israeli Parliament, the Knesset, approved a bill which amends the law concerning Equal Opportunities for People with Disabilities. This amendment

will allow the Commission for Persons with Disabilities to file complaints and civil lawsuits against employers who have breached the obligation for equal opportunity for people with disabilities. This sends a clear and unequivocal message that Israel is committed to combat any such discrimination in the workplace.

Israel also remains committed to advancing women's rights, and has provided its expertise in this field on many related topics in the past year. We are proud that Tel Aviv University Professor Daphna Hacker, was recently elected to serve as an expert for the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. Professor Hacker is an expert on the intersection between law and gender, and will begin her term in January 2023. We look forward to seeing impact that Prof. Hacker will certainly make on the efforts to eliminate discrimination against women.

Mr. Chair,

We welcome the Secretary General's July 2022 Report on Strengthening and Coordinating United Nations Rule of Law Activities, and wish to use this opportunity to express our longstanding appreciation for the consistently professional work undertaken by the OLA and by its leadership.

In particular, Israel welcomes the attention given by the Secretary General in this year's report to security and justice to children. Israel has recently taken a step forward with regard to the safety of children and youth in cyberspace. This is evident in the launching of a recent government program which is meant to educate and assist public security agencies and police officers to recognize and effectively investigate cases of online bullying or violence. In this vein, we are also pleased to share, that today, the Human Rights Council in Geneva adopted by consensus a resolution led by Israel and a core group consisting of Germany, Argentina and Greece, concerning cyberbullying against children. This is a groundbreaking

resolution that exemplifies the importance of tackling this troubling phenomenon. Israel will continue to work diligently for the safety of children and youth, within its own legal system and within the international system.

Mr. Chair

Israel reiterates its commitment to upholding domestic and international law and to ensuring the need to prevent impunity and stop the gravest crimes from taking place. We underline that the primary responsibility for prevention of the gravest crimes lies with states.

Having said that, it is critical that the enforcement of these norms be upheld in a manner that adheres to the basic principles and standards underpinning every proper legal system, including independence, impartiality, and decency. It is particularly important that decisions be taken in a manner that is free from undue considerations and influence, and be within the parameters of the respective mandates and authority of the institution in question. Any institution that fails to meet these demands, and succumbs to external pressures, undermines the very validity of its own decisions, its credibility and its integrity, to the detriment of justice and the true rule of law.

Mr. Chair,

As a final note, Israel would like to reiterate its commitment to international cooperation and our support of national legal systems. In this regard, we note that this year, Israel hosted the 64th Annual Meeting of the International Association of Judges. The meeting was held in Tel Aviv with over 350 participants, including judges from over 70 countries, and included professional training and learning sessions. This large number of countries who participated in this conference makes it one of the largest professional conferences to ever be held in Israeli history, and the largest ever to have been held in the legal field. We welcome this important

gathering in Israel and hope it will bring many more opportunities for positive collaborations with other judicial branches around the world.

I thank you Mr. Chair.