



# NEPAL

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**Statement by Ramesh Kumar Charmakar, First Secretary of the Permanent Mission of Nepal to the United Nations, at the 77<sup>th</sup> session of the Sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly on the theme ‘*The Impacts of the Global Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels*’ under Agenda Item 84: Rule of Law at the National and International Levels**

**New York, October 06, 2022**

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**Mr. Chair,**

Nepal would like to align itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

I would like to thank the Secretary General for his comprehensive report under this agenda item.

**Mr. Chair,**

Nepal upholds deep faith in the rule of law as the bedrock of good governance for sustained peace and prosperity.

Fairness and justice, peace and security, political stability and prosperity, and human rights and fundamental freedom are deeply founded on the rule of law.

Unlike normal time, the global crises of COVID-19 pandemic adversely affected not only public health and economy but also the global environment of the rule of law.

State machineries became compelled to adopt curfew and lockdown, restrict the freedoms of movement, assembly, and expression aiming at the effective containment of the deadly coronavirus and to save the people’s lives.

Short-cut procedures of public procurement were applied to secure the emergency supplies and resources.

Also, the legislatures and judiciaries could not function in full-fledged due to COVID-19 restrictions put in place.

People’s rights to health, education, decent work as well as access to justice remained major concerns in most of the countries.

While emergency restrictions on certain rights was the compulsion of the situation, it is necessary to balance welfare, health, human rights, and rule of law. And these emergency restrictions should not set out the precedent to curtail fundamental freedoms and rights in future.

**Mr. Chair,**

Like silver lining in dark clouds, we notice the use of ICTs enabled innovative tools and techniques such as hybrid courts and tribunals, e-filing of petition and virtual hearing in the judicial system as positive footprints of COVID-19 in the sphere of rule of law. This transformation enhances the

accessibility to, efficiency of, and participation in the judicial system. However, the bottleneck of digital divide hinders its wider application.

**Mr. Chair,**

The UN Charter, universal declaration of human rights, international humanitarian laws and other international legal instruments are building blocks of the global architecture of the rule of law.

Nepal commends the continued assistance of the UN, through the Global Task Force on Corruption and the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law, in advancing good governance and rule of law in various parts of the world.

The contribution of the ICJ for pacific settlement of international disputes and that of UNCITRAL and the ILC for progressive development and codification of international law are crucial for the promotion of rule of law across the world.

**Mr. Chair,**

The constitution of Nepal fully enshrines the norms of rule of law. Fundamental freedoms, human rights, democratic governance, independent judiciary, equality and non-discrimination, and judicial remedy are cornerstones of our constitution.

Nepal is fully committed to the domestic implementation of its international treaty obligations.

National Human Rights Commission of Nepal and Commission on Investigation of the Abuse of Authorities, among others, are two independent constitutional bodies dedicated to protection and promotion of human rights, and elimination of corruption respectively.

Nepal remained cautious not to let covid emergency scraps the rule of law. Government took measures to comply with human rights obligations and access to justice in COVID-19 responses. We have implemented action plans to ensure fundamental rights, justice and rule of law prioritizing needs of women, girls, and vulnerable groups during the pandemic.

Enhanced UN support to member States for implementing international obligations and strengthening the rule of law and human rights institutions remains critical.

There is also a need to ensure rule of law at global level through an inclusive, just, and equitable participation of all member states in global governance institutions.

In conclusion, **Mr. Chair**, we- the member States, with the UN at the center, must gear up our collaboration and coordination to combat the new and emerging threats such as cybercrime, climate change and pandemics like COVID – 19 by upholding the rule of law at both national and international level.

Let's work together to rescue the rule of law from the rage of COVID-19 by building back better with more resilient and sustainable recovery while leaving no-one behind.

I thank you all.