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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE FEDERAL  
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

BY

TSION GETACHEW THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FEDERAL  
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA

AT

THE 77<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ON

AGENDA ITEM 84: “THE RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND  
INTERNATIONAL LEVELS”

07 OCTOBER 2022  
NEW YORK

**Mr. Chairman,**

My delegation expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his reports on “Strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities” contained in document A/77/213.

Ethiopia aligns itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and Morocco on behalf of the Africa Group, and would like to make the following remarks in our national capacity.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Ethiopia commends the focus given to rule of law in the report of the Secretary-General. Predictable legal system with competent and legitimate legislative and independent judicial organs is a corner stone of national governance. With the Covid 19 Pandemic, the work of state institutions faced unprecedented level of disruption, and the impact of the Pandemic on individual and community levels has been severe. 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 put in place prior to the pandemic had contributed to hold the election process by administering a free, fair, credible and democratic national election. The highest record number of voter- turnout was also a testimony to the strengthened institutions and development of a democratic process in the country.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The past year had also been a time of unprecedented trial for my country. Attacks waged against federal institutions, including the national defense force by a lawless criminal group with a clear motive to bring the fledgling democracy, peace and stability to the brink had to be addressed and thus was reversed. Through the Rule of law and competent institutions put in place we have taken proper measures to address the conflict and its effect.

Rule of law, Mr. Chairman, at the international level and in the global institutions still suffers from serious shortcomings. Unilateral coercive measures, weak international cooperation, biased interpretation and application of international norms and treaties, and indisposition to serve justice. These views have been widely reflected during this year's general debate by many member states of the United Nations.

**Mr. Chairperson**

Ethiopia has undertaken the task of reviewing its laws and law enforcement institutions over the past years. We have taken practical measures to promote the impartiality, integrity, and competency of our judiciary system. Moreover, my government established the Advisory Council for Law and Justice Reform, which is tasked with researching best practices from other jurisdictions and preparing a draft statute for the reform of the country justice system. Accordingly, the country undertook reforms on massive legislations, including revising the anti-terrorism law, the media law, a law to guide national elections, and issued new law to strengthen freedom of association.



The reform program has also been carried out on different law enforcement sectors including reform of the court administration, public prosecution service and its structure, and on federal and regional police force. These enable us to foster access to justice, democratization, economic stability and the rule of law. Furthermore, it paved the way for a widely strengthened and trusted legal system.

I would like to reiterate that the United Nations and other regional organizations should work with member states to enhance their efforts, upon request, of finding home-grown solutions to challenges they face in ensuring rule of law. Moreover, my country is working with IGAD member countries to ensure rule of law and justice in our region.

**Mr. Chairperson**

In conclusion, Ethiopia reiterates its commitment in ensuring rule of law at national level and participateS in a constructive manner to make regional and global institutions for consistent implementation of rules and laws we agreed to abide by.

**I thank you.**