

Statement by the Republic of Türkiye
on Agenda Item 85
(The rule of law at the national and international levels)
at the Sixth Committee
7 October 2022

Check against delivery

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Türkiye aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and we would like to add the following in our national capacity.

We thank the Secretary-General for his report under this item, and the Deputy Secretary-General for the introduction of the report.

Mr. Chair,

Rule of law is the foundation of a fair and just society and an essential component of peace, security and sustainable development.

In “Our Common Agenda”, the Secretary-General set out a vision for a more inclusive and effective world, capable of addressing our shared challenges, and promised to promote the rule of law through a new, holistic and people-centered vision, which is grounded in and builds upon SDG 16.

Our delegation appreciates the steps taken towards the crafting of this vision, which aims to ensure that States, communities and people are supported in rebuilding their social contract as a foundation for sustaining peace.

We were pleased to participate in the 3rd SDG 16 Conference held earlier this year. This conference facilitated constructive and efficient dialogue and cooperation between States towards achieving this important goal that is also very relevant for the Sixth Committee and this agenda item.

We also take note of the SDG 16 survey initiative as well as the integrated methodology developed by the Secretariat for collecting data on SDG 16 survey-based indicators.

Mr. Chair,

Türkiye appreciates the work of the United Nations dedicated to promoting the rule of law, especially in conflict and post-conflict settings. We note the work carried out during the reporting period in this context, including in relation to women’s access to justice and the promotion and protection of women’s and children’s rights.

Building and restoring the functioning of effective, transparent and inclusive justice institutions, in accordance with international norms and standards, in the aftermath of conflict is crucial. Needless to say, it is also an effective preventive tool against future instability.

In this regard, our delegation also believes that strong regional approaches carry a particularly important role to ensure the sustainability of these efforts.

On the other hand, the most vulnerable groups such as women, girls and persons with disabilities are still subject to deep inequalities in access to justice, both in conflict and post-conflict settings, and elsewhere.

Türkiye welcomes all efforts aimed at eliminating such inequalities across the globe, including through assistance in accessing gender-responsive legal aid and training of security and justice personnel in various regions. We are pleased to see that the provision of such support upon request continues to remain a key priority for the United Nations in its rule of law activities.

Similarly, we believe that the Global Programme on Strengthening the Rule of Law and Human Rights for Sustaining Peace and Fostering Development, which is reported to have enabled 41.9 million people to gain access to justice in 2021, reflects a positive achievement.

Mr. Chair,

Tackling corruption, along with combating terrorism and organized crime, through international and regional cooperation, are of utmost necessity and urgency in building trust and resilience in societies, hence strengthening the rule of law.

In this regard, we appreciate the comprehensive support and technical assistance provided by United Nations to Member States. We note the holding of the first-ever United Nations high-level international conference on the role of human rights, the rule of law and civil society engagement in effective counter-terrorism efforts earlier this year in Madrid, in which Türkiye also participated. We also thank the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law for their efforts towards fostering the coherence across UN programmes.

Our delegation places great importance to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which is approaching universal acceptance, with the most recent ratifications.

Conscious also of the importance of ensuring accountability for crimes committed against peacekeepers, we are pleased to see a reference in the Secretary-General's report to Security Council resolution 2589 (2021), which Türkiye also co-sponsored.

Mr. Chair,

Covid-19 pandemic has proven to be the most complex global emergency in recent history. The crisis has been a resilience test for the international community on many fronts, including the struggle to uphold the rule of law.

Multilateralism is the most powerful tool we have to address global crises of this nature.

In this regard, we welcome the consensus reached last year under the aegis of the World Health Organization to begin the process of drafting an international instrument to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness and response.

Türkiye is a member of the Group of Friends of the Treaty on Pandemic Preparedness and is looking forward to constructively contributing to the work ahead.

While presenting its own challenges, the pandemic has also forced us to think critically and adapt our priorities and approaches.

At the national level, similar to many member states, Türkiye adopted various strategies to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic on the rule of law, particularly the justice system. These measures included, among others, adjusting arrest and prosecution strategies, enabling e-filing and virtual hearings where possible, and capacity building within relevant institutions through trainings to law enforcement and psycho-social services personnel at correction institutions on pertinent topics.

As part of the important lessons we learned from our collective efforts in response to the pandemic, and drawing on the best practices of states, we hope that some of these practices can present an opportunity to make justice systems more accessible and efficient in the long term.

Mr. Chair,

In closing, we look forward to engaging with Member States in the coming days regarding this agenda item and the sub-topic for the next session of the Committee, including the option presented in the Secretary-General's report.

Thank you.