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STATEMENT DELIVERED

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**AGENDA ITEM OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY SIXTH COMMITTEE ENTITLED
“THE RULE OF LAW AT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL
LEVELS (AGENDA ITEM 83)**

18th October, 2023
Trusteeship Council Chamber, UNHQ
New York

Mr. Chairman,

1. Thank you for giving me the floor. The delegation of Ghana welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the discussion on the international and national dimensions of the rule of law, a subject of fundamental importance to the realization of the values and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

2. In aligning ourselves with the statements of the African Group and the Non-Aligned Movement, we would like to make the additional remarks in our national capacity.

3. At the outset, we thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive and informative report contained in document no. A/78/184 and endorse the continuing focus of the United Nations in support of the rule of law at the national and international levels.

4. We are particularly appreciative of the Secretary-General's personal commitment to advancing a New Vision of the Rule of law with a people-centered approach to governance and justice. Such an approach is critical in our view to the realization of

Sustainable Goal 16 focused on promoting just, peaceful and inclusive societies.

Mr. Chairman,

5. The post-1945 world order is carefully framed by the rule of law, based on mutual recognition and respect for the sovereign equality of States, as well as respect for the rights of people everywhere. The options we have chosen, in favour of the values and principles that underpin our rules-based international system, have been fundamental to the maintenance of peace and security, the enjoyment of human rights and individual well-being, and sustainable development.

6. The rule of law has fostered important international arrangements for pursuing diplomatic relations, implementing sustainable development objectives, addressing environmental, climate and universal health concerns, and creating reasonable conditions for progress in all countries.

7. However, and as rightly observed in the report of the Secretary-General, we are witnessing an increasing dissipation of the

commitments to uphold the principle. The pursuit of immediate and inward-looking interests above the long-term collective interests of the greater masses have contributed to the many complex and compounding challenges of our time.

8. For Ghana, we have no doubt that it is precisely because of the authoritative value of the rule of law among nations that most Member States see violations clearly when they occur and remain dissatisfied when rules persist in serving the interest of a few rather than the aspirations of all.
9. With multi-crisis mounting across the world, States, as primary actors of the international system, must work to restore the centrality of the rule of law. We must, among other things, collectively renew our commitments contained in the 1970 Declaration of Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the landmark 2012 Declaration on the Rule of Law.
10. May we also remind that adherence to the rule of law requires that States not only consent to the jurisdiction of

international adjudicating bodies but importantly, comply with their decisions.

Mr. Chairman,

11. Ghana is resolved in its ambition to achieve a just, fair and equitable rules-based order, that also provides a balance between peace, development and human rights. In that spirit, we welcome the sub-topic chosen for the 78th Session ***“Using technology to advance access to justice for all.”*** and wish to highlight our national efforts in this regard.

12. The Government of Ghana in 2019, launched the e-Justice programme designed to address the persisting inadequacies of the manual court system that impedes justice delivery on many levels. At the heart of the programme is the commitment to enhance justice delivery by improving access, facilitating the speedy disposal of cases and supporting case management through the automation of the existing manual systems. The programme forms part of efforts to increase the focus on integrity, reduce opportunities for corruption, increase transparency and accountability and deal efficiently and

effectively with complaints. Positive impacts are being recorded as the programme is progressively rolled out to all 16 administrative regions of the country with a view to achieving country-wide access.

Mr. Chairman,

13. As we advocate for the enhanced use of technology in the delivery of justice, we emphasize the need to bridge technology gaps, strengthen ICT and STEM literacy and improve internet penetration and access in less endowed communities. We also encourage cooperation among member States in the areas of capacity building and training, technology transfer and sharing of best practices.

14. In bringing our statement to a close, allow me to re-affirm Ghana's unwavering commitment to upholding the rule of law as a fundamental element of multilateralism and the rule of law.

Thank you for your kind attention.