



PERMANENT MISSION OF ROMANIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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The 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly

Sixth Committee

Agenda item 84 - The rule of law at the national and international levels

Statement delivered by Ms. Alis Lungu, Second Secretary,

Permanent Mission of Romania to the United Nations

New York, 17 October 2024

Mister Chair,

Romania aligns itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished representative of the European Union and the distinguished representative of Austria on behalf of Group of Friends of the Rule of Law.

Our delegation welcomes the resumption of the debate in the Sixth Committee on the topic of the rule of law at the national and international levels and wishes to thank Secretary-General for his *Report on Strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities (A/79/117)*.

The report contains a detailed account of United Nations initiatives for the consolidation of the rule of law at national level across the world. We commend the United Nations for carrying out these wide-ranging capacity-building and technical assistance activities in support of its Member States. Such concrete advancements are especially important in the current context, which is marked by an erosion of democracy and rules-based governance. Reversing this very concerning trend is a task shared by us all.

We continue to believe that we can do more here, at the United Nations, to bring the rule of law agenda to the forefront, including through high-level meetings. Informal networks such as the Group of Friends of the Rule of Law can also be used as a platform for coordination and promotion of concrete initiatives that would advance the rule of law.

Mister Chair,

With reference to the rule of law at the international level, the activities of international courts and tribunals are of particular relevance to our debate.

Romania remains committed to supporting the International Court of Justice, as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations with an essential role in the peaceful settlement of disputes and the global rule of law. The growing docket of the Court, including both contentious and advisory proceedings on a wide area of topics and involving States from various geographical groups is indicative of the continued

confidence of the international community in its high-quality judicial work. Compliance with the Court's judgments is a legal obligation, as well as an essential factor for the Court's continued legitimacy and authority. In addition, more can be done to ensure that the Court has the human and financial resources that it needs to successfully carry out its mandate.

Looking to encourage States to turn to the Court to settle their disputes, three years ago Romania presented an initiative promoting the ICJ's jurisdiction. The Declaration lists the main arguments for accepting the Court's contentious jurisdiction and encourages States to confer jurisdiction to the ICJ by any of the means envisaged in its Statute, as deemed appropriate. We renew our invitation to all UN Member States to endorse the Declaration.

In relation to the International Criminal Court, we encourage the United Nations to strengthen its cooperation with the Court. We firmly reject all threats and attacks against the Court and its staff. Continued political support for the Court remains essential, given the its vital role in the fight against impunity. On a separate note, we are pleased to see the positive steps towards the universality of the Rome Statute recorded in the last year.

In closing, I want to express Romania's unabated commitment to defend the independence of international judicial institutions, as well as our support for all relevant United Nations efforts to promote the rule of law at national and international levels.

I thank you!