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Agenda item 84
Rule of Law at the National and International levels
Sixth Committee, 79th Session of the UNGA
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Thank you Mr. Chair,

Georgia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and I would like to make the following remarks in my national capacity.

The rule of law is a foundation of fair and just society and a core component for realization of human rights, ensuring peace and security and achieving sustainable development.

We appreciate the Secretary-General's recent report on "Strengthening and Coordinating Rule of Law Activities" (A/79/117) and would like to also highlight the importance of the New Vision for the rule of law introduced by the Secretary General last year, which once again reaffirms the essential importance of building peaceful and just societies, with a strong emphasis on inclusive, people-centered justice mechanisms, gender equality, and support for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Unfortunately, as highlighted in the report, we continue to witness ongoing challenges to the rule of law, democracy, and the protection of women and children's rights in several regions affected by conflict. We fully agree with the Secretary-General that upholding the rule of law is crucial for addressing today's complex crises and building societies that respect the rights and freedoms of all.

Distinguished colleagues,

As we approach 2030, we are reminded that achieving the SDG 16 is not only a standalone priority, but a foundation for the success of the entire 2030 Agenda. Without functioning institutions, justice, and strong governance, no other goals can be fully realized. Georgia is committed to ensuring that peace and justice remain central to our development trajectory, especially in light of emerging global challenges.

Digital transformation is rapidly reshaping governance models worldwide, and Georgia is no exception. We are leveraging the power of digital tools to enhance transparency, accessibility, and efficiency in public administration and legal systems. By expanding the use of technology, including open data initiatives, we aim to democratize access to justice, bridging gaps and ensuring that legal remedies are available to all citizens, regardless of their location or

socioeconomic status. Through these efforts, Georgia is positioning technology as a key driver of the rule of law.

Mr. Chair,

A humane and rights-based approach to justice remains a cornerstone of our reforms, particularly in our penitentiary system. The ongoing reforms focus not only on enhancing the rights of detainees but also on creating pathways for their reintegration into society. The newly adopted Penitentiary Code introduces progressive regulations that focus on rehabilitation and dignity.

Furthermore, we are proud of our Digital University initiative, which has already started providing inmates with access to higher education. This program enables detainees to acquire new skills and qualifications through distance learning, preparing them for successful reintegration after their release. Alongside digital learning, the introduction of technologies such as biometric systems ensures greater transparency and security across our penitentiary institutions.

Distinguished colleagues,

As the founding member of the International Criminal Court, Georgia reaffirms its commitment to ensuring accountability for the most serious crimes of international concern. We remain ready to continue our close cooperation with the ICC in pursuing justice for victims both in Georgia and globally.

With this in mind, let me recall that Georgia was among the States who referred the Situation in Ukraine to the ICC's Prosecutor. We look forward to the forthcoming progress in this regard.

Having said that, I would like to recall the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights and the ICC, which confirmed the occupation and effective control of the Russian Federation over Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali regions, holding Russia fully responsible for grave violations on the ground. We continue to witness pronounced violations of human rights and basic freedoms, which severely affect the everyday lives of people residing in both regions and pose an imminent threat of a new wave of forced displacement. Among other gross infringements, the ethnic discrimination of Georgians continues to take a heavy toll on conflict-affected people, exacerbating their suffering and undermining efforts toward peace and stability in the region.

Mr. Chair,

In conclusion, let me stress that Georgia remains closely engaged in collaborative global efforts to strengthen the rule of law and ensure access to justice for all. We thank the United Nations for its continuous support in advancing these crucial objectives.

I thank you!