



**Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya
to the United Nations, New York**

**STATEMENT ON AGENDA ITEM 84
"THE RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS"**

BY MS. ELIZABETH CHOGE, MINISTER II

DURING THE

79TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

17 OCTOBER 2024

Thank you Chair

1. My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the African Group by the distinguished representative of Uganda, and on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement by the distinguished representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Chair,

2. Upholding the rule of law is fundamental to the realisation of the common goals, WE, THE PEOPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS, set out to attain as clearly spelt out in the Charter. It is only through the rule of law weaving through national and international levels that we can achieve a just, secure and peaceful world/environment requisite for the related aspiration for Sustainable Development.

3. Without international law to constrain the conduct of states, no matter their level of economic, military and geopolitical power and influence, we will continue struggling to attain peaceful coexistence and cooperation.
4. We thank the Secretary General for his Report under document A/79/117 and take note of the note of his new vision for the rule of law. We welcome the Organisation's efforts in the promotion and strengthening of the rule of law and coordination of United Nations rule of law assistance as reflected in the report. **In this respect, we acknowledge the Organisation's partnership in providing assistance to the small claims courts and digitisation of case management in a bid to increase access to justice and reduce backlogs in Kenya.**
5. We also welcome the new vision of the Secretary General for the rule of law and look forward to the implementation of the lines of actions set out therein.
6. **Chair**, norms of international law, including in the multilateral trading system, must be reliable, predictable and equitable to help foster closer cooperation among neighbours, within respective regions and internationally. They must infuse confidence in not only States, and International Organisations and institutions, but also in individuals that they can be fully, equally and equitably involved and secured under the international legal system. Kenya ascribes to the classic definition of the rule of law based on general principles applicable on equal terms to all persons and respects and preserves the dignity, equality and human rights of all persons.

7. The Constitution of Kenya acknowledges international legal norms, incorporated through our national laws which continue to guide Kenya's engagement in international engagements including action on climate change, humanitarian intervention, international peace and security, counter-terrorism and violent extremism, among others. This should also guide us as the United Nations through the necessary, yet long-overdue review of the international financial architecture which grossly falls short of today's theme of "full, equal and equitable participation at all levels in the international legal system".
8. It is in this regard that Kenya has signed and is working towards the ratification of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction based on, among others, the principle of the common heritage of mankind, and therefore our collective responsibility over it and the equal rights to the benefits deriving therefrom.

Chair,

9. Kenya is convinced that capacity building, awareness creation and ease of access are important for the promotion of the rule of law and for strengthening national capacities of Member States, including through enhanced technical assistance.
10. The digital era and the Internet have opened to us a vast array of tools and platforms that if used optimally, can ensure that dissemination of laws is done in a quick, effective, efficient and less costly manner. It also has an outreach to almost the corners of the globe and readily accessible through easily available tools such as mobile phones. This is revolutionary for

students and especially the youth. We should therefore move towards the full utilization of these mediums. This is exemplified through the establishment of the **regional anti-corruption hub in Nairobi with the assistance of the UN, which is key in anti-corruption efforts and promotion of good governance.**

11. We also commend the Secretariat for their efforts under the United Nations Programme of Assistance. The Audiovisual Library for instance, provides an educational tool for the legal profession and academia particularly in developing countries that contributes meaningfully to the heart of our discussion today. This will also bring us closer to the realization of SDG 16 on the Promotion of the rule of law at the national and international levels to ensure equal access to justice for all.
12. In tailoring technical assistance programmes, we call on the United Nations to partner with developing countries to enhance the uptake of the programme's content by working together to determine the needs and priorities of Member States. This would help achieve national ownership of rule of law processes and promote sustainability. This should take cognisance of the technological inadequacies in developing countries and seek avenues of targeted cooperation. We also urge that Special attention should be accorded to countries in, or emerging from, conflict situations.

Chair,

13. As a strong defender of a balanced approach towards both levels of the rule of law, national and international, Kenya is fully committed to the effective implementation of our international obligations at the national level guided

by our domestic systems and according to our national legislative framework.

14. We urge States, tribunals, whether local, regional or international, to contribute to the Rule of Law by ensuring that the rules of various international law instruments adopted by States are interpreted and implemented in a just, fair and predictable manner that is not counterproductive or antagonistic to the very ideals contained in these instruments.
15. Finally, Chair, my delegation assures you of Kenya's continued firm commitment to respect for the rule of law.

Thank you.