



MALAYSIA

Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York

**STATEMENT BY
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79TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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

AT THE SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE 79TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK, 17 OCTOBER 2024

Mr. Chair,

Malaysia aligns itself with the statement by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and Singapore on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). We thank the Secretary General for his report on strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities as contained in document A/79/117.

Mr. Chair,

2. We are currently bearing witness to a ruthless assault against the very foundations of the rule of law which we, the international community, have painstakingly built and upheld for decades. Unfortunately, we appear to be helpless in taking decisive action to stop this erosion of the rules-based international system. The Security Council, whose primary responsibility is the maintenance of international peace and security, is deadlocked in paralysis. Efforts to bring an end to violations of international law have regrettably been unsuccessful, owing to the casting of vetoes by the permanent members of the Council. A case in point is the ongoing war waged by Israel against the Palestinian people.

3. One year into this conflict, not only is the end nowhere in sight, the conflict has instead escalated to the wider West Asia region. From Gaza and the West Bank, Israel has expanded its trail of destruction to Lebanon. It is now even talking about conducting attacks against another UN Member State. Meanwhile, the Palestinian people, who have demonstrated time and again, their continued confidence in the rules-based international system, have been deprived of the protection of the law.

4. Israel is violating the fundamental tenets of international law, with absolute impunity. Yet, there are countries, who claim themselves as advocates and champions of the rule of law, that are condoning, if not actively assisting Israel, in undermining international law. Let it be clear - the rule of law must apply equally to all, without fear or favour, to friends and foes alike.

Mr. Chair,

5. The subtopic for our debate on this agenda item at this session – the full, equal and equitable participation at all levels in the international legal system – is apt. It is an issue of significant importance, especially in the times we currently live in.

6. The United Nations is the organisation with the most representation of the international community. The General Assembly is a platform that allows for the full, equal and equitable participation of States. However, these principles are still out of reach in some of the other organs of the United Nations, particularly the Security Council.

7. The structure and decision-making formula of the Security Council has remained unchanged since its inception almost eighty years ago. The two distinct categories of its membership remain, while no expansion of membership has taken place since 1965. The veto power continues to be held exclusively by the permanent members of the Council.

8. Malaysia is a staunch believer in multilateralism, and a longstanding advocate for Security Council reform. With membership of the United Nations currently standing at 193 States, we, in principle, support the expansion of membership of the Security Council, both in the permanent and non-permanent categories. The enlarged Security Council should contain fair regional representation to reflect current geopolitical realities, thus improving equitability. We continue to advocate for a Security Council that is more legitimate, representative, and democratic, so that it can respond effectively to emerging threats of international peace and security.

9. While Malaysia advocates for the limiting and regulation of the use of the veto, we hold the belief that in the long run, the veto has no role in a modern, democratic multilateral architecture, and thus should be abolished.

Mr. Chair,

10. In conclusion, Malaysia reaffirms its unequivocal support to the principle of rule of law at the national and international levels. We will continue to play an active role in advancing our strong support and commitment to shared responsibilities towards peace and security, and respect for international law as manifested from our contributions in various United Nations rule of law activities.

I thank you.