



**PERMANENT MISSION OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
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**STATEMENT BY  
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DELEGATION OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE  
79<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY**

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

**NEW YORK, 17-18 OCTOBER 2024**

**Good morning/afternoon Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen / Distinguished Colleagues,**

1. It is my honour to address this esteemed body today on behalf of the Government of Brunei Darussalam. I wish to extend my deepest gratitude and congratulations to you, Mr. Chairman, and the members of the Bureau on your elections and I assure Brunei Darussalam's full support and cooperation in the days to come.
2. At the outset, Brunei Darussalam aligns with the statement delivered by Singapore on behalf of ASEAN; and the statement delivered by Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

**Mr. Chairman,**

3. Brunei Darussalam remains steadfast in its commitment to the rule of law as a cornerstone of modern governance, embodying principles of justice, fairness, and accountability. It ensures that all subjects of the law receive equal treatment and accountability under the law; are subject to clear and fair processes in the enforcement of the law; and that justice is accessible and impartial.
4. The responsibility of the state in upholding the rule of law is paramount, as it provides the foundation for protecting human rights, maintaining public order, and promoting social and economic development. By adhering to the rule of law, states not only foster domestic stability but also contribute to international peace and cooperation.
5. My delegation considers that respect for the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and its functions, including the exercise of its advisory jurisdiction, as essential to international law and justice and to an international order based on the rule of law. In this regard, we welcome the Advisory Opinion rendered on 19 July 2024 that among others determined the Occupying Power's continued presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory as unlawful and should be brought to an end. Brunei Darussalam calls on the Occupying Power to comply without delay with all its legal obligations under international law, including as stipulated by the ICJ.

**Mr. Chairman,**

6. Today, I will focus on the subtopic ***“the full, equal and equitable participation at all levels in the international legal system”***.
7. We believe that an inclusive international legal system, where all states—regardless of size, wealth, or geopolitical influence—can participate meaningfully, is essential to maintaining the integrity of international law. As a small state, Brunei Darussalam appreciates the challenges faced by many nations in ensuring their voices are heard. We call for greater democratisation of international legal frameworks and institutions, ensuring that decisions are made collectively, inclusively, and transparently.
8. For small states like Brunei Darussalam, regional cooperation is crucial to amplifying our voices on the global stage. Our engagement with ASEAN, Asian-African Legal Consultative Organisation (AALCO), the Commonwealth, and the OIC has been instrumental in strengthening our capacity to contribute to international legal discourse.
9. These forums have the shared approach to fostering unity in a shared spirit and promotes a cooperative legal environment where small states are not sidelined but, instead, have equal opportunities to shape and contribute to regional and global legal norms. Brunei Darussalam is proud to be part of these intergovernmental organisations as it enhances our engagement in international law and ensures our participation remains impactful.
10. At the regional level, Brunei Darussalam participates in the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion on the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC). Since 2010, the Government has appointed three ACWC Representatives on Women. Additionally, Brunei Darussalam also participates in the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW).
11. Brunei Darussalam is also committed to advancing gender inclusivity in all aspects of governance, particularly in the legal sector.
12. Brunei Darussalam has seen notable progress in advancing women’s careers across diverse sectors, including law. Women have reached high-

ranking positions such as Attorney General and High Court Judge, as well as members of the Legislative Council. They also hold senior roles in law enforcement, and serve as prosecutors in the courts of law.

13. We are proud of our efforts to ensure women's active participation in law-making, treaty negotiations, dispute settlement, and the judiciary. Women hold key leadership positions within Brunei's legal system, playing pivotal roles in shaping policies that govern our society and our engagement with the international community.
14. This inclusion is not just a reflection of our national values but a recognition that diverse perspectives lead to stronger, more equitable legal outcomes. We believe that a fair and inclusive legal process requires the contributions of both men and women at all levels, and Brunei Darussalam remains committed to maintaining a gender-balanced approach in all facets of law and justice.

**In conclusion, Mr. Chairman,**

15. I wish to emphasise the importance of fostering an inclusive and equitable international legal system, where all states, regardless of size or influence, have a meaningful voice and be granted an equal voice and fair representation. Moreover, the empowerment of women is crucial and we, therefore, advocate for the active involvement of women at all levels of decision-making processes. By harnessing the diverse perspectives and expertise of all members of society, we strengthen the foundations of justice and create a more balanced and equitable legal system.
16. As we look to the future, only through international collaboration, inclusivity, and respect for the rule of law can we build a more just and peaceful world.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

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