

Check against delivery!

**Statement by
the Delegation of Bulgaria
on Agenda item 84: “Rule of Law”
18 October 2024**

79 Session of the Sixth Committee

Bulgaria aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union, and I would like to add a few points in my national capacity.

This is the first time this Committee addresses the agenda item “The rule of Law at the national and international levels” since the start of the implementation of the *New Vision of the Secretary-General for the Rule of Law*. The initiative was launched in response to the global decline of the respect for the Rule of Law due to the rising number of conflicts and weakening national institutions and my country together with numerous others welcomed the approach imbedded in the New Vision to reinforce the centrality of the Rule of Law in all activities of the Organization.

The report of the Secretary-General “*The full, equal and equitable participation at all levels in the international legal system*” reaffirms that the Rule of Law is fundamental to lasting peace and security and essential for the promotion and protection of human rights, for fostering peace, security and stability, and for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG 16, the key enabler of the implementation of all SDGs.

The report illustrates the assistance many of the UN Member States have received in crafting responses anchored in human rights and the Rule of Law to threats posed by conflict, crime, terrorism and corruption. Recognizing that the Rule of law is deeply interlinked with development, the report provides examples of best practices in addressing poverty, injustice and exclusion by introducing effective, non-discriminatory and inclusive public policies.

Bulgaria attaches special importance to the section of the Report dealing with Environmental Rule of Law and would like to see it further developed with elements such as environmental damage, accountability for environmental crimes, environmental recovery and demining.

The collective commitment to a peaceful, prosperous and just world, with people at its center requires States to ensure that laws and justice institutions are accessible to all persons and private and public entities in a user-friendly and non-discriminatory manner and deliver fair and focused solutions. We recognize the challenges many nations face in achieving inclusivity, especially for the most vulnerable, as regards access to services and to domestic and international legal mechanisms. We stress in this regard, the need for building inclusive, representative and responsive Rule of Law institutions, addressing stereotypes and discriminatory laws and practices and empower civil society.

Turning now to the promotion of the Rule of Law at international level, Bulgaria shares the view that there must be accountability, openness and transparency in State decision-making processes and actions both at home and at the global level and that, as people are not above the

law, neither are the States. Accountability for breaches of International Law and denying safe heaven for perpetrators of international crimes will further strengthen the credibility and the effectiveness of the multilateral system and its organs and will contribute to the maintenance of the international peace and security. This Committee has the chance during the current session to stand the test for contributing to the promotion of the Rule of Law at international level by agreeing to start formal negotiations on the Convention on the prevention and punishment of Crimes against humanity.

In conclusion, Bulgaria reaffirms its commitment to the Rule of Law and stands ready to work towards the strengthening of the domestic and international frameworks built on the principles of the of supremacy of law, equality before the law, accountability to the law, fairness in the application of the law, separation of powers, participation in decision-making, legal certainty and legal transparency.

Thank you!