

79th Session of the UNGA
Sixth Committee (Agenda Item 83)

Statement by India

17 October 2024

on

“The rule of law at the national and international levels”

Mr. Chairman,

We thank the Secretary-General for his report A/79/117 on strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities. We support the progress made towards a more collaborative approach among UN entities to promote the rule of law globally, aligned with national priorities and plans.

2. India, as a vibrant democracy with a rich legal tradition, attaches great importance to the rule of law both at national and international levels. . Our Constitution enshrines the principle of equality before the law, ensuring that all citizens are treated fairly and justly. India actively participates in international forums to promote the rule of law, advocates for human rights, and supports the peaceful resolution of disputes. By upholding the rule of law at home and abroad, India contributes to a more just, equitable, and stable world.

3. India's commitment to the rule of law is evident in its efforts to strengthen its legal institutions, promote judicial reforms, and combat corruption. We have made significant strides in ensuring access to justice for all, particularly for marginalized communities such as women and children, persons with disabilities, tribal population, etc. Moreover, India has actively participated in international initiatives to combat transnational crimes, enhance cybersecurity, and protect human rights.

4. India is in favour of establishing full, equal, and equitable participation of all the countries, at all levels in the international legal system. We believe that such an approach is essential for promoting sovereignty and equality among nations; ensuring diverse perspectives and expertise; enhancing legitimacy and credibility of international institutions; fostering cooperation and compliance with international law; and addressing global challenges and disputes effectively.

5. We believe that the key aspects to achieve full, equal, and equitable participation, would include: equal representation of states in international institutions; ensuring all states have an equal voice and vote in decision-making processes; access to justice and supporting developing countries in building their capacity to participate effectively; encouraging participation of civil society organizations and marginalized groups; maintaining transparency and accountability in international institutions and establishing fair and effective dispute settlement mechanisms.

Mr Chairman,

6. By fostering participation from all Member States, regardless of their size or influence, we can build a more legitimate, trustworthy, and effective international legal system grounded in the principles of fairness, transparency, and justice. This commitment to inclusivity is central to India's vision of a global order that is representative of the interests and aspirations of all nations.

7. India's philosophy "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam", which translates to "The world is one family," underscores the nation's commitment to inclusivity on a global scale. This ancient Indian principle emphasizes the interconnectedness of all humanity and the importance of fostering harmonious relationships among diverse cultures, religions, and nations. By embracing the "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam"

spirit, India aims to create a world where all people are considered equal and interconnected, fostering a sense of shared responsibility and solidarity.

Mr. Chairman,

8. India firmly believes that the reform of the United Nations, with the Security Council at its core, is needed to uphold the rule of law at international level and ensure effective multilateral actions. There is an urgent need to ensure rule of law, by making Security Council more representative by providing enhanced membership to developing nations in both permanent and non-permanent categories.

9. In conclusion, India remains committed to advancing the rule of law and partnering with UN and other member States in advancing this important endeavour.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.