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THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



**STATEMENT BY JOHN M. PANGIPITA, COUNSELOR PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AT THE
79TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

ON AGENDA ITEM 84

“The Rule of Law at National and International Levels”

18 OCTOBER 2024

Mr. Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,

1. At the outset, I would like to express my gratitude for the opportunity to once again address this esteemed Committee. My delegation is particularly thankful to the Secretary-General and the Secretariat for presenting the comprehensive report on Strengthening and Coordinating United Nations Rule of Law Activities, as contained in document A/79/117.
2. Tanzania aligns itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished representatives of Uganda on behalf of the African Group and Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, we would like to offer additional remarks in our national capacity.
3. Tanzania welcomes the Secretary-General's new Vision for the Rule of Law, which includes a strong commitment to enhancing gender equality and assisting member states in addressing the systematic barriers faced by women and girls in accessing justice. It is essential that this New Vision also acknowledges the vital role of the rule of law in fostering and maintaining a peaceful society while accelerating efforts towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 16, which focuses on peace, justice, and strong institutions. Therefore, we endorse the need for the full, equal, and equitable participation of all in the international legal system.

Mr. Chair,

4. It is a shared responsibility of all member states to fortify the rule of law at both national and international levels, and Tanzania is fully committed to supporting these endeavours. For Tanzania, the supremacy of the rule of law is non-negotiable. Guided by this understanding, our Government has implemented numerous initiatives to ensure equal access to justice, reduce corruption and violence, and foster effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.

5. In light of this year's subtopic, we wish to share some experiences and actions taken by Tanzania to facilitate access to justice for all, thereby strengthening the rule of law. Our country has consistently reviewed its substantive laws in compliance with international and regional instruments to which we are state party. The enactment of the Legal Aid Act in 2017 enables the Government to collaborate with civil society actors and paralegals to provide critical legal aid services, particularly at the local community level. This includes training, monitoring, and evaluation processes to ensure the delivery of high-quality legal services to those in need.

Mr. Chair

6. To advance these efforts, Her Excellence Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, established a Commission to evaluate and improve the criminal justice system. The goal is to ensure that every individual is treated fairly and equitably within the criminal justice framework while upholding the essential principles of the rule of law, democracy, and good governance.

7. The Government has also initiated measures to make the justice system more accessible through technological advancement. The e-justice initiative seeks to maximize the application of information technology in legal processes and facilitate the integration of electronic legal services, thus enhancing efficiency, expediting access to justice, and alleviating the financial burden of legal services.

8. These initiatives have garnered significant support from the United Nations during the reporting period. As highlighted in the report, we are pleased to share that, with the generous assistance of the United Nations, Tanzania has developed a new policy and guidelines on victim and witness protection, ensuring their recognition and protection as vital stakeholders in the administration of criminal justice. In addition, during the reporting period, with the support of the United Nations, Tanzania successfully extended legal aid to underserved communities and vulnerable groups, including victims of sexual and gender-based violence, youth, women, children, and individuals with disabilities.

9. As a demonstration of our commitment to promoting the rule of law at all levels, the ***Commonwealth Law Ministers Meeting was held in Zanzibar in March this year, 2024***. Given that two-thirds of the world's population currently lack meaningful access to justice, this meeting explored responsible methods to utilize technology to enhance access to legal services. This reflects Tanzania's unwavering commitment in supporting initiatives aimed at ensuring justice is accessible to all, irrespective of their social, economic, and technological circumstances.

Mr. Chair,

10. As many delegations have noted, the rule of law is a core pillar of peaceful coexistence at both the national and international level. This underscores the indispensable role of international law in maintaining relations between states. I am convinced that the UN Charter and its principal organs, particularly the International Court of Justice, have played a vital role in preserving international peace and security, even amid ongoing global security challenges. The current security concerns highlight the necessity for all of us to uphold the objectives set forth in the UN Charter, International Human rights Law, International Humanitarian Law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights just to mention a few.

11. As a host country to several regional and international courts, including the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, and as a state party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, we urge all member states to uphold the rule of law international level. We must be guided by principles such as state sovereignty, non-use of force, and peaceful settlement of disputes in our collective pursuit of a more secure and peaceful world.

Mr. Chair,

12. The increase and persistent nature of transnational organized crime present a significant challenge to our commitment to promoting the rule of law at the international level. In this context, the cooperation of states in combating all forms of transnational organized crimes is crucial. Tanzania is therefore pleased to note that the new **Cybercrime Convention** was finalized in August 2024. Upon coming into force, the

convention would enhance international cooperation, law enforcement efforts and address capacity-building needs in relation to cybercrime.

Mr. Chair,

13. In conclusion, Tanzania reaffirms its steadfast conviction that the rule of law is vital for advancing peace and security, human rights, and development principles that constitute the three core pillars of the United Nations. We remain fully committed to supporting the UN's role in promoting the rule of law, including through the peaceful settlement of disputes as enshrined in the UN Charter.

14. Tanzania commends the efforts of the United Nations and its relevant agencies in assisting member states with the implementation of multilateral treaties and programs that deepen understanding of international law, thus significantly strengthening the rule of law at both national and international levels.

I thank you for your kind attention