

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

In the Name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

Statement by Mr. Yahya Aref, representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran

before the Sixth Committee of the 80th Session of General Assembly

Agenda Item 84: The rule of law at the national and international levels

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Mr. Chair.

As once mentioned by the former President of the International Court of Justice in 2013, “the rule of law... epitomizes all that is noble about the mission statement of international law...”. The Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States was adopted on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations whereby the General Assembly was convinced that the adoption thereof “would contribute to the strengthening of world peace and constitute a landmark in the development of international law and of relations among States, in promoting the rule of law among nations and particularly the universal application of the principles embodied in the Charter”.

The preamble of the said Declaration underscores “the paramount importance of the Charter of the United Nations in the promotion of the rule of law among nations”; it is conceivable that as a corollary of the foregoing, the Secretary-General of the United Nations stated in 2004 that “the rule of law is a concept at the very heart of the Organization’s mission.”, so to elaborate its significant role in promoting the rule of law at the international level.

We are considering this year's theme under the present agenda item, namely, "the rule of law at the national and international levels at the eightieth anniversary of the United Nations", at a turbulent time that the rule of law is on the verge of a precipice; where fundamental principles of international law are grossly violated, its basic tenets being rendered meaningless by few, unilateralism is overriding multilateralism, entrenched and recurrent patterns of impunity going unpunished, flagrant violation of territorial integrity and sovereignty of States being normalized, and the very purposes and principles of the UN Charter being openly disregarded; all propelling the world towards the rule of jungle not that of law.

In such circumstances, the United Nations, which as per resolution 73/127 is considered as the utmost expression of multilateralism, retains its important role more than before in changing this perilous course of violence and violation and wield its power of multilateralism to promote the rule of law of at the international level while avoiding selectivity, double standards, and politicization and in compliance with international law including the fundamental principles enshrined in the UN Charter.

Mr. Chair.

The rule of law at the international level has constantly been undermined and threatened by the aggression, terrorism and other heinous crimes committed by the Israeli regime in the region and beyond. On 13 June 2025 the Israeli terrorist regime initiated an unprovoked and premeditated aggression against my country, deliberately attacking civilians and civilian infrastructure, killing more than a thousand, including women and children, leaving much more injured, while in full complicity with the United States targeting the Iranian IAEA-safeguarded peaceful nuclear facilities. In the course of its horrific aggression, the Israeli regime also targeted Iranian live broadcast TV, three hospitals including a children's hospital, a prison, energy infrastructure including refineries and the Iranian red crescent building, amongst others.

Impunity in the face of these blatant and gross violations and crimes, erodes the foundations of the rule of law at the global level; it is high time that the rule of law be restored, and the overdue justice be served. The persistent attacks and aggressions of the Israeli regime, which is based on occupation, against Palestinians and other people of the region must not go unpunished. Along similar lines, the UN Security Council should impose effective sanctions, enforcement action against the

Israeli regime under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. This is also consistent with the very essence of the recent advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice where it opined that the UN Security Council should delineate precise modalities for ending the occupation and proscribes any aid and any economic or trade dealing with the said regime that may be conducive to the maintenance of its occupation.

Along similar lines, we express grave concern on the non-implementation of the provisional measures rendered by the International Court of Justice on 26 January, 28 March and 24 May 2024 in the genocide case. We highlight the need to transpose legal obligations of Member States including the obligation to prevent and punish genocide into effective concrete measures to stop the ongoing genocide being committed by the Occupying Regime, while ensuring the delivery of safe, unhindered, at scale, and rapid humanitarian assistance including food, medicine, fuel to Palestinian people through the UNRWA mechanisms.

The Islamic Republic of Iran reaffirms its consistent principled position that a viable solution to the question of Palestine can only be achieved through the establishment of an independent, sovereign State of Palestine, rooted in the genuine will of its original inhabitants regardless of their religion whether Muslims, Jews or Christians, expressed through a free and inclusive referendum.

Mr. Chair.

We reiterate that unilateral coercive measures 1) constitute flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the fundamental principles of international law, 2) threaten international legal and economic order 3) hinder international cooperation, trade and investment, 4) undermine the right and freedom of States to engage in international economic cooperation, and to choose the forms of organization of their foreign economic relations, 5) while such unlawful measures also infringe upon the sovereign and inalienable right of States to choose their economic system without coercion, or threat in any form.

We express our serious concerns that unilateral coercive measures have serious negative humanitarian impacts including by impeding the access of affected population to medicine, medical services and equipment and other essential commodities, and further express our serious concerns that unilateral coercive measures have inflicted and continue to inflict severe conditions of life upon the whole population of targeted States and violate and deprive them of, among others, the right to life and the right to health.

We further highlight the need to enhance global awareness on the legal consequences as well as the negative impacts of unilateral coercive measures, among others, on the enjoyment of human rights. In this regard, we welcome the recent adoption of UNGA resolution 79/293, co-sponsored including by the Islamic Republic of Iran, designating 4 December of each year as the International Day against Unilateral Coercive Measures which serves as an important opportunity to uphold the rule of law in the face of these pressing impediments.

Mr. Chair.

To conclude, it is quite opportune to recall the particularly important role of the International Court of Justice as the principal judicial body of the United Nations in upholding the rule of law at the international level. The Court's competence and meticulous tasks in adjudication of disputes among states and rendering opinions in responses to legal questions in accordance with international law and within the ambits of its jurisdiction as well as its vindication of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations through its jurisprudence are among the main avenues that contributes to the rule of law on the part of the Court. On the auspicious occasion of the 80th anniversary of the United Nations, which is also the 80th anniversary of the International Court of Justice, we are confident that the Court's role and its continued independence strengthen the international rule of law and promote the advancement of peaceful dispute resolution.

I Thank you.