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Chair: Mr. Silva (Vice-Chair) (Brazil)
later: Mr. Kohona (Chair) (Sri Lanka)

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In the absence of Mr. Kohona (Sri Lanka), Mr. Silva (Brazil), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 110: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (*continued*) (A/68/37 and A/68/180)

1. **Mr. Kyaw** (Myanmar) said that his Government supported the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy as a framework for international counter-terrorism cooperation. The draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, once finalized, would further strengthen international cooperation on the issue, and his delegation hoped to see its early adoption by consensus. Pursuant to the relevant Security Council resolutions, his Government was working with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) to draft counter-terrorism and anti-money-laundering legislation, including a new extradition law that was in accordance with the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

2. Myanmar had consistently condemned terrorism, of which it had been a victim, in all its forms and manifestations. His Government subscribed to the view that counter-terrorism measures must be in line with the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and in conformity with international law. Myanmar had demonstrated its commitment to the fight against terrorism by becoming a party to numerous regional and international instruments, including 11 international counter-terrorism instruments as well as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Convention on Counter-Terrorism and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Convention on Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism, Transnational Organised Crime And Illicit Drug Trafficking. Myanmar had also established bilateral counter-terrorism agreements with neighbouring countries. Its domestic legislation on terrorism included laws on money-laundering and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters. It had established central control bodies and a financial intelligence unit and was a member of the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering.

3. Promoting tolerance and dialogue and enhancing interfaith and intercultural understanding were

important aspects of the fight against terrorism in Myanmar, as were prevention and capacity-building. His delegation urged the United Nations and other partners to step up their capacity-building assistance in developing countries. His Government welcomed such assistance in the areas of law enforcement, immigration and border control.

4. **Mr. Heumann** (Israel) said that the international community had yet to devise effective means of preventing suicide attacks. Abundant evidence showed that neither imprisonment nor the death penalty had a deterrent effect. Terrorism knew no borders and its victims were members of all cultures and religions. It was reprehensible, immoral and unjustifiable on political or other grounds and should be condemned, in all its forms and manifestations and irrespective of motivation. The only way to combat terrorism was through a zero-tolerance approach. Education was also key in the effort to counter the incitement, intolerance, hatred and glorification of death and martyrdom that fuelled terrorism and to foster a culture of peaceful coexistence.

5. Israeli citizens had been targets of terrorism for years, both at home and abroad. Heinous terrorist acts, perpetrated by Hizbullah in particular, were part of a global terrorist campaign aimed at Israeli and Western targets. Iran and its Al-Quds Force had been behind those terrorist attacks, which had affected countries from Cyprus to Thailand and from Kenya to Nigeria. The eyes of the world were now on Syria and the crimes committed against Syrian citizens by the Assad regime, which, not surprisingly, had cynically diverted attention away from its appalling abuses and towards Israel. The world now knew that the Assad regime had been stockpiling chemical weapons, which could fall into the hands of terrorist groups such as Hizbullah. Israel welcomed the European Union's recent designation of the military wing of Hizbullah as a terrorist organization.

6. International terrorism could not operate without funding. Disrupting the flow of funds that supported terrorism was a major counter-terrorism tool for States, one that could effectively stop the growth and the activities of terrorist organizations. Financial measures such as designation and freezing of assets, coupled with intelligence-sharing and cooperation by States, could stop the next deadly terrorist attack.

7. His delegation continued to support the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and welcomed the third review of the Strategy with its focus on victims of terrorism. His Government complied fully with Security Council resolution [1267 \(1999\)](#) and in January 2013 had updated its list of organizations and individuals involved in terrorism to reflect the most recent Security Council designations. Israel was a party to the core universal instruments on counter-terrorism and for many years had contributed through technical cooperation and other support to counter-terrorism initiatives.

8. His delegation supported the adoption of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism that would underscore the fundamental conviction that no cause or grievance justified terrorism in any form or manifestation. The achievement of consensus, however, must not come at the expense of undermining core principles, including a clear and effective definition of terrorism, which was essential in order to create an effective legal regime. Terrorism committed under the guise of martyrdom or so-called “acts of liberation” or in the name of certain causes or by certain groups could not be excused. Moreover, the Convention should not apply to State military action, which was governed by a different international legal framework.

9. **Mr. Och** (Mongolia) said that terrorism threatened peace and security at the national and international levels and destabilized legitimate governments. Measures to combat it must respect the principles and norms of the Charter, international law, the rule of law and human rights. Recognizing the need for a joint organized response by the international community and a comprehensive international framework to eliminate international terrorism, his delegation appreciated the efforts of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution [51/210](#) of 17 December 1996 to draft a comprehensive convention on international terrorism and supported constructive discussions aimed at convening a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations. It acknowledged the complexity of formulating a definition of terrorism and deciding on the scope of the convention and welcomed any concerted effort to reach agreement on outstanding issues not covered by existing conventions.

10. His Government endeavoured to contribute to international efforts to combat terrorism by preventing

its territory from being used to harbour terrorist assets or provide safe haven to terrorists. It had put in place legislative and institutional measures to fulfil its counter-terrorism obligations under international treaties, Security Council resolutions and the Global Strategy, which was the most comprehensive of the existing international instruments for fighting and preventing terrorism. Mongolia was a party to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime as well as the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and 10 other counter-terrorism conventions. His Government shared the concerns of the international community about the close links between terrorism and transnational organized crime and the use and transfer of weapons, and therefore welcomed the Arms Trade Treaty, to which it had recently become a signatory.

11. Acts of terrorism and related acts were punishable as crimes under Mongolia’s domestic law, and its intelligence agencies had investigative and prosecutorial powers. A coordinative council on counter-terrorism had been formed to oversee the exchange of information for terrorism prevention and to coordinate activities among relevant government agencies. A system for monitoring listed persons was in place. His Government was cooperating with the Financial Action Task Force and Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering with a view to improving its strategy for combating money-laundering and terrorist financing and had recently revised its legislation on the matter. It had also amended its Counter-Terrorism Law, which now included a new definition of “terrorist act”. In implementation of Security Council resolutions [1267 \(1999\)](#) and [1373 \(2001\)](#) and the FATF recommendations, it was considering draft procedures for freezing terrorist assets.

12. Measures to eliminate terrorism could not be successful as long as conditions conducive to its spread persisted. Unemployment, poverty and social and economic instability could trigger aggressive behaviour. Civic and human rights education were also needed to combat terrorism, and in that connection his delegation underlined the importance of General Assembly resolution [67/18](#) on education for democracy.

13. His delegation welcomed the work of United Nations bodies, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, in assisting countries in implementing the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. International cooperation should be enhanced through programmes and projects at regional and subregional levels and through technical assistance to enable developing countries to strengthen the capacity of their law enforcement authorities. In countries such as Mongolia, where terrorism was not a direct threat or a serious domestic concern, international cooperation could be most effective in the areas of prevention and preparedness. In that context, Mongolia sought support from the United Nations and major stakeholders for its proposal to host a subregional training centre on counter-terrorism.

14. *Mr. Kohona (Sri Lanka) took the Chair.*

15. **Ms. Ziade** (Lebanon) said that her Government strongly condemned terrorist acts in all their forms and considered them a serious threat to international peace and security and to fundamental human rights. Unanimous international condemnation had not yet been translated into a means of eliminating the scourge of terrorism. While the international community had been attempting for years to agree on a definition of terrorism, innocents continued to die as a result of terrorist strikes. Her delegation held the view that a distinction must be drawn between terrorism and the legitimate right of peoples to resist foreign occupation and noted that history was replete with examples of such acts of resistance, including the resistance against Nazi occupation in the Second World War. Terrorism had no religion, culture or nationality, and her delegation categorically rejected the association of terrorism with a specific religion, Islam or any other. Her Government had always been committed to building a culture of peace and dialogue, and it respected freedom of expression. Provocative acts that fuelled terrorism, however, could not be justified in the name of that freedom.

16. Her Government appreciated and affirmed its willingness to collaborate in the efforts of the United Nations to combat terrorism and encouraged Member States to provide assistance to build capacity with regard to the drafting and enforcement of counter-terrorism legislation. It also welcomed the initiative of the Government of Saudi Arabia in establishing the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre.

17. The rule of law and human rights norms must be respected in all measures taken to combat terrorism. It was also necessary to be alert to the link between terrorism and various kinds of transnational organized crime, including money-laundering, commonly used to finance terrorism. Combating terrorism effectively meant eliminating the factors that fuelled it, renouncing the application of double standards, promoting acceptance of and respect for “the other” and putting an end to foreign occupation, injustice, poverty and violations of human rights and human dignity.

18. Lebanon, which had acceded to most of the international conventions on counter-terrorism, had itself been the victim of terrorist bombings that had claimed numerous lives. The Lebanese security forces were fighting a number of terrorist groups and had succeeded in eliminating one of the most dangerous, Fatah al-Islam. For decades Lebanon had also been the victim of Israeli war crimes, which were equivalent to the most heinous forms of terrorism. Those crimes had included the bombing of civilian installations, such as power stations, airports and even hospitals and ambulances belonging to the Red Cross, and the United Nations compound in Qana, where women, children and disabled persons had taken shelter.

19. Her delegation noted with appreciation that the General Assembly had achieved a unified strategy to combat terrorism and hoped that the same unity of perspective would be reflected in a universal convention. That would be possible if the matter was dealt with in a manner consistent with the principles and norms of international law.

20. **Mr. Gonzales** (Monaco), paying tribute to the recent victims of terrorist attacks in Kenya, Nigeria and Pakistan and also to those in Iraq, Mali and Somalia, said that States and societies continued to be threatened by terrorism, despite the significant progress described in the report of the Secretary-General on the item (A/68/180). Terrorism could not be equated with any religion or nation. It was a universal threat that required a universal response. As terrorism was a criminal phenomenon, an objective legal approach, not a political one, was needed. The values and principles enshrined in the Charter were the best guarantees of success in the fight against terrorism. The adoption of a comprehensive international convention would be a decisive step

forward and would a valuable achievement of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

21. The United Nations had an essential role to play in strengthening the capacity of States to deter terrorism and in contributing to sustainable solutions to the poverty and intolerance on which it thrived. His delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's efforts to enhance coordination among the various counter-terrorism bodies. Cooperation among States, the United Nations, regional organizations, and private-sector entities and the sharing of information and best practices were the keys to success in combating terrorism.

22. His country's domestic legislation aimed at combating terrorism and terrorist financing was fully in line with the measures adopted by the European Union, which in turn were in line with the relevant Security Council resolutions. Monaco was a party to 13 international counter-terrorism conventions and would support a new comprehensive convention. Given the changing nature of the threat of terrorism, the international community's strategy for combating it must also continuously evolve, but always in consonance with international law and international humanitarian law.

23. **Mr. Mwamba Tshibangu** (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that terrorism was one of the foremost challenges currently facing humankind. Scarcely a day went by without news of a terrorist attack somewhere in the world. One of the most recent had been the attack carried out in the Westgate Mall in Nairobi. In the wake of that horrifying event, his delegation wished to express its heartfelt condolences and its solidarity with the people of Kenya.

24. The fight against international terrorism called for both legal and financial measures. The Democratic Republic of the Congo had ratified numerous international instruments related to terrorism, including the International Convention on the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and various instruments against organized crime. The Government had enacted legislation against terrorist financing and money-laundering and established a financial intelligence unit.

25. At the subregional level, his country had been instrumental in securing the adoption of the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and

Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and All Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly, known as the Kinshasa Convention. The world could be freed from the scourge of terrorism only through legal and judicial cooperation among all members of the United Nations so that no one who perpetrated or was complicit in an act of terrorism — regardless of nationality, language or religion — could escape punishment.

26. **Ms. Onanga** (Gabon) said that terrorism was not only a threat to human life and dignity but a negation of civilization. No cause, ideology or religion could justify the perpetration of atrocities such as the recent terrorist attack in Kenya. Her delegation condemned such acts in the strongest terms. The pervasiveness of terrorism called for a strong joint response by the international community. In adopting the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, Member States had reaffirmed their commitment to the fight against international terrorism. They should now consolidate the legal framework and strengthen the means for waging that fight by overcoming the differences of opinion that stood in the way of finalizing a comprehensive international convention against terrorism.

27. While all countries were subject to the scourge of terrorism, they did not all have equal capacity to combat the sophisticated methods employed by terrorists. Her delegation therefore called for capacity-building assistance for developing countries that took account of the specific needs of and threats faced, for example, by African countries. Combating terrorism was a collective responsibility, but one that should be undertaken in harmony with international commitments regarding respect for human rights and the elimination of poverty.

28. **Mrs. Byaje** (Rwanda) said that the Great Lakes region of Africa was particularly threatened by various terrorist organizations, as the recent terrorist attack by Al-Shabaab in Kenya had clearly illustrated. Her delegation strongly condemned that heinous attack and wished to express its sympathy to the people of Kenya. Another terrorist organization that posed a threat to the security and stability of the entire region was the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), a group composed of remnants of militias and soldiers of the previous Rwandan Government, which had carried out the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi. FDLR was responsible for massive gross violations of

human rights, including rape and other forms of sexual abuse. The United Nations and other sources had documented numerous cases of rape and terrorist attacks perpetrated by FDLR rebels in the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo as well as in Rwanda.

29. Rwanda had ratified all regional and international conventions against terrorism and had adopted pertinent laws and put in place key institutions for the prevention and suppression of terrorism. Her Government was committed to working hand-in-hand with neighbouring countries and the international community to fight international terrorism and would continue to collaborate in regional and international efforts to that end.

30. **Mr. Šćepanović** (Montenegro) said that terrorism was a global challenge that required an integrated and well-coordinated global response. At the same time, each State had an obligation to continuously analyse and monitor all potential terrorist threats and act appropriately to prevent them. Cooperative and comprehensive approaches were needed to address the complex threat of terrorism, and strengthening cooperation at the national, regional and international levels therefore had to be a priority.

31. Montenegro actively participated in the prevention and suppression of terrorism at the global and regional levels through the United Nations, the European Union and other organizations and initiatives. It was also a party to the major international counter-terrorism conventions. At the national level, his Government was implementing a national strategy for the prevention and suppression of terrorism, money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. It was committed to improving cooperation and information exchange with regional and international partners and to that end was adopting and implementing international standards and defining principles and procedures. It was also implementing training programs to familiarize judges and prosecutors with international conventions and laws and train judicial officials in their application. Training in recognizing and preventing radicalization and extremism was also being provided. Although Montenegro had never experienced a terrorist attack, the Government recognized that global terrorism and organized crime posed a serious threat to all countries and did its utmost to contribute to regional and international security. It focused its efforts chiefly on

prevention through the strengthening of regional and international cooperation, prevention of radicalization, monitoring of the movement of people and goods across land and sea borders and exchange of information.

32. In order to achieve the common goal of eliminating terrorism in all its forms, States should implement the recommendations of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and provide stronger support for the work of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, which had become one of the key elements in the international fight against terrorism. His delegation hoped that the process of finalizing the draft comprehensive convention on terrorism would be concluded in the near future and that it would be followed by the convening of a high-level conference. It welcomed the activities of the United Nations in establishing efficient mechanisms for fighting terrorism and recognized the important role of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, which served as a platform for promoting and coordinating international cooperation and counter-terrorism efforts. The Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee, with which Montenegro cooperated actively, also played an important role. His Government would continue to collaborate in international efforts to combat terrorism through the application of international conventions and protocols, exchange of information and best practices, cooperation in international legal assistance and related measures.

33. **Mr. Jiddou** (Mauritania) said that his Government condemned terrorism in all its forms and embraced the tolerant values of Islam, which rejected violence. The international community must intensify its efforts to combat and uproot terrorism, which was an international challenge. Effective international plans and programmes, the exchange of security-related information and coordination among all relevant agencies and all nations were needed. It was also necessary to address the underlying causes of the spread of terrorism, including the vulnerability of the economic infrastructure in some developing nations, which had contributed to poverty and school dropout, leading to a sense of hopelessness among many young people. Any solutions to terrorism should therefore incorporate financing for development in developing countries, particularly the least developed. Youth employment programs should be created in such

countries and their health and education systems should be strengthened.

34. For several years the Sahel region in Africa had been suffering as a result of the spread of organized crime, including smuggling of drugs and weapons, human trafficking and hostage-taking. His delegation called on the international community to support the nations of the region in combating such crimes.

35. **Mr. Percaya** (Indonesia), extending condolences to the Government and people of Kenya, said that the recent terrorist attack in that country had provided evidence of the increasing sophistication of international terrorist groups and their networks and pointed up the need for the international community to strengthen its commitment to the fight against international terrorism. His delegation affirmed its own commitment and its support for multilateral cooperation and for the primary role of the United Nations in that fight.

36. At the national level, his Government had enacted a law on prevention and suppression of terrorist financing, which laid the foundation for implementation of the international convention on the matter, to which Indonesia was a party. The law authorized law enforcement institutions, including the country's financial intelligence unit, to trace transactions conducted by individuals or entities suspected of involvement in terrorism. It would complement other legislation, including laws on the suppression of the crime of terrorism and prevention and suppression of money-laundering. Respect for human rights was an integral part of his Government's fight against terrorism, in line with its international human rights commitments and domestic laws on the promotion and protection of human rights. Law enforcement was also a key element in national counter-terrorism efforts, and a large number of terrorism cases had been solved and the perpetrators brought to justice, thereby strengthening the rule of law. Terrorism could not be addressed through hard measures alone, however, and Indonesia's national counter-terrorism strategy therefore also included measures such as de-radicalization.

37. His Government actively pursued regional and global cooperation on counter-terrorism. With other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Indonesia had strengthened regional cooperation through the ASEAN Convention on

Counter-Terrorism, which had been ratified by all States members of the Association. In addition, it currently chaired the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Counter-Terrorism Task Force. At the global level, it participated in the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and the Global Counterterrorism Forum. In order to enhance the sharing of knowledge and experience, it would work through the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation, which served as a platform for regional and global cooperation in capacity-building and had trained more than 13,000 participants from 68 countries.

38. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy should continue to be the foundation for multilateral cooperation, and its four pillars should be implemented in a comprehensive and balanced manner. A holistic response was required, one that addressed the root causes of terrorism and took account of a wide range of factors, from law enforcement to legislative frameworks and from socioeconomic policy to the advancement of democratic values. Terrorism should not be associated with any religion, culture or group. It was essential for the international community to galvanize its efforts to empower moderates, promote a spirit of tolerance and mutual understanding and intensify dialogue aimed at fostering better understanding among people of different faiths and cultures. The sixth Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations to be held in August 2014 would be an important opportunity for promoting mutual understanding, respect and tolerance. The media also had a crucial role to play in promoting tolerance, understanding and public dialogue and fostering mutual respect, cooperation and peace.

39. **Mr. Gharibi** (Islamic Republic of Iran), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that it was surprising that the representative of Israel, which had been well known as a terrorist regime since its illegitimate inception, would level accusations against a State that had witnessed the loss of over 17,000 of its citizens during the previous 34 years as a result of heinous terrorist incidents directly sponsored by elements of the Israeli regime. There was no doubt that Israel had been responsible for aggression, occupation and the killing of civilians, including women and children, as well as crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and other criminal acts, and for turning millions of Palestinians into refugees. Its

network of State terrorism had carried out a long list of deadly operations all over the world, including, to name one example, the brutal killing of innocent Iranian scientists before the terrified eyes of their families. As the starting point for uprooting terrorism all over the world, the international community should put a stop to those and other dirty forms of terrorism supported and sponsored by the Israeli regime.

Agenda item 85: The rule of law at the national and international levels (A/68/213)

40. **Mr. Eliasson** (Deputy Secretary-General), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities (A/68/213), said that the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the rule of law at the national and international levels held at its sixty-seventh session and the resulting Declaration adopted unanimously by all Member States (resolution 67/1), had marked a milestone in the common understanding of the rule of law. The Declaration had strengthened the links between the rule of law and the three pillars of the United Nations: peace and security, human rights and sustainable development. As requested by the General Assembly, the Secretary-General was now undertaking a wide process of consultations with stakeholders to develop a comprehensive approach to the rule of law that was closely linked to the three pillars.

41. The Committee's debate during the present session would focus on the rule of law and the peaceful settlement of international disputes, which was a core principle of the Charter. It had been the determination to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war which had motivated States to create the United Nations, and one of the Organization's basic purposes was to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace. Observance of the rule of law was a cornerstone of the peaceful settlement of international disputes. The principles and norms of international law provided the parameters that guided relationships between States and the tools for resolving disputes. The International Court of Justice obviously had a special role to play in settling disputes, and the Secretary-General had launched a campaign to persuade more States to accept its compulsory jurisdiction. Judicial settlement was not the only means for resolving disputes, however; Chapter VI of the Charter provided a comprehensive

list of mechanisms, including negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements, or other peaceful means that the parties to a dispute might choose. In his view, those mechanisms and the regional arrangements envisaged under Chapter VIII were underutilized.

42. In 1970 the General Assembly had adopted the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations (resolution 2625 (XXV)), which had highlighted the commitment of States to settle their disputes peacefully. In 1982 the General Assembly had reaffirmed the responsibility of States to exert utmost efforts in order to settle any conflicts and disputes exclusively by peaceful means when it had adopted the Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes (resolution 37/10), which had called on States to make full use of the provisions of the Charter, particularly the means provided for in Chapter VI.

43. The Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Rule of Law further underscored the importance of the mechanisms set forth in that chapter, particularly Article 33. The tools provided in that Article were not limited to peaceful resolution of disputes between States; they could also be useful in preventing situations within States that might give rise to international friction. They could help to address the three pillars of the responsibility to protect: the primary responsibility of a State to protect its population; international assistance to ensure that that responsibility was fulfilled; or, as a last resort, a response to grave violations.

44. Strengthening the rule of law within and between States was one of the most effective means of fulfilling the responsibility to protect all peoples. The Secretary-General's report (A/68/213) provided an update on projects and initiatives undertaken to strengthen the rule of law and on measures adopted with regard to institutional arrangements for supporting the rule of law. Major steps had been taken to improve coordination at Headquarters and in the field and to strengthen strategic guidance and priority-setting, for example by enhancing the power of United Nations field leaders and making them responsible and accountable for guiding and overseeing United Nations rule of law strategies at country level. The Committee's

work had greatly contributed to the progress achieved in consolidating the rule of law as one of the foundational principles of the Secretariat's work, and he thanked Member States for their continuing support of that work.

45. **Mr. Dehghani** (Islamic Republic of Iran), speaking on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, said that the rule of law at the international level had been the theme of the Movement's annual ministerial meeting in September 2013. Respect for the rule of law at the national and international levels was essential to maintaining international peace and security and achieving socioeconomic development. The high-level meeting of the previous year had indeed marked a milestone in the General Assembly's discussions on the rule of law and its efforts to develop a common understanding among Member States, and the outcome Declaration was well-balanced. The Movement would spare no efforts in continuing those discussions in the Committee, in cooperation with other partners.

46. It was essential to maintain a balance between the national and international dimensions of the rule of law. The Movement was of the view that the latter dimension needed greater attention on the part of the United Nations. The Charter provided normative guidance regarding the basis of the rule of law at the international level. Efforts to foster international relations based on the rule of law should be guided, in particular, by the principles of sovereign equality of States, prohibition of the threat or use of force in international relations and peaceful settlement of disputes. The principle of sovereign equality entailed, *inter alia*, that all States should have an equal opportunity to participate in law-making processes at the international level. In addition, all States should comply with their obligations under treaties and customary international law. Selective application of international law must be avoided and the legitimate and legal rights of States under it respected.

47. The Non-Aligned Movement welcomed the theme of the current year's debate and encouraged States to strive to settle disputes peacefully, using the mechanisms and tools established under international law, including the International Court of Justice, treaty-based courts, such as the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, and arbitration. The Movement called upon the General Assembly and the Security Council to make use, whenever appropriate, of their right under

Article 96 of the Charter to request advisory opinions on legal questions from the International Court of Justice. Human rights, the rule of law and democracy were interdependent and mutually reinforcing. The purposes and principles of the Charter and the principles of international law were of paramount importance for peace and security, the rule of law, economic development, social progress and human rights for all, and Member States should renew their commitment to uphold, preserve and promote them.

48. The Non-Aligned Movement remained concerned about the use of unilateral measures, which had a negative impact on the rule of law and international relations. No State or group of States had the authority to deprive other States of their legal rights for political reasons. The Movement condemned any attempt to destabilize the democratic and constitutional order in any of its member States.

49. The Movement also wished to underscore the need for Member States to respect the functions and powers of the principal organs of the United Nations, particularly the General Assembly, and to maintain the balance among them. The continuing encroachment by the Security Council on the functions and powers of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council remained a matter of concern. The General Assembly should play a leading role in promoting and coordinating efforts to strengthen the rule of law. The international community should not, however, supplant national authorities in their task of establishing or strengthening the rule of law at the national level. National ownership in rule of law activities was important, as was strengthening the capacity of Member States to implement their international obligations, including through enhanced technical assistance and capacity-building. United Nations funds and programmes should provide such assistance, but only at the request of Governments and within their respective mandates. Account should be taken of the customs and the political and socioeconomic features of each country, and the imposition of pre-established models should be avoided.

50. Appropriate mechanisms should be established to enable Member States to keep abreast of the work of the Rule of Law Unit and to ensure regular interaction between the Unit and the General Assembly. The lack of an agreed definition of rule of law should be taken into account in the preparation of reports and in the collection, classification and evaluation of the quality

of data on issues directly or indirectly related to the rule of law. The data-gathering activities of United Nations bodies should not lead to unilateral formulation of rule of law indicators or ranking of countries. Indicators should be agreed by Member States in an open and transparent manner.

51. Cognizant of the importance of the rule of law within the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement welcomed the new system of administration of justice in the United Nations and supported initiatives to hold United Nations personnel accountable for any instances of misconduct while serving in an official capacity. The Movement also welcomed the General Assembly's adoption of resolution 67/19, according to Palestine the status of non-member observer State in the United Nations and reflecting the international community's longstanding, principled support for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including self-determination, independence, and a two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders. The Movement reaffirmed its support of the State of Palestine's application for admission to full membership in the United Nations.

52. While the Movement underlined the importance of freedom of opinion and expression, as provided under article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, it wished to emphasize that morality, public order and the rights and freedoms of others must be recognized and respected in the exercise of that freedom. Freedom of expression was not absolute and it should be exercised with responsibility and in accordance with the relevant international human rights law and instruments.

53. **Mr. Reyes Rodríguez** (Cuba), speaking on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), said that in the Declaration of Santiago adopted at the first CELAC summit in January 2013 the members of the Community had reiterated their commitment to international law; peaceful settlement of disputes and prohibition of the threat or use of force; respect for the self-determination of peoples under colonial domination and foreign occupation and for sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-intervention in the internal affairs of States; protection and promotion of human rights; the rule of law at the national and international levels; and democracy. The Community was also committed to working to promote prosperity for all and eradicate discrimination, inequality, marginalization and

violations of human rights and of the rule of law. The CELAC countries were also committed to upholding those same principles as States Members of the United Nations, in order to establish a just and lasting peace all over the world in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter.

54. Respect for the rule of law at the international level implied compliance with existing international norms and acknowledgement that the rule of law applied equally to all States and to international organizations, including the United Nations and its principal organs. It was the obligation of States to settle their international disputes by peaceful means of their choice and with due regard for the relevant General Assembly resolutions. CELAC was convinced that peace and security at the international level were fundamental for strengthening the rule of law. Full implementation of the obligations set forth in the Charter and in other international instruments, in turn, was central to collective efforts to maintain international peace and security, effectively address emerging threats and ensure accountability for international crimes.

55. CELAC stressed the importance of continuing efforts to revitalize the General Assembly, strengthen the Economic and Social Council and reform the Security Council in order to render it a more effective, democratic, representative and transparent organ. It also underlined the importance of reform of the governance structures, quotas and voting rights of the Bretton Woods institutions in order to enhance their effectiveness, credibility, accountability and legitimacy.

56. CELAC was committed to strengthening and promoting the rule of law at the national level through dialogue, cooperation and solidarity among its members. Mechanisms in Latin American and the Caribbean had played a significant role in that regard. The Community recognized the importance of national ownership in rule of law activities and the need to ensure the existence of a transparent legal system accessible to all, solid democratic institutions and laws, independent and impartial judicial systems and adequate redress mechanisms for human rights violations in order to provide a framework for political and social development. It also recognized the necessary link between the rule of law at the international and national levels.

57. CELAC strongly urged States to refrain from promulgating and applying unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter that would impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries. Strengthening the rule of law was not an exclusive concern of certain countries or regions, but a global aspiration to be governed by agreed values, principles and norms and created through open, predictable and recognized processes that took into account national perspectives. The Community welcomed United Nations activities aimed at strengthening the rule of law, but noted that there was room for improvement in order to avoid duplication and increase efficiency in the Organization's activities.

58. The rule of law and development were strongly interrelated and mutually reinforcing. Advancement of the rule of law at the national and international levels was essential for sustained and inclusive economic growth, sustainable development, the eradication of poverty and hunger and the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development — all of which in turn reinforced the rule of law. In that connection, CELAC noted the recognition of the importance of the rule of law in the outcome document of the recent special event hosted by the President of the General Assembly to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (resolution 68/6).

59. Mindful of the theme of the current debate, the Community underlined the importance of Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular its Article 33, and of the relevant General Assembly resolutions and other means of peaceful settlement of disputes, including the good offices of the Secretary-General. It also emphasized the importance of further developing the linkage between the rule of law in all its aspects and the three pillars of the United Nations.

60. **Mr. Kommasith** (Lao People's Democratic Republic), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that full implementation of the obligations established under the Charter and respect for the fundamental principles of international law — in particular the principles of sovereign equality of States, peaceful settlement of disputes and territorial integrity — were essential for international peace and security. ASEAN recognized that the rule of law underpinned all aspects of the

interactions between States and other actors in international relations. It was fundamental for ensuring justice, equality, stability and sustainable economic development and was an effective means of strengthening friendly relations and promoting international cooperation among nations. Selectivity and double standards in the application of international law must be avoided, however.

61. The fundamental principles of the rule of law — including peace and security, peaceful settlement of disputes, democracy, good governance and respect for the promotion and protection of human rights — were enshrined in the ASEAN Charter. The landmark ASEAN Human Rights Declaration, recently adopted by ASEAN leaders, emphasized that the rule of law and the protection and promotion of human rights were intertwined and mutually reinforcing. The rule of law was also an effective tool for promoting sustainable economic development through the ASEAN Economic Community.

62. Since its inception in 1967, ASEAN had evolved from a loose grouping into a rule-based organization with its own Charter and legal personality. Striving to build a community governed by the rule of law, the Association had intensified its efforts to establish the ASEAN Community by 2015. The theme of the twenty-third ASEAN Summit held in October 2013, "Our People, Our Future Together", highlighted the effort to build a politically cohesive, economically integrated, culturally harmonious and socially responsible community. Other countries had increasingly shown interest in acceding to key ASEAN legal documents aimed at fostering stability and security in the region, such as the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia and the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone. The ASEAN Governments and the Government of the People's Republic of China had signed the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea and were pursuing the adoption of a code of conduct that would help to foster trust among the countries of the region. The adoption of those legal frameworks and mechanisms demonstrated the commitment of the ASEAN member States to fulfilling their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and under international treaties. ASEAN stood ready to work with partners, especially the United Nations, in strengthening and promoting the rule of law at the international, regional and national levels, and it

supported the continuing consideration of the item by the General Assembly.

63. **Mr. Marhic** (Observer for the European Union), speaking also on behalf of the candidate countries Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the stabilization and association process countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that the high-level meeting of the previous year had been a milestone in the development of a coherent approach to the rule of law. In the Declaration adopted by consensus, the world's leaders had affirmed the fundamental importance of the rule of law for peace and security, human rights, and development, the three main pillars on which the United Nations was built. They had also called for the interrelationship between the rule of law and development to be reflected in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015. In each of the areas covered by the Declaration, the European Union and its Member States had made substantive pledges, backed up by concrete measures, aimed at strengthening the rule of law. The European Union encouraged further pledges and their fulfilment by Member States.

64. Respect for the rule of law was an essential condition for peace, stability and development and should be pursued at both national and international levels. It was also inextricably linked to the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The United Nations should continue to promote the rule of law internationally, viewing it as a principle of governance that was equally important in all societies.

65. The European Union countries attached great importance to the methods for preventing and settling disputes set out in Articles 33 to 38 of the Charter of the United Nations. During the current session it looked forward, in particular, to reviewing progress in the area of mediation. Judicial mechanisms played an important role in the prevention and resolution of legal disputes. Early and more frequent resort to mechanisms such as the International Court of Justice, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and the Permanent Court of Arbitration would greatly contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security and the promotion of the primacy of international law in the relations between States. The European Union called upon all States that had not yet done so to consider accepting the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice.

66. The European Union was also a strong supporter of the International Criminal Court and other international criminal tribunals, particularly those for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, in their efforts to fight impunity. The decision of the Special Court for Sierra Leone to uphold the conviction and confirm the sentence of former President Charles Taylor for war crimes and crimes against humanity represented a major step forward in that regard. Cooperation with the International Criminal Court and enforcement of its decisions was essential to enable the Court to carry out its mandate. It was also crucial for all States to refrain from helping to shelter or hide perpetrators of the most serious crimes and to take the necessary steps to bring them to justice. The European Union encouraged all States Members of the United Nations to ratify or accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and to incorporate its provisions into their domestic legislation.

67. Sanctions were a valuable tool in the maintenance of global peace and security, and implementation of relevant sanction measures by all United Nations Member States was of utmost importance. Regarding targeted sanctions regimes, the European Union noted the importance of the recent case law in the European Court of Justice. It remained convinced that fair and clear procedures and respect for the rule of law were necessary to uphold the legitimacy and efficiency of such regimes, and it welcomed the significant steps taken by the Secretary-General to reinforce fair and clear sanctions procedures, including through enhancing the role of the Office of the Ombudsperson of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution [1267 \(1999\)](#) and the publication of delisting procedures online.

68. The European Union and its Member States welcomed efforts to ensure the coordination and coherence of United Nations rule of law activities, including the critical work carried out by the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group, the Rule of Law Unit and the global focal point for the police, justice and corrections in the rule of law in post-conflict and other crisis situations. It cooperated closely with the global focal point and was providing concrete rule of law assistance to many countries, particularly those in post-crisis situations. Through European Union initiatives, Mali and Somalia, for example, were receiving support in strengthening democracy, the rule of law and access to justice. Many

European Union crisis management operations also focused on the rule of law, the most recent example being a training mission in Mali under the general framework of Security Council resolution 2085 (2012) to help Malian authorities to restore constitutional and democratic order.

69. The European Union supported further comprehensive General Assembly discussions on the linkages between the rule of law and the three main pillars of the United Nations and looked forward to the results of the consultations on the subject currently being carried out pursuant to the Declaration of the High-level Meeting.

70. **Ms. Burgstaller** (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden), said that the Declaration of the High-level Meeting had affirmed the interrelationship between the rule of law and the three main pillars of the United Nations and provided a foundation on which to build global visions, norms, standards and practices relating to the rule of law. Moreover, it had signalled that the rule of law was an important consideration in the formulation of the post-2015 international development agenda. The rule of law was not just a critical condition for peace, security, human rights and development; it had value in and of itself. The nature of that value had to be articulated and explained, however, and no actor was better placed for that task than the United Nations, particularly the General Assembly. The Organization's work in that area should therefore be stepped up.

71. Strengthening the rule of law in law enforcement, justice, and corrections was obviously important and should continue to be a priority, but above all the rule of law should be regarded as a principle of governance that applied wherever public authority was exercised or where individuals interacted with the State and its agents. In the absence of proper legal procedures for issuing birth certificates and identify documents, for instance, individuals would not be able to enjoy even the most basic of rights. The interdependence between the rule of law and gender equality should also be considered. The extent to which women could play a role in achieving and maintaining peace, for example, seemed to be dependent on the existence of a degree of rule of law.

72. The fight against impunity for the most serious international crimes was at the core of the rule of law

agenda. The Nordic countries staunchly supported the International Criminal Court and the various international criminal tribunals and attached great importance to the strengthening of the international criminal justice system. Transitional justice and mediation mechanisms should be part of rule of law strategies in post-conflict situations. The Permanent Court of Arbitration and the International Court of Justice also had an important role in upholding the rule of law; the latter was underutilized as a tool for peaceful settlement of disputes.

73. More effective mechanisms were needed to implement rule of law activities. The global focal point initiative was promising and should be expanded to cover as many aspects of the rule of law as possible, allowing for holistic approaches and ensuring maximum synergy. The United Nations Development Programme and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations should join hands with United Nations specialized agencies and other actors in order to make the most effective use of new concepts and tools. Another important task was to ensure the inclusions of rule of law considerations in the post-2015 development agenda.

74. For the United Nations to lead in addressing the needs and challenges in relation to the rule of law, it required strategic and analytical capabilities. The role of the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group was therefore critical. The ongoing consultation process should be continued and expanded with a view to establishing linkages with a wide range of public and private stakeholders concerned with the rule of law.

75. **Mr. McLay** (New Zealand) said that his delegation placed great importance on the rule of law and on the international courts and tribunals designed to enforce it. At the domestic level, the rule of law underpinned New Zealand's system of government and, together with freedom, democracy and human rights, was consistently reflected in its foreign policy. Internationally, the rule of law provided a common framework of norms and standards for addressing issues that transcended borders and could help to level the playing field for small States such as New Zealand in preventing and addressing conflicts.

76. Adherence to the rule of law was fundamental to the maintenance of international peace and security. All United Nations institutions had a role to play in

advancing the rule of law and its effective implementation, particularly in times of conflict. That critically important role had been reflected in Security Council resolution 2118 (2013) on the situation in Syria. There was no graver situation currently calling for action in accordance with the rule of law than that in Syria, and the international community must make an appropriate response. The use of chemical weapons was contrary to international law, and the suffering it had caused in Syria was particularly abhorrent. His delegation condemned the use of those weapons and welcomed the progress made towards destroying them.

77. The situation in Syria was a timely reminder of the importance of the rule of law not only in resolving violent conflict but also in preventing it. The rule of law was an essential building block of a secure and stable society, and it was necessary for sustained and inclusive economic development. For those reasons, his delegation welcomed the emerging focus on justice, the rule of law and good governance as cross-cutting themes for the post-2015 development agenda.

78. His Government continued to support partners in the Western Pacific region and elsewhere in building effective law enforcement agencies, ensuring access to adequate legal representation and creating independent and competent judiciaries, notably in Timor-Leste, which was one of many post-conflict countries that had recognized the importance of effective rule of law institutions in consolidating peace and stability. Indeed, the Government of that country was now assisting other post-conflict countries through the Group of Seven Plus. Regional organizations could also advance the rule of law by providing forums for their member countries to discuss regional issues and settle differences peacefully.

79. Differences between States would inevitably arise, and at times the involvement of an impartial arbiter would be required to resolve them. Recourse to such mechanisms should not be considered an unfriendly act between States but rather an act that exemplified their mutual commitment to the rule of law. The International Court of Justice, to which his Government had had recourse on a number of occasions, was an effective mechanism for resolving disputes between States, as was the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. Hybrid courts, such as those in Cambodia and Sierra Leone, had played a vital role in developing national legal systems and promoting the rule of law, as well as ensuring

accountability, in post-conflict societies, and their location in local settings had allowed for greater ownership on the part of the States concerned and led to a greater level of reconciliation. Alternative mechanisms of justice and reconciliation had also helped to foster the rule of law and bring about justice in countries such as South Africa and Rwanda.

80. The rule of law was not an abstract legal principle. Rather, it must be seen in the context of actions taken by States, collectively and individually, to implement it. It was those actions that would give meaning to the Committee's discussions of the topic.

81. **Mr. Stuerchler Gonzenbach** (Switzerland) said that it was essential to implement the Declaration of the High-level Meeting through concrete action. His delegation therefore welcomed the consultation process launched by the Secretary-General on strengthening the rule of law. It also welcomed the publication of the guidelines on interaction between United Nations representatives and persons who were subject of arrest warrants or summonses issued by the International Criminal Court, which would strengthen transparency and support the Court in carrying out its mandate. It was regrettable that the International Court of Justice had not been unable to reach its full potential with respect to peaceful settlement of international disputes because only a third of United Nations Member States had accepted its jurisdiction, although instruments enabling States to do so existed; the European Convention for the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes was one example. However, those instruments were not sufficiently well known or used. With a view to rectifying that situation, his Government was working with those of the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Uruguay to draft a document, to be published in 2014, describing the existing instruments and containing model declarations and clauses for accepting the Court's jurisdiction.

82. **Mrs. Kasese-Bota** (Zambia) said that the rule of law at the international level applied to all States equally and to international organizations. It could be a useful tool in the resolution of disputes at the international level, but its effectiveness depended on the availability of institutional mechanisms and legal frameworks and, most importantly, on strict adherence to the principles of the rule of law, particularly those of supremacy of the law, accountability under the law, equality before the law and fairness in its application. Adherence to those principles was cardinal in ensuring

respect for the institutions vested with the power of adjudication of international disputes. Supremacy of the law meant that the international community should be guided by the law as set out in the relevant legal instruments, which also respected the supremacy of Member States' legal frameworks. Equality before the law meant that all sovereign States were equal. Accountability under the law meant that all States and international organizations should be accountable to relevant institutions for their actions. Fairness in the application of the law required non-selective application of the law to all Member States without discrimination.

83. Zambia continued to support the promotion of the rule of law at the international level by contributing troops and other personnel to serve in conflict and post-conflict situations around the world. It would continue rendering assistance to the United Nations in order to achieve the global aspiration of a peaceful and orderly world based on the rule of law.

84. At the national level, the Constitution of Zambia recognized the equality of all persons before the law. To ensure that equality, her Government had established various oversight bodies, including a human rights commission, an anti-corruption commission, a judicial complaints authority and a police public complaints authority, to ensure the accountability of public, judicial and law enforcement officers and promote fairness in the application of the law. The Constitution was currently being reviewed with a view to enhancing democracy, and a policy of zero tolerance for corruption was in place.

85. Developing countries continued to face challenges in implementing the rule of law. There was a need for greater investment in human capital and increased funding to support the establishment of governance structures. Her Government was grateful for the support it had received and called upon the international community to provide more technical and capacity-building assistance.

86. **Ms. Rodríguez Pineda** (Guatemala), noting that the principal function of the United Nations was not to create international mechanisms to replace national structures but rather to build national capacity in the sphere of justice, said that the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala, an initiative of her country's Government and the United Nations launched in 2006, had achieved remarkable

success with regard to the prosecution of emblematic cases, technical capacity-building and promotion of legislation. It had been a model for innovative and effective institutional strengthening and had demonstrated that it was possible to fight and eliminate impunity. Her delegation valued the partnership that had been established through the Commission between the Government of Guatemala, the United Nations and the donor community, and trusted that when the Commission reached the end of its mandate in 2015 Guatemala's domestic institutions would have been sufficiently strengthened to fulfil their responsibility as part of a sovereign and democratic nation.

87. The Declaration of the High-level Meeting had given fresh impetus to the rule of law in the agenda of the United Nations, and it was important to maintain that momentum, particularly in respect of three aspects of the Declaration: first, the recognition that the rule of law was of fundamental importance for the further development of the three main pillars upon which the United Nations was built; second, the recognition that the rule of law applied to all States equally and to international organizations, including the United Nations; and third, the Secretary-General's recognition, in the light of the Declaration, of the need to mainstream the rule of law in the work of the United Nations.

88. The role of the United Nations in consolidating the rule of law and ensuring the peaceful settlement of disputes and the maintenance of international peace was more important than ever. Her delegation supported continued effort to enhance the Organization's capacity to prevent situations that posed a threat to peace and assist States in resolving disputes in accordance with the procedures set out in the Charter. It should be recalled, however, that the dispute settlement methods envisaged in Article 33 could be applied only with the consent of the States concerned. States were free to choose how they wished to resolve disputes, as had been recognized in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations (General Assembly resolution [26/25](#) (XXV)) and the Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes (General Assembly resolution [37/10](#)). Moreover, no method of dispute settlement was inherently better than another. The most suitable

method would depend on the circumstances and the nature of the dispute.

89. **Mr. Sousa Bravo** (Mexico), recalling that his delegation and that of Liechtenstein had first proposed, in 2006, the inclusion of the item of the rule of law at the national and international levels in the agenda of the General Assembly, said that the Declaration of the High-level Meeting had provided a roadmap for further work on the topic, particularly with a view to developing the linkages between the rule of law and the three pillars of the United Nations. With regard to the rule of law and the peaceful settlement of disputes, his delegation recognized the essential contribution of the various international courts and tribunals and considered that States' acceptance of their jurisdiction would advance the rule of law. It supported the work of the International Criminal Court and the hybrid criminal courts and tribunals in preventing impunity and ensuring accountability for international crimes. States' fulfilment of their obligations under international law and of their duty to seek peaceful means of resolving international disputes were cornerstones of the rule of law at the international level and essential conditions for international peace and security, human rights and development.

90. His delegation welcomed the inclusion of the rule of law as one of the cross-cutting themes in the recent special event on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and in the work under way on the formulation of the post-2015 international development agenda. It was firmly convinced of the strong interrelationship between the rule of law at the national and international levels and the achievement of economic growth, sustainable development, the eradication of poverty and hunger and the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. The rule of law was an engine for progress in all countries, regardless of their level of development. It was essential for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and should be the centrepiece of the new development agenda.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.