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Chair: Mr. Biang (Gabon)
later: Ms. Ponce (Vice-Chair) (Philippines)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Statement by the President of the General Assembly

1. **Ms. Espinosa Garcés** (Ecuador), President of the General Assembly, said that the rule of law was in many ways the foundation upon which rested the three pillars of the United Nations; it was not possible to guarantee human rights, achieve sustainable development or establish peace and security in the absence of the rule of law.

2. It was essential to take measures to eliminate international terrorism and to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, taking into account the fact that terrorist attacks, though smaller than in the past, were more frequent and more dispersed. In West Africa, for instance, Boko Haram and its affiliates continued to terrorize remote villages while at times also abducting children, using women and children as weapons and carrying out attacks on public spaces. While Member States had strengthened their capacities to prevent and respond to such attacks, there remained a critical need for a comprehensive global approach to the problem. In that connection, it should be borne in mind that the cost of surveillance and security cooperation could be an enormous burden on developing countries.

3. In order to eradicate terrorism, the various drivers of alienation, extremism, exclusion and incitement must be addressed in parallel and in an integrated manner. In that context, it was important to finalize the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. Although the lack of consensus in the Committee was delaying that process, the General Assembly had adopted three other counter-terrorism instruments: the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

4. Access to justice and the rule of law should be enhanced at all levels so as to promote development initiatives in areas as varied as the protection of forests, housing safety and decent working conditions. Civil society organizations, in particular advocacy groups, were doing impressive work on the development of mobile applications to improve access to justice in relation to issues such as illegal pretrial detention. She urged delegations to find creative ways to improve the work of the United Nations by obtaining input from outside the Organization.

5. With regard to the criminal accountability of United Nations officials and experts on mission, the

General Assembly had again expressed concern about allegations of fraud, corruption, sexual exploitation and other crimes committed by United Nations staff and affiliates while on mission. Stressing the need to maintain a policy of zero tolerance of such crimes, she requested the Committee to continue to consider the legal aspects of the issue.

6. She commended the International Law Commission, which played a crucial role in the progressive development and codification of international law, on the work of its seventieth anniversary session.

7. In closing, she emphasized that the work of the United Nations must respond to the needs and interests of the people. Furthermore, the United Nations must work to ensure that the Charter was upheld, and that international law underpinned all its activities.

Agenda item 86: The rule of law at the national and international levels (*continued*) (A/73/253)

8. **Mr. Giacomelli da Silva** (Brazil) said that, like all socially constructed systems, international law did not sustain itself on its own but must be nurtured, developed and protected. The United Nations had been founded with the aim of building an international order based on justice and cooperation. The systemic stress witnessed in the early years of the twenty-first century carried the risk of undermining respect for the Charter of the United Nations, particularly the rules governing the use of force, and each expression of disregard for international law by any actor indirectly encouraged similar behaviour from others. No country, however powerful, was exempt from rigorous compliance with its international legal obligations. Claims of exceptionalism were intrinsically incompatible with a rules-based system. In an increasingly multipolar world, the Charter must remain at the centre of the international order. It was essential to continuously reflect on the contradictions, asymmetries, gaps and weaknesses of the United Nations and to propose solutions that would help strengthen multilateralism by ensuring respect for the rule of law at the national and international levels, as well as within the Organization.

9. The rule of law signified not only the establishment of enforceable standards of behaviour but also the promotion of inclusion through the legal empowerment of vulnerable groups. Ensuring access to justice was crucial for tackling the root causes of poverty and exclusion, since it contributed to the full enjoyment of rights and public services. Access to justice was much more than access to courts. It also involved universal birth registration, the provision of

legal aid and the strengthening of alternative dispute resolution. Brazil, for its part, strove to provide people with a legal identity, including those in remote areas and migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. Once an asylum seeker had been granted refugee status, he or she received an identity card, had access to public medical assistance and was eligible to study and to work.

10. States should provide free and effective legal aid to vulnerable populations to enable them to exercise their rights. Recourse to mediation and conciliation should be promoted, since such mechanisms were swift, cost-effective and led to higher rates of spontaneous compliance. His Government's efforts to promote access to courts ranged from minimizing the administrative fees and collateral costs of seeking judicial remedies to increasing the judiciary's capacity of response. Innovative tools had been developed to accelerate judicial proceedings, with a clear role for information technology and improved statistics.

11. Statelessness hampered access to justice and therefore the rule of law, since people without nationality were prevented from fully enjoying rights, public services and economic opportunities. The midpoint in 2019 of the Global Action Plan to End Statelessness 2014–2024 would offer an opportunity to review progress and renew efforts towards implementation. The debate under the current agenda item, including under a new subtopic, could bring more attention to the importance of implementing the Plan. The main innovative feature of his country's 2014 Migration Act, which contained an entire section on the protection of stateless persons and the reduction of statelessness, was the establishment of a procedure for determining statelessness that protected the rights enshrined in the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, facilitated family reunification and allowed for naturalization after only two years of residence.

12. His delegation regretted that, at its previous session, the General Assembly had been unable to agree on a subtopic for the debate in 2018 under the current agenda item. Agreement on a particular subtopic for each year provided a focus for the work of the Committee. Brazil welcomed the suggestions for subtopics made by the Secretary-General in his report (A/73/253) and encouraged the General Assembly to restore its previous practice in that regard.

13. **Mr. Kayinamura** (Rwanda), recalling that the current agenda item had long been on the Committee's agenda, said that his Government commended the efforts of the United Nations to strengthen the rule of law. At the national level, it agreed with the approach

adopted, which involved strengthening national ownership of reform initiatives, developing strategic approaches aligned with national needs and coordinating activities with key stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector. At the international level, his Government likewise endorsed the United Nations approach, which was focused on the need to foster the rule of law through the codification, development, promotion and implementation of an international framework of norms based on analysis of the role of international courts, tribunals and non-judicial mechanisms.

14. The rule of law applied to everyone without exception, including political activists, and must take into account each country's historical and sociocultural realities. It was not an abstract idea; its purpose was to ensure accountability for wrongdoers and justice for their victims. It must, however, serve the interests of social harmony as well as justice. In his country, for instance, following the genocide, there had been a strong case for a punitive approach, but his Government had sought to balance the strict application of the punitive provisions of the law with restorative alternatives. Home-grown solutions using the *gacaca* traditional courts had served Rwanda better than any other legal system could have done.

15. Ensuring practical equality among States required inclusiveness in the development of international law and fair and just application of the law. The development and implementation of international legal norms played a key role in achieving international peace and stability. The international justice system must be strengthened to promote adherence to the principles of international law and must avoid bias and political manipulations. Good governance at the international level, including in the United Nations, was fundamental to strengthening the rule of law.

16. Noting that rule of law assistance had sometimes been piecemeal and driven by donors rather than by the national priorities of recipient countries, his delegation reiterated the call to strengthen the capacity of States, particularly developing countries, in that area. There was an urgent need to move towards nationally driven, sustainable approaches.

17. **Mr. Kemble** (Netherlands) said that his Government wished to extend its appreciation to the thousands of police officers and hundreds of judicial affairs and corrections officers who were taking part in United Nations peacekeeping operations around the world. They were at the forefront of efforts to strengthen the rule of law at the national level with a view to advancing peace and stability by protecting civilians,

supporting victims' rights, ensuring accountability for the most serious crimes and ensuring access to justice. The work of the United Nations Development Programme to strengthen the rule of law in dozens of countries around the world was also appreciated.

18. Access to justice, judicial reforms and transitional justice were essential for preventing conflict, sustaining peace and addressing the root causes of instability. As part of its commitment to promoting equal access to justice for all, his Government was co-chairing the International Task Force on Justice, an initiative of Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies. Strengthening the rule of law was the responsibility of all States, including those where the rule of law was well established. His Government had therefore set up a commission to assess ways in which the rule of law could be strengthened in the Netherlands. States had the primary responsibility to fight impunity and to hold perpetrators of the most serious crimes under international law accountable. He welcomed the steps taken by some Member States to ensure accountability for such crimes, including conflict-related sexual violence, and called upon the Secretary-General to maintain support for efforts to combat impunity as a matter of priority.

19. With regard to the rule of law at the international level, 20 years had passed since the adoption of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court; he urged the signatories to continue to support the Court politically, financially and logistically, and noted with appreciation that 35 States parties had ratified the amendments to the Statute on the crime of aggression. His Government also wholeheartedly supported the amendments designating as war crimes falling under the jurisdiction of the Court the employment of weapons that used microbial or other biological agents, or toxins; weapons that injured by fragments which were not detectable by X-rays; and laser weapons specifically designed to cause blindness.

20. Thanks to the tireless efforts of the United Kingdom, the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction had recently extended the mandate of the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to include the attribution of the use of chemical weapons. Any use of chemicals as weapons should be thoroughly investigated and those responsible should be brought to justice.

21. Noting with appreciation that the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible

for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011 was operational, he said that his Government welcomed the speed with which the Head of the Mechanism had taken up her duties and looked forward to discussing the Mechanism's second report in a formal meeting of the General Assembly. His Government supported the decision of the General Assembly to include the funding of the Mechanism in the United Nations budget. It also welcomed the recent decision of the Human Rights Council to establish an ongoing independent mechanism to collect, consolidate, preserve and analyse evidence of the most serious international crimes and violations of international law committed in Myanmar since 2011, which sent a strong signal that there must be accountability for the crimes committed against the Rohingya.

22. All those developments demonstrated the commitment of the international community to strengthening the rule of law at the international level and showed that, if the Security Council was unable or unwilling to fulfil its primary responsibility in that regard, other organs of the United Nations would do so.

23. The rule of law also applied to international organizations, including the United Nations and its funds and programmes. His delegation welcomed the inclusion in the Secretary-General's report of information on the administration of justice and would welcome information in the next report on the implementation by the Organization of judicial decisions taken. It would also welcome information on procedures established, in implementation of General Assembly resolution [52/247](#), to allow third parties to file claims for compensation for damage caused to them by the Organization. His Government strongly supported the United Nations policy against the sharing of evidence for use in criminal proceedings in which capital punishment might be imposed and urged the Secretary-General to formalize that policy in order to avoid any misunderstanding as to the Organization's position with regard to the death penalty.

24. **Mr. Bukoree** (Mauritius) said that international treaties were the cornerstone of the global system of harmonizing international relations and should be implemented properly in the struggle against emerging threats to political and economic stability and transnational and international crime. As the International Court of Justice was the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, Member States should continue to be encouraged to accept its compulsory jurisdiction and to make greater use of the Court and other international courts and tribunals to settle disputes.

25. The rule of law was usually understood as a principle of governance whereby all persons, institutions and entities, public and private, including the State itself, were accountable to laws that were publicly promulgated, equally enforced and independently adjudicated and that were consistent with international human rights norms and standards. The rule of law also required measures to ensure adherence to the principles of separation of powers, participation in decision-making, legal certainty, avoidance of arbitrariness and procedural transparency. It could be described as the citadel that guarded the people against despotism and the Government against anarchy.

26. The rule of law was an underlying principle of the Constitution of Mauritius and had contributed significantly to the country's economic growth, because political stability, coupled with a legal system that strictly adhered to the rule of law, had enabled it to attract foreign investment and international business and benefit from economic opportunities. The Constitution required that legal processes, institutions and substantive norms be consistent with human rights, including the core principles of equality under the law, accountability before the law and fairness in the protection of rights. It guaranteed protection of the right to life and personal liberty; protection from slavery, forced labour and inhuman treatment; protection of property and of the privacy of the home and other property; protection of the law; freedom of conscience, expression, assembly and association; freedom to establish schools; freedom of movement; and protection from discrimination.

27. All international treaties to which Mauritius acceded were incorporated into its national law. While States must abide by treaties and codified international law, they must also continue to comply with customary international law, which was derived from the consistent conduct of States. It was accordingly stipulated in the Statute of the International Court of Justice that the Court would apply international custom, as evidence of a general practice accepted as law. As a large ocean State, respectful of the rule of law and international law, Mauritius had taken the lead in the Western Indian Ocean region in combating piracy and other transnational organized crime. In addition, as Chair of the Indian Ocean Commission, it had hosted a ministerial conference on maritime security in April 2018.

28. All countries inherently desired a peaceful, stable world governed by law rather than by force. The multilateral treaty-making process shaped the rule of law by bringing to the attention of the community of States issues of concern that might require regulation through the creation of legally binding norms. Without

strong rule of law at the national level, attempts to strengthen the rule of law at the international level could be seriously hampered. Moreover, as international law was increasingly applied at the national level, it should be subject to the same rule of law requirements as national law. Respect for the rule of law at the national and international levels was crucial in ensuring a rules-based system in which nations could work together towards their shared interests. His delegation hoped that, to that end, States would treat each other as equals.

29. **Ms. Pino Rivero** (Cuba) said that true rule of law began with a reformed United Nations that set a standard for transparency, democracy and the participation of the entire international community in the solution of critical global problems. As part of such reform, the central role of the General Assembly, the only body with universal membership and with exclusive responsibility for the progressive development and codification of international law, must be consolidated in order to strengthen the rule of law. Cuba also reiterated its commitment to bringing about far-reaching reform of the Security Council in order to make it into an inclusive, transparent and democratic forum that reflected the true interests of the international community, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. It was clear from paragraph 36 of the declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the rule of law at the national and international levels that true rule of law meant the democratization of the international economic, monetary and financial organizations to serve the development of peoples and not the permanent enrichment of a few. Her delegation had reserved its position on paragraph 28 of the declaration, since it did not believe that the Security Council had made a positive contribution to the rule of law and did not have a mandate to do so. Furthermore, some of the members of the Council openly violated international law and the decisions of the Council itself, with a view to imposing their political agenda and to achieving military domination over other nations, particularly developing countries.

30. Sovereign equality, good-faith compliance by States with their obligations, the peaceful settlement of disputes, refraining from the use or threat of use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State and non-interference in the internal affairs of other States, together with non-selectivity, must be the basic principles governing the actions of all States and the promotion of the rule of law, as was clearly reflected in paragraphs 1 and 3 of the declaration of the high-level meeting and paragraph 7 of the annex to the

report of the Secretary-General on strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities (A/70/206). The international community must strive to give real effect to those principles. Cuba condemned any attempt to overturn or replace national authorities or to foment internal conflict in sovereign States with the aim of imposing external agendas. Paragraph 11 of the declaration of the high-level meeting clearly recognized national ownership in all rule of law activities.

31. Promotion of the rule of law started with due respect for the legal institutions of all States by the international community and recognition of the sovereign right of peoples to create the legal and democratic institutions that best corresponded to their sociopolitical and cultural interests. National legal systems needed to be strengthened on a voluntary basis, in full compliance with the principle of self-determination of peoples and without any political conditions attached. Cuba viewed with concern attempts to impose a particular conception of the rule of law and to establish a monitoring mechanism outside the purview of the Sixth Committee; it rejected any attempt to politicize the subject on the grounds of its alleged cross-cutting nature. The delegations participating in the Committee's work represented all States and were therefore fully capable of discussing any subject decided on by consensus.

32. Cuba was committed to seeking peaceful solutions to long-standing conflicts, as shown by its significant contributions to advancing the rule of law in the region, such as in the peace process in Colombia, and reaffirmed the proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a zone of peace. Aggression and acts of violence aimed at overthrowing the Government of any country in the region served only the interests of those who were bent on dividing the peoples of those countries in order to dominate them, thoughtlessly provoking conflicts with incalculable consequences for the region, as could also be seen elsewhere in the world.

33. True rule of law called for the unequivocal rejection of any unilateral acts or measures such as the promulgation of extraterritorial laws and the politically motivated exercise of jurisdiction by national or international tribunals. Cuba called for the immediate revocation of all the extraterritorial provisions constituting the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on it by the Government of the United States of America for over 50 years. Cuba also called for prompt compliance with the countless resolutions on the subject adopted by the General Assembly and with paragraph 9 of the declaration of the high-level meeting on the rule of law, in which States were urged to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral

economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impeded the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries.

34. A process of constitutional reform was currently under way in Cuba to adapt the Constitution to new developments in Cuban society. It would strengthen the political system and thereby consolidate and develop the fundamental rights of individuals, streamline power structures and give citizens greater control over them, bolster mechanisms for local self-government, ensure greater citizen participation in decision-making and at the same time improve the justice system. The preliminary draft Constitution would be subject to a process of popular consultation, which would culminate in a referendum.

35. **Mr. Srivihok** (Thailand) said that the rule of law was crucial to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 16. In order for the rule of law to truly serve the people, it must be upheld first and foremost by the people. It must therefore be brought closer to the people and be recognized as an indispensable part of everyday life and a tool of empowerment, protection and justice. Above all, it must be inclusive.

36. The United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (Bangkok Rules), an initiative of Thailand, were just one of the many examples of his country's efforts to ensure the rule of law both nationally and globally. They were aimed at preserving human dignity and ensuring due process of law and fair and humane treatment for women in custody, as well as their reintegration into society after their release.

37. National and international standard-setting alone would not ensure the rule of law. International law needed to be understood by government officials, non-State actors and individuals alike. His delegation accordingly commended the United Nations for its work in disseminating international law, thereby helping to advance the rule of law, and for its exemplary role in the codification and progressive development of international law. Thailand collaborated in that work, for example through the co-hosting of United Nations regional courses in international law, and it looked forward to maintaining and furthering that collaboration in the future.

38. *Ms. Ponce (Philippines), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

39. **Mr. El Jallad** (Lebanon) said that all societies needed to agree on the rules by which they would be governed. Lebanon, for example, had developed a system known as consensus democracy, which was one of the most representative systems in the world: all political forces were represented in the legislative and executive branches of government and worked together to legislate and take political decisions. The United Nations should act as a mediator in helping unstable societies to develop or shore up the political will for State-building. Lebanon welcomed the assistance provided by the United Nations with a view to building local capacities to strengthen the rule of law, curb violence, ensure accountability for serious crimes, and combat corruption and terrorism.

40. In the same way, States must conduct their international relations in accordance with the rules that they had developed for that purpose. The United Nations could help by encouraging States to embrace pluralistic systems and eschew unilateral action. The Organization must foster a culture of compliance with international law, without which the progressive development and codification of international law would serve no purpose. Such a culture would be conducive to the peaceful settlement of disputes. Lebanon encouraged States to resolve their disputes by having recourse to the International Court of Justice and complying with its advisory opinions. Accordingly, his delegation wished to suggest two topics for discussion by the Sixth Committee: mediation and its role in resolving conflict, and mechanisms to promote States' compliance with international law.

41. **Mr. Rittener** (Switzerland) said that his delegation welcomed the subtopics proposed in the Secretary-General's report (A/73/253) for discussion by the Sixth Committee, in particular "Promoting accountability for serious crimes under international law at the domestic level" and "Implementation of the rule of law elements of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and sharing of best practices". He commended the United Nations for its commitment to national capacity-building in relation to the rule of law and the prosecution of international crimes and especially for the work it had done to strengthen national courts. Effective, independent and impartial judicial systems were crucial in ensuring respect for the rule of law, which in turn contributed to building sustainable peace and preventing conflict. They were also a precondition for States to exercise their primary responsibility for the prosecution of international crimes.

42. The fight against impunity for such crimes was an essential part of the rule of law. His delegation again

wished to stress the importance of the International Criminal Court and welcomed the recent activation of its jurisdiction over the crime of aggression and the adoption of amendments to article 8 of the Rome Statute by which the use of specific weapons had been added to the list of war crimes. It was, however, very concerned about recent withdrawals from the Statute and negative trends that were undermining the Court's independence and effectiveness. His delegation remained committed to promoting universal ratification of the Rome Statute.

43. Switzerland had been closely involved in the establishment of the International Criminal Court and continued to support it in the exercise of its important mandate. The Court was at the service primarily of the victims of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole. It was an independent and impartial institution dedicated to ending impunity; it embodied the principle that justice must be done. By making wrongdoers accountable for their acts, the Court helped to prevent future crimes and to build sustainable peace. It acted as a court of last resort when crimes were not investigated or prosecuted by national authorities. It must be allowed to continue to act independently and impartially to contribute to peace and justice in the interest of all, particularly the victims of the most serious crimes.

44. **Mr. Alkelash** (Iraq) said that the principles of compliance with international instruments and agreements, neighbourly relations, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, rejection of policies of aggression, the settlement of conflicts by peaceful means, and the establishment of relations based on shared interests and reciprocity were enshrined in the 2005 Constitution of Iraq. In addition, it was recognized in the Constitution that the people were the source of power and legitimacy; that power should be handed over democratically through free and transparent elections; and that the judiciary was independent and subject only to the law. In accordance with international conventions, measures to uphold human rights, particularly those of women and children, were set forth in the Constitution.

45. The Government of Iraq had adopted a law in 2017 to protect witnesses, experts, informants and victims of human trafficking. Legislation was also in place to guarantee the right to form professional unions and to encourage domestic and foreign investment. Iraq had acceded to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

46. His Government commended the Organization's efforts to assist States by supporting economic, social

and human development and by building stronger and more transparent institutions. It hoped that the United Nations would help Iraq to carry out the necessary reforms in accordance with the principles of the rule of law at the national and international levels.

47. **Mr. Rai** (India) said that laws based on the principles of justice and fairness, if properly enforced, reduced conflict and ensured the predictability of interactions. The rule of law, based on the Charter of the United Nations, prevailed in a wide range of areas, including trade, investment and intellectual property; transport and communications; use of the global commons, such as seas and oceans; and the environment, climate change and outer space. However, in other areas that was not the case. For example, owing to narrow geopolitical interests, some States were preventing progress on a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. Greater cooperation was also needed to cope with the impact of rapid, technology-driven globalization.

48. In India, the world's largest democracy based on the rule of law, the independence of the judiciary, legislature and executive, together with free media and civil society and strong traditions of electoral democracy, were the foundation for the rule of law. India had always engaged actively in international efforts to develop norms, standards and laws governing global interactions across various sectors; it agreed with the statement in the Secretary-General's report (A/73/253) that international treaties were the cornerstone of the global system of harmonizing international relations. India was a party to a large number of treaties adopted under the auspices of the United Nations and other bodies and had taken steps to give effect to those treaties by enacting appropriate laws. In the past year alone, it had ratified the Minamata Convention on Mercury; acceded to the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products; and become a party to the Framework Agreement on the Establishment of the International Solar Alliance. It had also partnered with fellow developing countries in capacity-building efforts relating to electoral practices, the drafting of legislation and law enforcement. His delegation endorsed all the subtopics suggested by the Secretary-General for in-depth discussion by the Committee.

49. Effective multilateralism and the rule of law at the international level required that global governance structures should reflect contemporary realities. The current United Nations structures had been designed by a handful of States for a bygone era. To maintain legitimacy and effectiveness, it was important to undertake fundamental reform of those structures, in particular the Security Council. Noting the reference in

the Secretary-General's report to the rule of law aspects of the 2030 Agenda, he reaffirmed the commitment of India to work for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and requested the Secretary-General to set goals, and targets aimed at achieving those goals, that would help to advance the rule of law.

50. **Mr. Mero** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that, at the national level, the rule of law ensured that all persons were treated equally under the law and that courts rendered impartial judgments. It was one of the founding tenets of Tanzanian society. At the international level, the rule of law was an essential foundation for relations among States and between States and other international legal entities.

51. His Government had taken administrative, policy and legal measures to make the country's judicial institutions easily accessible to all. A number of laws, rules and procedures, including those that had caused proceedings to be overly lengthy, had been amended, courts had been equipped with modern technology so as to offer a variety of legal services, and laws had been made available in electronic format. Mobile courts continued to be used in areas that lacked court facilities, which made access to justice more convenient and affordable for the poor, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable persons. A policy introduced in 2016 whereby every judge and magistrate was assigned a minimum number of cases to be finalized within a year had led to a significant reduction in the backlog of cases in the system. The Office of the Attorney-General had been restructured to enhance its efficiency. Furthermore, laws on mutual legal assistance, the national prosecution service, the prevention and combating of corruption, the prevention of terrorism, the proceeds of crime and criminal procedure had been amended to strengthen the rule of law while upholding human rights norms and standards and principles of good governance.

52. His Government had adopted a zero-tolerance policy on corruption, which was being implemented through collaboration between law enforcement agencies and government ministries, departments and agencies. While the general public was supportive of those efforts, they had been met with resistance from certain economic and criminal elements, which had forced the Government to take countermeasures that had sometimes been wrongly interpreted as overly restrictive.

53. Despite the challenges it faced, the United Republic of Tanzania would continue to uphold the rule of law, good governance, democracy and human rights, in accordance with its Constitution, in the conviction that the advancement of the rule of law at the national

and international levels was essential for inclusive economic growth, sustainable development, the protection of human rights, and peaceful coexistence and cooperation among States.

54. **Mr. Molefe** (South Africa) said that the rule of law at the national and international levels was critical to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. His delegation commended the United Nations for continuing to provide rule of law support to Member States in development, fragility, conflict and peacebuilding contexts.

55. South Africa fully supported the efforts of the United Nations to facilitate the codification, development and promotion of an international legal framework of norms, standards and mechanisms in a broad range of areas. With regard to the promotion of the rule of law through international courts, South Africa had presented a written statement and an oral submission to the International Court of Justice in connection with the request made by the General Assembly in its resolution [71/292](#) for an advisory opinion of the Court on the legal consequences of the separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965. South Africa had submitted that the General Assembly was competent to request the advisory opinion, that the questions raised were legal questions and that the Court, as the principal legal organ of the United Nations, was competent to give an advisory opinion on the matter. His delegation supported the four subtopics suggested in the report of the Secretary-General ([A/73/253](#)) for consideration by the Sixth Committee as part of an in-depth discussion on the means to establish a rules-based international legal order to help to resolve intra-State and inter-State conflicts.

56. The rule of law must also be strengthened at the national level. The Constitution of South Africa contained a provision setting forth the primacy of the Constitution and the rule of law. The principles of the rule of law were the cornerstone of all democracies and must therefore be fearlessly enforced by national courts. South African courts were independent and subject only to the Constitution and the rule of law.

57. **Mr. Fintakpa Lamega** (Togo) said that the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law provided the foundation for a more peaceful, more prosperous and fairer world. Given the importance of the rule of law for sustained economic growth, sustainable development, the eradication of poverty and hunger and the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, Togo welcomed the multifaceted assistance provided by the United Nations

to help Member States ensure the rule of law at the national and international levels.

58. Peace, social cohesion, democracy and the rule of law were crucial to harmonious and sustainable development. His Government was pursuing constitutional and institutional reforms to consolidate the progress it had made in establishing democracy and to protect the rights and freedoms of all persons. It was also working to find a definitive solution to the political misunderstandings that had occurred in the country in recent months by rallying politicians and civil society to pursue the goals of peace and social and human progress. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), in a manifestation of regional solidarity, was helping Togo navigate its political difficulties, including by helping politicians come to an agreement on the composition of the national electoral commission with a view to ensuring that free and transparent legislative elections were held as planned in December 2018. The date of the elections had been suggested by the ECOWAS Heads of State and Government, who had called on the Government and political stakeholders of Togo to pursue efforts to adopt constitutional and institutional reforms such as a two-round voting system for the election of the President, a two-term limit for the President, the reconstitution of the Constitutional Court and the consolidation of the electoral process. Togo also intended to accelerate and finalize the electoral census to establish a reliable register of voters.

59. It was unfortunate that at the seventy-second session the Committee had not been able to agree on a subtopic for the discussion on the rule of law at the present session. His delegation hoped that such a situation would not be repeated and that the Committee would be able to agree on a subtopic for the seventy-fourth session.

60. **Mr. Sandoval Mendiola** (Mexico) said that it was essential to strengthen and consolidate the rule of law at the national and international levels in order to uphold the principles and purposes of the United Nations and the 2030 Agenda, prevent conflict and achieve sustainable peace, and protect human rights. The current humanitarian crises in Yemen, Syria, Myanmar and Venezuela meant that the participation of the United Nations in collective efforts to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels had never been more critical. The Organization provided useful technical assistance, at the request of concerned Member States, in the areas of justice and security. In particular, its support for the development of national capacities to investigate and prosecute international crimes was essential for upholding the principle of

complementarity in international criminal law. The United Nations should continue to provide assistance in the areas of capacity-building for judges and lawyers, prosecution strategies based on mapping by the Organization of violations, the establishment of specialized sexual violence units, the detention of members of armed groups, and the assignment of experts to support national judges. Moreover, the work of the United Nations should not be duplicated by international organs that did not have relevant mandates or appropriate budgets. His delegation welcomed the work of the United Nations to help judicial officials in Latin America tackle femicide, address negative gender stereotypes in the judicial system and combat corruption.

61. The international community should not only implement existing norms of international law but also codify and progressively develop new norms to address evolving challenges. In that connection, Mexico supported the elaboration of an international legally binding instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. The first round of negotiations on that instrument, which would contribute to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14, had been encouraging.

62. Mexico also supported the pacific settlement of disputes, in line with Article 33 of the Charter of the United Nations. Truly strengthening the rule of law would depend on enhancing the implementation of Chapter VI of the Charter. That should include increasing the use of mediation, which had played a significant role in maintaining peace in the Latin American and Caribbean Region in recent decades and had important advantages in that it was a low-cost tool that allowed for rapid responses and fostered communication between the parties.

63. The work of international courts was also crucial to peaceful dispute settlement and combating impunity. The judgments of the International Court of Justice helped to reduce tensions between States. Mexico therefore called for more States to recognize the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court, include jurisdiction clauses in multilateral treaties and use other means of conferring jurisdiction upon the Court, *such as forum prorogatum*.

64. Mexico recognized the progress that had been made by international and hybrid criminal courts. It also welcomed the new mechanisms that had been established to assist with the investigation of crimes committed in Syria and support the efforts of the Government of Iraq to hold Islamic State in Iraq and the

Levant (ISIL) to account for its actions. The regrettable and unacceptable impasse that the Security Council had reached with regard to the situation in Syria meant that the efforts of the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism were crucial. In addition, Mexico, together with France, continued to call on the permanent members of the Security Council to refrain from using the veto in situations where atrocity crimes had been committed.

65. In the interest of strengthening the rule of law, the Security Council should re-evaluate the handling and analysis of communications in which States reported the use of force on the grounds of self-defence under Article 51 of the Charter. Otherwise, there was a risk of an unwarranted broadening of exceptions to the general prohibition on the use of force established in Article 2, paragraph 4, of the Charter, which was the cornerstone of the rule of law at the international level.

66. Mexico reiterated its call for Member States to avoid policies and practices that discriminated against migrants, which violated the most fundamental norms of international law. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration could serve as a basis for the development of policies that were in line with the principles, norms and values of the United Nations.

67. **Ms. Sande** (Uruguay) said that, in a climate where the rule of law was under serious threat and the application of international law seemed to be in retreat, it was more necessary than ever to commit to defending the rule of law. There was also a need for enhanced institutional efficiency and accountability.

68. The international community's efforts to ensure the rule of law at the national and international levels should include disarmament policies and take into account the importance of respecting human rights, protecting the most vulnerable, upholding the right to access fair, impartial and depoliticized justice, respecting and supporting international courts, ensuring that justice was done and preventing impunity for the perpetrators of heinous crimes.

69. To implement Sustainable Development Goal 16, international law must be adapted to deal with the increasing number of challenges it was facing. The peaceful coexistence of States would be achieved only through respect for norms, the sovereignty of States and the principle of the equality of States. Respect for the rule of law and the establishment of healthy institutions at the national level would provide the foundation for the development of peoples and the well-being of individuals. Growth would be achieved through the maintenance of peace.

70. Adherence to the principles of international law involved compliance with treaty and customary norms; accordingly, a State's domestic laws must be consistent with those norms and reflect its international obligations. On the other hand, States must not attempt to escape their international obligations on the grounds that they had not been transposed into national law. Uruguay had adopted a law on implementation of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and cooperation with the Court to combat genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. In addition, it had been one of the first States to recognize the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice.

71. The political systems of States must embrace democracy, equality, the separation of powers, and respect for human rights. Countering terrorism, which required enforcement of the rule of law at the national and international levels, should be a common goal of the international community.

72. The United Nations should support the increased dissemination of international law, in particular in developing countries and among judicial bodies, and raise awareness of procedures for international judicial cooperation in criminal matters, which could be a useful tool in the absence of binding bilateral agreements. The development and codification of international law should also be a priority. Communication networks should be established to enable the international community to respond to current challenges quickly and effectively. Uruguay called on States to strengthen their relations in order to work together to maintain peace, which must necessarily be rooted in respect for the rule of law.

73. **Mr. Bondiuk** (Ukraine) said that his Government had been prioritizing reforms aimed at bolstering the rule of law since 2014 and hoped that they would help improve the investment climate and stimulate economic growth. Particular progress had been made in combating corruption; Ukraine was grateful for the continuing support of the United Nations in that regard.

74. The rule of law was one of the main tools at the international level for defending sovereignty and territorial integrity and promoting human rights. His Government was committed to the peaceful settlement of international disputes, including the ongoing dispute resulting from the Russian military aggression against Ukraine. His Government was continuing to pursue its case against the Russian Federation, *Application of the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination*, before the International Court of

Justice. In that context, Ukraine called on the Russian-Federation to comply with the Court's order that the Russian Federation must refrain from imposing limitations on the ability of the Crimean Tatar community to conserve its representative institutions, including the Mejlis.

75. Another important element of that case was the role of the Russian Federation in the shoot-down of Malaysian Airlines flight MH17. His Government would continue to provide all possible assistance to the Court in the case and would work with its partners to ensure that justice was done. Ukraine called on the Russian Federation to accept responsibility for the incident and to fully cooperate with all efforts to ensure accountability. The Russian Federation should comply with General Assembly resolutions [71/205](#) and [72/190](#) concerning the situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine. The construction by the Russian-Federation of a bridge across the Kerch Strait and the subsequent systematic disruption of the freedom of international navigation through the Strait should be rejected as illegal under international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Ukraine did not intend to extend the Treaty on friendship, cooperation and partnership between Ukraine and the Russian Federation upon its expiration in 2019, as the Russian Federation had ignored the fundamental principles of the treaty and had not made an effort in good faith to peacefully settle the disputes arising from its breaches of the treaty.

76. Sustainable peace and security depended on the rule of law, just and inclusive societies and accountability. More importantly, they required a common understanding at the level of the United Nations that urgent steps should be taken to put an end to violence, aggression, insecurity and injustice.

77. **Ms. Seiferas** (Israel) said that the rule of law was key to the promotion of stability and human rights and to the achievement of sustainable development. At the national level, the rule of law was the essence of any democracy. Good governance, checks and balances and a robust, independent and impartial judiciary were indispensable for the proper maintenance of the rule of law.

78. From the outset, Israel had been a diverse country composed of many different cultural, religious and ethnic groups, a fact which had made it all the more important to guarantee and uphold democratic principles. The principle of equality before the law and other democratic values formed the cornerstone of its governmental system and ensured that minority rights

were respected, allowing all cultural, ethnic and religious groups to coexist and thrive. Israel was committed to safeguarding human rights and strove to make progress in that regard. Government agencies engaged on a regular basis with academics, non-governmental organizations and civil society to map challenges and develop policies to address them at all levels of society. Particular progress had been made in the area of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights. Israel was also cooperating with United Nations mechanisms: over the past year it had presented both its national report for the universal periodic review mechanism of the Human Rights Council and its report on the implementation in Israel of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. It had also made an effort to facilitate access to justice for women, in particular those from minority groups. To that end, it had established a branch of the legal aid agency in Rahat, the largest Bedouin city in Israel, improved access to legal aid for women victims of prostitution, provided legal assistance to victims of domestic violence and trafficking, and established legal aid access points in court buildings.

79. Her country's strong and consistent commitment to democracy and human rights was often tested by regional conflict and threats to its people. Over the past year, Israel had dealt with hostilities and terrorism on multiple fronts. All States that were committed to protecting the freedoms and security of their citizens must constantly examine their security and counter-terrorism policies to make sure that they struck the appropriate balance between security needs and the protection of human rights. Israel was open to sharing its experiences and ongoing dilemmas in that area with other States. The Supreme Court played a key role in ensuring that the rule of law was respected in all government processes, including by continuously reviewing legislation, executive policies and administrative actions. In that context, it should be noted that the Supreme Court reviewed specific military actions in real time.

80. At the international level, maintaining the rule of law required close and effective international cooperation. In that connection, Israel generally supported the development of treaty law and was playing a constructive role in efforts in that regard. It also supported the strengthening and promotion of the international treaty framework and hoped to be an active contributor to that process. At an international conference on treaty practice held in Israel in March 2018, treaty practitioners from 20 countries had discussed the practical aspects of the treaty-making process and examined in depth the practices of different

States with regard to various treaty matters. Israel hoped to see the establishment of a friendly, professional, non-politicized forum of treaty practitioners to promote greater intergovernmental cooperation on treaty matters.

81. With regard to the contribution of international tribunals to the rule of law, her delegation wished to stress that international courts must only hear cases that fell within their established jurisdiction; otherwise their integrity and credibility could be damaged and they could open themselves up to politicization.

82. Her delegation supported the ongoing United Nations activities and initiatives related to capacity-building and technical assistance. Israel had been intensively engaged in providing technical assistance and sharing professional experience in many regions of the world. In recent years it had held workshops on evidence-gathering and prosecution in terrorism cases in Europe, and it would soon be participating in a counter-terrorism workshop in South America. Israel stood ready to provide further assistance in all areas related to the rule of law.

83. **Ms. Samarasinghe** (Sri Lanka) said that her delegation welcomed the focus in the report of the Secretary-General ([A/73/253](#)) on providing support in the area of the rule of law to Member States in the context of development, conflict and peacebuilding. The rule of law had an important role to play in reinforcing the three pillars of the United Nations — peace and security, human rights and development — and in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 16. The rule of law required all persons and institutions to adhere to certain standards. It should also be in line with universal human rights principles and be clearly defined and broadly publicized. The rule of law also required legal processes to be accessible and laws to be enforced fairly. However, in practice laws were often unevenly applied. Societies must therefore be equipped with corrective mechanisms to preserve the rule of law.

84. Having spent 30 years under the yoke of terrorism and a culture of impunity, the people of Sri Lanka were determined to build a fair and just society based on the principles of democracy and the rule of law. To that end, Sri Lanka had taken steps to rebuild its democratic institutions and create a framework for reconciliation. It had established a permanent office of missing persons and adopted a law on the right to information and was in the process of developing legislation on the right to justice, the establishment of an office of reparations and the establishment of a truth-seeking commission. With support from United Nations entities and other organizations, a counter-terrorism bill in line with

international best practices and human rights standards had been drawn up through an inclusive consultative process. Democratic Governments had a duty to guarantee that violations would not reoccur, including by reforming institutions that had proven to be incapable of preventing violations in the past.

85. Since human frustration was a major threat to the rule of law, it was important to protect the rights of the most vulnerable, such as minority groups and women. Member States must bear in mind the importance of the principles of sovereign equality and non-interference, the prohibition on the threat or use of force and the obligation to settle international disputes peacefully. All Member States should be given equal opportunities to participate in the formation of international law. The rule of law at the international level must protect all States, in particular developing countries, from the harshness of an unequal world.

86. The diversity of national legal systems provided a wealth of practice that could be drawn upon with a view to ensuring that the rule of law served the purposes of sustainable development, peace and security and the enjoyment of human rights. The commitment of Member States to multilateral treaties, conventions and compacts could help solidify international norms and advance collective responses to global problems. It was also important to strengthen partnerships and cooperation, improve the availability of technical expertise and enhance the support provided by the United Nations system. In addition, her delegation commended the work of the International Law Commission and the International Court of Justice in advancing the rule of law at the international level. Sri Lanka would continue to reinforce the rule of law at the national level and looked forward to contributing actively to efforts to strengthen the rule of law at the international level.

87. **Mr. Amolo** (Kenya) said that the engagement of the United Nations in collective efforts to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels was critical to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Strengthening the rule of law was central to realizing the vision of a united family of nations that was just, secure and peaceful. The international community should reject efforts to undermine, erode or diminish the rules-based international system.

88. The rule of law rested upon established general principles applicable on equal terms to all persons and required respect for the dignity, equality and human rights of all persons. Norms of international law, including those relating to international trade, were critical to sustainable development and must therefore

be reliable, predictable and equitable. Under the Constitution of Kenya, all the treaties ratified by the country were incorporated into national law. International law and rules-based approaches were essential to address issues in the areas of human rights, humanitarian intervention, terrorism and climate change, as they fostered regional and international cooperation.

89. The Internet greatly facilitated the dissemination of international law, which was conducive to bilateral and multilateral cooperation and strengthened the rule of law at the international level. Full advantage should be taken of technology to that end. In that connection, his delegation supported the proposal by the delegation of El Salvador to discuss youth and the rule of law as a subtopic in the future (see [A/C.6/73/SR.7](#)).

90. His delegation commended the work of the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law, particularly in developing countries, which was contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 16. The Programme should receive funding from the regular budget of the United Nations. Furthermore, the United Nations should work with Member States, in particular developing countries, to determine their capacity-building and technical assistance needs and priorities, taking into account their socioeconomic realities and legal systems.

91. The rule of law could not exist without a transparent legal system comprising laws that were freely and easily accessible to all, strong enforcement structures and an independent judiciary to protect citizens against the arbitrary use of power by the State, individuals or organizations. The rule of law enabled people and institutions to realize their individual and collective aspirations and ensured that no one was left behind. It could generate economic reform and unlock the social, political and economic potential of societies, thereby contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

92. For the rule of law to operate properly, it was essential to avoid politicizing international justice. Kenya was a strong defender of a balanced approach to the rule of law at the national and international levels and was committed to implementing its international obligations in accordance with its domestic legal system. His delegation agreed with others that national sovereignty was currently subject to unprecedented pressure, and that approaches to enhancing the rule of law at the national level should be nationally driven.

93. His delegation urged States and local, regional and international tribunals to contribute to the rule of law by

ensuring that international instruments were interpreted and implemented in a just, fair and predictable manner.

94. Lastly, a reformed United Nations should serve as the foundation of a rules-based international order. The role of the General Assembly must be strengthened to that end.

95. **Mr. Korbieh** (Ghana) said that the Secretary-General and the Office of Legal Affairs should be commended for the organization of the treaty events that had enabled many Member States to sign, ratify and accede to treaties in recent years. Capacity-building and technical assistance should continue to be provided, including under the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law, in order to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels. The United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law provided high-quality training and research materials to a wide audience of researchers, government lawyers and international law institutions in developed and developing countries. The Programme's regional courses and publications also made a significant contribution in terms of capacity-building and knowledge.

96. His Government had undertaken a number of reforms in the judicial sector to improve the rule of law at the national level. It had ratified several international human rights treaties; put in place systems to deal with judicial misconduct; carried out administrative reforms, including the automation of certain judicial procedures to reduce court delays; codified the presumption of innocence, the right to a fair trial and the right to representation; improved the collection of data on crime; and established mechanisms to monitor the behaviour of the police, which had resulted in a decrease in the number of complaints. Donors had played a significant role in supporting those reforms; however, it should be noted that funding was often driven by their agenda rather than by needs on the ground.

97. Access to legal representation and legal aid were provided for under the Constitution and had been enhanced by the adoption of a law on legal aid in 1997. The legal aid system, non-governmental organizations and civil society had together developed a robust mechanism to ensure access to justice for all citizens, including the poorest and most vulnerable. One component of the system was the provision of legal aid to prisoners on remand whose trials were unreasonably delayed, which had significantly reduced the number of persons detained awaiting trial.

98. The Constitution of Ghana reflected the country's commitment to the rule of law. The principles of the

separation of powers and the independence of institutions, which were important elements of the rule of law, good governance and accountability, had also been embedded into the national culture. The Government was working to ensure their full application in order to uphold the fundamental rights of the Ghanaian people and promote development and would take every opportunity to further develop its capacities in that regard.

99. **Mr. García Moritán** (Argentina) said that justice and peace were complementary objectives, and combating impunity for serious violations of human rights was an essential element of the strengthening of the rule of law. Argentina was therefore grateful for the efforts of the United Nations to support the strengthening of the rule of law in Member States, particularly in relation to holding the perpetrators of serious crimes under international law accountable at the national level. South-South cooperation was also an effective and efficient tool for building capacities and exchanging experience with regard to truth, justice and reparation processes and processes aimed at ensuring the non-recurrence of serious international crimes.

100. Argentina called for universal ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which played a central role in combating impunity and was thus a key element of the rule of law at the international level. His country welcomed the activation of the Court's jurisdiction over the crime of aggression, which reaffirmed that justice and the law prevailed over the use of force in international relations. Argentina also commended the work of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals and welcomed the information provided on the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011. His delegation reiterated that the serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law committed by all parties during the conflict in Syria must be duly investigated and prosecuted by either national courts or international mechanisms.

101. One of the pillars of the rule of law was the peaceful settlement of disputes, in which the International Court of Justice played a central role. In addition to the Court, various specialized tribunals, such as the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, facilitated dispute settlement. Other methods of international dispute settlement were also provided for in the Charter of the United Nations and mentioned in the declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the rule of law at the national and

international levels. For example, the Secretary-General might be requested to exercise his good offices for the peaceful settlement of disputes. However, in order for any means of peaceful settlement to succeed, the parties concerned must act in good faith and negotiate when called upon to do so by United Nations organs, including the General Assembly.

102. Strengthening of democratic institutions was also a requirement for promoting the rule of law. In that regard, it was important to highlight the role that regional integration mechanisms had played in promoting the rule of law in Latin America. Argentina reaffirmed its strong commitment to the preservation of democratic institutions, the rule of law, constitutional order, social peace and full respect for human rights.

103. His Government was committed to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16 and intended to increase its efforts at the national, regional and international levels to promote access to justice for all. In that connection, his delegation welcomed the efforts of the United Nations to combat femicide and negative gender stereotypes, promote access to justice and equip national institutions to take action against corruption. It also welcomed the proposal in the report of the Secretary-General ([A/73/253](#)) that the Committee consider as a subtopic the implementation of the rule of law elements of the 2030 Agenda and sharing of best practices.

The meeting rose at 5.55 p.m.