



General Assembly

Seventieth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
6 November 2015

Original: English

Sixth Committee

Summary record of the 6th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 15 October 2015, at 10 a.m.

- Chair:* Mr. Charles (Trinidad and Tobago)
- later:* Ms. Morris-Sharma (Vice-Chair) (Singapore)
- later:* Mr. Charles (Chair) (Trinidad and Tobago)

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

Agenda item 85: The rule of law at the national and international levels (A/70/206) (continued)

1. **Mr. Adamov** (Belarus) said that the rule of law at the international and national levels played an important role in ensuring stability and predictability in international relations, the maintenance of peace and security and the achievement of sustainable social, economic and human development. It also contributed to efforts to eradicate poverty and address environmental problems. In the current context, particular attention should be paid to the issue of international legal protection of the rights of refugees and migrants and to combating crimes such as human trafficking. In the light of the increased attention to development in the post-2015 period, the Committee should endeavour to clarify the concept of the “right to development” and the linkage between development and the rule of law. It should also examine ways of harmonizing regional and bilateral treaties with universal ones, explore the possibility of developing model bilateral treaties and consider ways in which the United Nations system might assist States in creating the appropriate conditions for implementation of their treaty obligations.

2. His delegation had long held that the United Nations should seek primarily to foster the rule of law at the international level. Although the peaceful settlement of disputes was very important, it was only one aspect of the rule of law at that level. International efforts to foster the rule of law should also be based on other fundamental principles, including the sovereign equality of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of States and refraining from the threat or use of force. The concept of rule of law should never be employed in an attempt to destabilize the constitutional order of any State, nor should unilateral coercive measures be used; such measures undermined international relations and cooperation.

3. The subtopic for the Committee’s debate at the current session, the role of multilateral treaty processes in promoting and advancing the rule of law, was timely, and the Secretariat’s assistance in multilateral law-making and in the progressive development of international law was welcome. As part of its annual debate on the rule of law, the Committee should consider reviving the practice of undertaking an annual

review of multilateral treaty processes, which would enable States to share their experiences and discuss relevant issues with Secretariat experts and would contribute to the dissemination of knowledge about international law. In addition, a comprehensive review and, if necessary, amendment of the regulations adopted by the General Assembly in 1946 to give effect to Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations should be conducted, taking into consideration the availability of new technologies. His delegation would welcome information from the Secretariat on ways in which practice in that regard might be improved. It would also like to see information in the next report of the Secretary-General on how basic criteria of the rule of law were upheld within the Organization, including predictability and transparency in decision-making, fulfilment by officials of their mandates and mechanisms for challenging decisions taken by the Secretariat.

4. His delegation believed that active participation by experts from the Office of Legal Affairs in the Committee’s consideration of multilateral law-making would help to enhance the overall level of expertise in the discussions. It also wished to see the Committee continue the practice of holding informal meetings with the Secretariat and members of the International Law Commission and other jurists.

5. **Mr. Sein** (Myanmar) said that the recent United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda had served as a reminder of Member States’ collective responsibility to ensure peace, security and development by advancing the rule of law around the world. Recognizing that national reconciliation was a prerequisite for peace and stability, his Government had extended an olive branch to all ethnic armed groups in Myanmar. Extensive peace negotiations had resulted in a nationwide ceasefire agreement between the Government and eight armed groups. The much-anticipated signing of the agreement in October 2015 would be a milestone in the country’s effort to end six decades of internal strife and would pave the way for lasting peace and contribute to the rule of law, justice and equity.

6. The Government was aware that good governance and protection of rights were vital to building a democratic and developed nation and had intensified its efforts to promote and protect the rights of the people by undertaking a series of reforms, including legal reforms, granting amnesties, removing

restrictions on activities and allowing greater freedom of expression. The National Human Rights Commission Law, enacted in 2014, had strengthened the Commission in line with the Paris Principles. Numerous other laws had been enacted or amended since 2011 in order to bring domestic legislation into conformity with regional and international legal norms. Examples included a foreign investment law and a securities and exchange law.

7. International law, including multilateral treaties, played an essential role in the maintenance of international peace and stability and helped to ensure accountability with respect to the rights and duties of contracting parties. Myanmar attached great importance to promoting the rule of law at the national, regional and international levels and had steadfastly upheld the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. It had also become a party to numerous international instruments, especially those relating to human rights and disarmament. It had signed an additional protocol to its safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency in 2013 and had acceded to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2011, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography in 2012 and the Biological Weapons Convention in 2014. Earlier in 2015 Myanmar had ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention and signed the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and, during the recent treaty event in September, it had signed the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, reflecting its commitment to promote and protect human rights and to protect children from involvement in armed conflict.

8. **Mr. Saeed** (Sudan) said that his Government attached great importance to the rule of law at the national and international levels and continued its efforts to bring domestic legislation into line with international conventions and standards. It was also engaged in capacity-building aimed at ensuring that the various government bodies could fulfil their constitutional obligations. The Charter of the United Nations constituted the foundation for the rule of law at the national and international levels and the means of ensuring friendly relations between States based on

dialogue and mutual understanding, respect for national sovereignty, and non-use of force or the threat of force.

9. All States should be able to participate in developing and implementing the rule of law at the international level through a clear and transparent approach, and they should be able to review United Nations activities in that regard, in particular the activities of the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group. The Secretariat should focus its efforts on putting in place the plans and programmes required to establish the rule of law at the international level, and the Secretary-General's reports on the topic should provide a full account of those activities. At the national level, the Secretariat's technical assistance and capacity-building activities should take account of the particular circumstances prevailing in each country and not seek to impose a single model. Such support should be provided only at the request of Governments. The United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law helped to raise awareness of the rule of law and enable professionals to stay abreast of developments in the field. The Committee could not claim to promote the rule of law so long as lack of funding jeopardized the Programme's future. Sufficient funding should be mobilized to enable it to continue and be financed through the regular budget.

10. The International Court of Justice and international and regional arbitration mechanisms should also be supported, as they provided effective tools for settling disputes in a peaceful, fair and transparent manner and helped to strengthen the rule of law and foster balanced relations among States. The International Criminal Court, on the other hand, had been used for political ends, thereby endangering the entire international justice system. If the international community was serious about promoting the rule of law, it must speak out clearly against such politicization.

11. The Secretary-General's reference to the International Criminal Court in paragraph 25 of his report (A/70/206) was not in line with the requests made of him by the General Assembly in resolution 69/123, which had not called for a report on the Court's activities. Future reports should adhere strictly to the mandate given by Member States. It was to be hoped that the Committee's deliberations on the rule of

law would focus on matters that enjoyed consensus and would be reflected transparently in the resulting draft resolution.

12. **Ms. Rodríguez Pineda** (Guatemala) said that the establishment of a multilateral treaty framework was one of the greatest achievements of the United Nations. Multilateral treaty processes had evolved as a result of the involvement of larger numbers of States and other actors, technological change and the increased specialization of treaty subject matter. In order to keep pace with that evolution, the Committee should discuss the topic of multilateral treaties more frequently. It was worth noting in that connection that the General Assembly regulations to give effect to Article 102 of the Charter had not been thoroughly reviewed since 1946. In addition, it should be ensured that the Treaty Section had sufficient resources to enable it to cope with the complexity of modern treaty processes.

13. Multilateral treaties formed the basis for global diplomacy, as they enabled societies to live in a legally established international order and settle disputes peacefully. Although treaties primarily benefited States parties, multilateral instruments such as the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea were also advantageous for the international community. Moreover, since multilateral treaties were negotiated in the international sphere but adopted by national bodies, they formed a bridge between the rule of law at the national and international levels.

14. Recent events in Guatemala had marked a watershed in its political history. Leading authorities, including the President, had been forced to resign and brought to trial in the wake of mass protests against an economic, social and political system that had failed to eliminate poverty and marginalization. The protests had brought to light serious flaws in the country's governance, including several major corruption scandals. Importantly, however, there had not been a single violent incident during four months of protests and the constitutional order had remained intact, despite the serious challenges that national democratic institutions had had to surmount.

15. The United Nations had played an important role through the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala, which had assisted in the investigation and prosecution of public officials. The agreement establishing the Commission, though not a multilateral

treaty, deserved special mention in the context of the current debate. Its mandate was unprecedented in the history of efforts by the United Nations and other international bodies to promote the rule of law, strengthen the justice system and prevent impunity. She was confident that the Guatemalan people would be able to build on the extraordinary experience of recent years to consolidate the rule of law and achieve a more peaceful, just and inclusive society.

16. **Mr. Logar** (Slovenia) said that the rule of law, the promotion of which remained a priority for his Government, was essential to international peace and security, sustainable development, respect for human rights and the fight against impunity. An international order based on the rule of law and international law was essential to peaceful cooperation and coexistence, with multilateral treaties playing a crucial role. It was through multilateral treaty processes that the international community could best find binding solutions for the evolving challenges facing the international community. By building compromises and consensus, it could create widely accepted obligations and standards that not only led to predictability, but also had a positive impact on the rule of law at the national and international levels.

17. Although the actors involved in multilateral treaty processes had multiplied, contributions by the General Assembly and the International Law Commission remained central to the codification and progressive development of international law. The work of the Office of Legal Affairs and the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group was also indispensable. The role of multilateral bodies in promoting and advancing the rule of law was intrinsically linked to the role of States. For smaller States, multilateral treaty processes enhanced equal opportunities in promoting and advancing the rule of law and mitigated the effects of disparities of power, particularly given the growing number of multilateral treaties. It was through those processes that smaller States could make a notable contribution to creating a rule-governed international order.

18. Prevention of mass atrocities and the fight against impunity, which were particular concerns for Slovenia, were primarily the responsibility of States. However, the effective prosecution of atrocity crimes required effective inter-State cooperation and judicial assistance, which was often hindered by legal obstacles. Slovenia, together with Argentina, Belgium

and the Netherlands, was therefore leading an initiative for the adoption of a new multilateral treaty on mutual legal assistance and extradition with respect to the domestic investigation and prosecution of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. One of the most notable multilateral treaty processes in modern times had led to the adoption of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which Slovenia continued to support. It had organized two international conferences in 2015, one focusing on the right to protect, the Rights Up Front initiative and the Court, and the other on the fight against impunity and ending sexual violence in conflict. It was a moral imperative to combat impunity, and his delegation therefore called on all States to accede to the Rome Statute and ratify the amendments to the Rome Statute adopted by the Review Conference held in Kampala, Uganda, in 2010 (the Kampala amendments).

19. It was important to continue promoting participation in international treaties, while placing greater emphasis on the appropriate use of reservations. His delegation called on States to withdraw reservations that were contrary to the object and purpose of treaties, in particular the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its optional protocols and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. With regard to the focus of future discussions on the rule of law, one possible topic might be the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Goal 16; another topic might be human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants, with a special focus on strengthening national systems and synergies.

20. **Mr. Essa** (Libya) said that promotion of the rule of law at the national and international levels was crucial to sustainable development and the establishment of an international order characterized by peace and stability. It was also essential to the effort to combat terrorism, ensure criminal justice and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms. The rule of law also played a key role in the prevention of conflicts. Despite the difficult circumstances prevailing in Libya, his Government had made it a priority to consolidate the rule of law by building a State based on a Constitution that upheld fundamental freedoms, the peaceful transfer of power and respect for human rights. It was committed to honouring its legal obligations and ensuring that the institutions responsible for enforcing the law, particularly the

police and the armed forces, acted in accordance with international norms and standards, thus contributing to the consolidation of peace and security and creating conditions that were conducive to the rule of law. His delegation welcomed the efforts by the United Nations Support Mission in Libya to further democratization and foster dialogue and national reconciliation.

21. Multilateral treaties contributed to the progressive development and codification of international law. Indeed, they were one of the main sources of international law. The Charter of the United Nations and the various multilateral treaties concluded by its Member States provided the basis for the rule of law, as they aimed to promote international peace and security, end violations of human rights, combat terrorism and corruption, prevent impunity, accelerate economic development, ensure respect for the right of peoples to self-determination and facilitate the peaceful settlement of disputes. The implementation of the rule of law at the international and national levels required adherence to the provisions of international instruments. Libya reaffirmed its commitment to the Charter, to the treaties and instruments to which it was a party and to international law. It also reaffirmed its support for the Palestinian people and their natural and legal right to self-determination and to establish an independent sovereign State of Palestine. Palestine should be granted full membership in the United Nations.

22. **Ms. Kalb** (Austria) said that her delegation called upon all Member States to promote an international order based on the rule of law and international law, with the United Nations at its core, and to ratify and implement the relevant international agreements and settle disputes by peaceful means, including by referring them to the International Court of Justice.

23. Accountability and the fight against impunity for violations of international human rights and humanitarian law were crucial. Mass atrocities must be stopped and the perpetrators brought to justice, including through international criminal justice mechanisms. Austria was a strong supporter of the International Criminal Court and had ratified the Kampala amendments to the Rome Statute; it had already incorporated genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes into its national criminal code, and an amendment incorporating the crime of aggression would enter into force on 1 January 2016. The Court could not fulfil its mandate without political

and material support and cooperation by Member States. All States must also abide by their obligations under the relevant Security Council resolutions and implement the Court's arrest warrants.

24. Bearing in mind that the fight against corruption was an essential precondition for strengthening the rule of law, her delegation invited all States and international organizations to cooperate with the International Anti-Corruption Academy in that endeavour. Her delegation had actively and consistently supported the rule of law at the national and international levels in the context of the United Nations, including through its contributions to the Committee's discussions on the topic and through informal briefings highlighting the Organization's rule of law activities. It commended the work of the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group, the Rule of Law Unit and the global focal point arrangement involving the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the United Nations Development Programme.

25. Her delegation strongly supported multilateral treaties as the foundation of an international order based on the rule of law. It attached particular importance to the work of the International Law Commission and, especially, its practice of inviting the views of States during the consideration of topics, including draft articles and guidelines. More active participation by States in those discussions and in the drafting of multilateral instruments would help to ensure broad support and facilitate the adoption and wide ratification of new multilateral treaties.

26. Austria was also a strong supporter of the work of human rights treaty bodies in monitoring compliance with multilateral treaties. The universal periodic review played an important role in ensuring compliance, and all States should continue to cooperate in the review process. It might be useful to consider the introduction of a mechanism within the United Nations for the review of reservations to multilateral treaties, along the lines of the European Observatory of Reservations to International Treaties. During the 2015 treaty event, Austria had withdrawn its reservations to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Her delegation appreciated the Treaty Section's excellent work, including the organization of the annual treaty event. It recognized that certain regulations and publications on treaty law and practice could benefit from review and updating, since they did not fully take

into account the use of new technologies and recent practice.

27. Her delegation supported continued consideration of the topic of the rule of law and its linkages with the three main pillars of the United Nations: human rights, development and peace and security. It also looked forward to sharing lessons learned in the implementation of the voluntary pledges made on the occasion of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the rule of law at the national and international levels in 2012 and encouraged further pledging. Good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels were essential for sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger. Accordingly, the rule of law would be crucial to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. As coordinator of the Group of Friends of the Rule of Law, Austria would continue to give utmost priority to efforts to promote the rule of law, not as an abstract goal but as a means of protecting the rights and interests of individuals.

28. **Mr. Ciss** (Senegal), affirming that promotion of the rule of law lay at the heart of the mission of the United Nations, said that the rule of law was essential for justice and peace and was the only guarantee of harmonious and sustainable development. Aware of that, the Organization's founders had aspired to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law could be maintained, which required that Member States should respect the fundamental principles of international law: the sovereign equality of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, non-use of force or the threat of force and the peaceful settlement of disputes. The effective implementation of those principles was dependent on the level of ownership felt by States, which in turn was dependent on open and inclusive multilateral treaty negotiation processes.

29. As noted in the Secretary-General's report, multilateral treaty processes had become increasingly complex, a trend which had given greater prominence to the Secretary-General's role as the depositary of multilateral treaties. His delegation commended the excellent work of the Office of Legal Affairs in the progressive development and codification of international law, promotion of Member States'

participation in multilateral treaties and strengthening of their capacity through the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law. Multilateral treaties, which regulated an increasingly broad array of domains, helped strengthen universality, consolidate international consensus, ensure compliance with the rights and obligations of States and encourage the peaceful settlement of disputes. In that regard, his delegation welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution 69/292, on the development of a legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.

30. Since becoming a sovereign nation, Senegal had worked resolutely to establish a State governed by the rule of law, with respect for human rights and individual and collective freedoms. The principle of separation of powers was enshrined in its Constitution, which expressly established the independence of the judiciary and legislative branches of government from the executive. Clearly established rules, coupled with consultation and dialogue among all stakeholders, had enabled the country to consolidate a peaceful democracy, with regular, free and transparent presidential and parliamentary elections. Senegal had granted constitutional rank to the principles of good governance and transparency; in that context, the fight against corruption, misappropriation of public funds and other unscrupulous practices remained serious concerns for the Senegalese authorities.

31. The interdependence of the three pillars of the United Nations and the rule of law meant that the latter must be fully implemented. Respect for the powers delegated to the principal organs of the United Nations was essential in that regard. A balanced approach to the rule of law at the national and international levels was also required. The particular circumstances of States that requested capacity-building assistance to meet their international obligations must be borne in mind, and any selective or unilateral application of international law must be avoided.

32. **Mr. Townley** (United States of America) said that, in line with General Assembly resolution 69/123, his Government had submitted information to the Rule of Law Unit on its practices with regard to promoting legal aid in civil proceedings. Most recently, the country's President had signed a directive creating an

inter-agency legal aid round table to foster work across 20 federal agencies on legal aid. Such aid could play an important role in improving outcomes for vulnerable individuals, such as tenants in eviction proceedings and women who were victims of domestic abuse. He therefore hoped that the topic could be further discussed in the context of the Committee's deliberations on the rule of law. His Government had also provided an update on its progress in implementing a key pledge it had made in relation to violence against women during the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the rule of law. His delegation attached critical importance to Sustainable Development Goal 16, the implementation of which was key to the achievement of many of the anticipated outcomes of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

33. His delegation welcomed the opportunity to discuss the role of multilateral treaties in promoting and advancing the rule of law. Such treaties helped to promote transparent and predictable rules that advanced international trade, investment, communications and travel; to protect fundamental human rights; and to facilitate cooperation in the investigation and prosecution of serious crimes and the prevention and punishment of conduct that threatened the common interests of States. However, treaties were not the only tools at the international community's disposal for advancing common interests, including the rule of law. In many areas, non-binding instruments could serve as effective means for promoting international cooperation and shaping State conduct. They might also offer advantages over treaties, including greater flexibility and the potential for faster implementation. Hence, although treaties were sometimes viewed as the highest form of norm-setting, they might not always be the best solution to a particular problem that international cooperation might be helpful in addressing, particularly given the difficulty of negotiating and forging support for a treaty.

34. Two key considerations in relation to treaty negotiation were clarity of drafting and a commitment to implementation. The former was important in order to ensure that the broad range of actors who would be responsible for giving effect to treaty obligations understood and were able to apply the treaty's provisions. Those actors might include lawmakers, judges, private parties called upon to interpret and

apply the treaty and members of the media, who might have a role in the public's understanding of the treaty and its requirements. Ensuring that treaty terms were carefully defined and treaty obligations clearly stated could contribute significantly to the treaty's effectiveness. Treaties concluded in multiple languages must be translated so that they clearly conveyed the intended meaning in each language version. During treaty negotiations, his Government's negotiators often made proposals designed to improve the clarity of treaty provisions; such changes might appear technical in nature, but could contribute to the achievement of the treaty's intended objectives. He would be interested in hearing how other delegations approached issues of clarity in treaty provisions under negotiation.

35. By giving careful consideration to the steps required to implement treaty obligations before becoming parties, States could maximize the effectiveness of treaties and ensure compliance with their legal obligations. His Government employed a standardized process through which interested agencies carefully reviewed treaties before the United States joined them and determined whether new legislation would be required for their implementation. If so, such legislation was adopted before the United States became a party. His delegation would like to hear about other States' processes for ensuring treaty implementation. It might also be useful to examine how treaties themselves had addressed the need for effective implementation and to identify factors and mechanisms that had proved useful in promoting such implementation.

36. While it must be States that developed international law, non-governmental actors could sometimes play a useful role, both in providing input during the negotiation of an instrument and in helping to hold States parties collectively to account for their obligations. The United Nations could also make a critical contribution to both clarity and implementation. The Office of Legal Affairs could serve as a repository of treaty practice and assist negotiators in formulating treaty provisions, drawing on relevant provisions in other instruments, which might result in a clearer understanding of such provisions. The Committee, too, could play an important role through the exchange of information and the identification of best practices, which could help States to strengthen their approaches and commitment to treaty implementation.

37. Once States were in a position to implement multilateral treaties, they had to be able to participate in the relevant treaty regimes. In that regard, he commended the work of the Office of Legal Affairs in support of the Secretary General's depositary function and encouraged an update, within existing resources, to the guidance on practice in that area, which was a useful resource and helped to facilitate States' effective participation in multilateral treaty regimes. Recognizing that the effectiveness of treaties could also be advanced by greater public understanding and awareness, his delegation also commended the Office's work in expanding access to information about treaties, including its excellent treaty collection website and its organization of the annual treaty event. His Government had recently sought to make state and local officials aware of the human rights treaties to which the United States was a party. His delegation would welcome information and discussion on how other States had gone about making treaties known, not only to other States and internally within the government, but also to citizens, who needed to understand the obligations undertaken by their Governments.

38. **Ms. Argüello González** (Nicaragua) said that, throughout its history, Nicaragua had demonstrated its respect for the rule of law and recognized the State's responsibility to maintain democracy, sovereignty, transparency and equity in all spheres. Nicaragua had shown its commitment to the restoration of the economic, political, social and cultural rights of the population, with particular emphasis on the human rights of women and children. Her delegation stressed the urgent need to strengthen and uphold the rule of law at the international level, particularly in the current troubled times. Nicaragua was committed to any initiative that would help to reinvent the United Nations in response to the growing demand for a democratic organization that would serve the interests of security, justice, and peace in the world. The Organization should serve the interests of all and enable all Member States to speak and listen on an equal footing, and its various agencies should conduct their activities in a respectful, responsible and ethical manner, without intervention or interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States.

39. Nicaragua was firmly committed to the peaceful settlement of disputes through dialogue and negotiation, as evidenced by its use of the International

Court of Justice in recent years. It had consistently demonstrated its respect for the Court's decisions and had always complied with its rulings. The work of the Court not only contributed to the promotion, consolidation and dissemination of the rule of law, but was also essential to the fulfilment of commitments to ensure the sovereign equality of all States, a fundamental principle of the United Nations. Her delegation urged all States to recognize the Court's jurisdiction without reservation.

40. **Ms. Auväärt** (Estonia), observing that the Secretary-General's report illustrated the progress made towards a united international framework of norms and standards, said that the analytical summary of the thematic debates on the subject provided an excellent tool for determining how future discussions on the rule of law could best address the challenges facing the international community. The exponential growth in the number of multilateral treaties was welcome, as they helped to clarify and structure international relations by establishing common rules for all nations. Further, they served as precedents and contributed to the development of legal principles. Her delegation commended the work of the Office of Legal Affairs in discharging the depositary functions of the Secretary-General, in particular its use of information technology as a means of increasing transparency and facilitating access to relevant information. Estonia, too, had used such technology to make English translations of Estonian laws, including treaties, available online.

41. The rule of law was a core principle of governance that ensured justice and fairness in a system in which all individuals and the State itself were held accountable and laws were equally enforced and independently adjudicated. Adherence to the rule of law at the national level increased the chances that States would also comply at the international level. The fundamental values of the United Nations as articulated in its three pillars could not be upheld without adherence to the rule of law, nor could the rule of law thrive without the protection of those values. Hence, they were mutually reinforcing. Adherence to the rule of law also provided the foundation for effective conflict prevention and peacemaking and fostered public trust in national government institutions.

42. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognized that good governance, transparency in decision-making processes and prevention of

corruption were the best guarantees of success. Modern digital technology provided a valuable tool for building effective and accountable institutions, which could be powerful enablers for sustainable development. Her Government had developed an e-governance system that had increased transparency and helped to eliminate corruption; it would be pleased to share that system with other countries.

43. The rule of law also provided a tool to ensure respect for the fundamental human right of access to justice, which was closely linked to efforts to combat impunity and ensure accountability for serious crimes. Estonia firmly supported the important work of the International Criminal Court, which helped to ensure justice for victims and facilitate the transition from conflict to sustainable peace. Her delegation called upon countries that had not yet done so to ratify the Rome Statute and urged States parties to ratify the Kampala amendments to the Statute. Whether or not they were parties to the Rome Statute, all countries should set an example of non-aggression, self-restraint and respect for the rule of law. Her delegation also commended the efforts of the ad hoc tribunals to pursue accountability for crimes of atrocity and welcomed the support of various United Nations entities in investigating and prosecuting conflict-related sexual violence. However, it was States that bore the primary responsibility for ensuring accountability, and it was therefore essential that they build capacity to investigate and prosecute serious international crimes, including by putting in place a comprehensive legislative framework, incorporating the crimes included in the Rome Statute in domestic criminal codes and ensuring robust witness protection programmes.

44. **Ms. Gebremedhin** (Eritrea) said that strengthening the rule of law was vital to peace, social and economic development and international cooperation; lack of compliance with international law was a root cause of many inter-State tensions and conflicts. Eritrea remained committed to upholding and developing an international order based on the rule of law with the United Nations at its core.

45. Strengthening the rule of law at the national level was critical for social and economic progress, political stability and promotion and protection of human rights. Eritrea had taken numerous measures to achieve a peaceful and inclusive society by ensuring a comprehensive, efficient and effective justice system.

Access to and participation in the justice system had been enhanced through the establishment of community courts, with community election of judges every two years; one candidate in each election must be a woman. Electing women judges had contributed to national efforts to ensure greater emancipation of women and their involvement in the judicial process.

46. New penal and civil codes and related procedures had been drafted following extensive public consultations. The codes had been designed to reflect the concepts, values and norms of society. More than 80,000 customary laws from all over the country had been examined, and international and universal human rights issues had also been taken into consideration. To ensure wider understanding of domestic laws, an awareness-raising campaign had been launched by civil society and the documents had been translated into Tigrinya, Arabic and English. National institutions working with international partners were taking steps to enhance the institutional and human capacity of the judiciary organs and law enforcement agencies. The Government was cognizant that advancing the rule of law was an evolutionary process that would require sustained involvement of all stakeholders and sectors of society.

47. **Ms. Carnal** (Switzerland), welcoming the informal briefings offered during the intersessional period on various aspects of the rule of law, said that mutual trust among those involved in codifying the law was vital if the international community was to have rules of law that were applicable and effectively applied. While there was sometimes a tendency to bemoan the rapid rise in the number of treaties, at the same time there were complaints about the difficulty of codifying the law, even in areas where codification was urgently needed. Certainly, it was becoming more difficult to reach agreement on substantive binding rules for the international community, and States were making do instead with soft law. Nevertheless, as the number of problems confronting the international community had increased, so had the number of treaties, which was a fortunate development and an important one for international peace and security. The complexity of drawing up treaties could be demotivating, however. It was therefore important to improve understanding of the codification process in order to facilitate treaty negotiation processes.

48. To enhance adherence to the rule of law in its handling of international agreements, her Government

had published a guide to practice in respect of treaties. The guide, which was available online, contained suggestions for drawing up treaties in several languages, as well as guidance on full powers, signature, ratification, reservations and other matters. It was designed to help Swiss negotiators and practitioners, but it might be of use to other Governments and to staff of international organizations.

49. Switzerland currently served as depositary for some 80 treaties. The functions of a depositary were essentially limited to verifying compliance with the formal requirements of an agreement and registering, publicizing and keeping a record of parties' acts with respect to treaties. It was not the depositary's role to exercise any substantive control over those acts. A depositary State that was also a State party to an agreement had to take great care to distinguish between its two roles and ensure that it carried out its depositary functions impartially. Switzerland adhered consistently to the principles of impartiality, drawing a clear distinction between its roles as State party and depositary. It also followed the example set by the United Nations and would therefore welcome a revision of the *Summary of Practice of the Secretary-General as Depositary of Multilateral Treaties*, which had not been updated for 20 years. Her delegation hoped that the Committee's resolution on the rule of law would call on the Secretary-General to update the *Summary* and other useful treaty-related manuals as soon as possible.

50. **Mr. Naser Bin Faisal Al-Thani** (Qatar) said that peace, security and development could not be achieved unless all State adhered to the rule of law. Developments in recent times had shown that the rule of law remained the key to success in international efforts to achieve the goals and purposes for which the United Nations had been created. Tensions and conflicts in many regions of the world had seriously undermined peace and stability and hindered much-needed development. International crises had shown that countries with weaknesses in relation to the rule of law were more prone to conflicts and to economic and social problems. Hence, the rule of law played a crucial role in conflict prevention and resolution and in peacebuilding. It was also the means of ensuring the protection of human dignity and human rights and strengthening economic, social and cultural rights,

which had become the foundation of the constitutions and laws of States that respected the rule of law.

51. His Government had spared no effort in promoting the rule of law at the national and international levels. At the national level, government institutions adhered to the rule of law and sought to raise awareness of its importance for the achievement of equality, justice and good governance. Great effort had been put into ensuring that the necessary legal frameworks were in place and that domestic laws were in line with international norms and customs and with Qatar's international obligations. At the international level, Qatar continued to collaborate closely with international bodies to enhance respect for the rule of law and ensure that relations among States were based on equality, mutual respect and cooperation. It had also joined in international efforts to achieve the peaceful settlement of regional and international disputes on the basis of the Charter and international law. At the regional level, the Government provided support for the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Centre in Doha, which had organized a number of seminars, meetings and training workshops on the subject.

52. It was incumbent on all States to adhere to the rule of law in order to achieve a fair and lasting solution to current crises and put an end to flagrant violations of international law and human rights, fight impunity and ensure accountability, combat terrorism and ensure respect for the right of peoples to self-determination. His Government would continue to abide by the international instruments and treaties adopted by the international community with a view to enhancing respect for the rule of law and ensuring that international relations were conducted without duplicity or political manipulation.

53. **Mr. Musikhin** (Russian Federation) said that the multilateral treaty framework was an important component of the rule of law at the international level. His delegation noted the growing number of requests to the Secretariat for assistance in drawing up the final clauses of treaties and commended the work of the Treaty Section. It also welcomed the annual treaty events, which contributed to increased participation by States in the major multilateral instruments. His delegation remained concerned about the lack of funding for the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law, which made

a valuable contribution to the promotion of the rule of law at the international level.

54. His delegation had long held that the work of the United Nations in respect of the rule of law should focus on the international level and had consistently called for balanced treatment of the national and international dimensions of the topic in the Secretary-General's reports. The current report moved in the right direction, a positive trend which he hoped would continue. His delegation was satisfied with the explanations provided in the report and in informal briefings concerning the nature of the global focal point — namely, that it was not a new structure, but rather an administrative arrangement bringing together staff from various departments — but would appreciate even greater transparency in that regard.

55. The Rights Up Front initiative described in the report raised some serious questions, as it had been developed by the Secretariat without due consultation of and participation by Member States, and the monitoring activities conducted under the initiative in relation to human rights and humanitarian issues were being carried out without the consent of the States concerned. The report provided little information about the concrete results of those activities, and its positive assessment of the initiative was therefore premature. His delegation agreed that it was important for the Secretariat to provide assistance for constitution-making and the improvement of legislation when requested by Member States; however, it was unacceptable to question the legitimacy of national constitutions and authorities on the basis of their compliance with abstract concepts.

56. His delegation had doubts about some of the terminology used in the report. For example, the concept of "atrocities crimes" did not exist in international law and its use as a collective designation for genocide and other serious crimes was not appropriate. The report asserted, in paragraph 7 of the annex to the report (A/70/206), containing an analytical summary of past thematic debates, that Member States had considered the rule of law to be an integral part of the Charter, which was not the case. His delegation and many others had pointed out that the Charter focused on international law and made no mention of the rule of law. Many delegations had also questioned both the attempt to define the rule of law, mentioned in paragraph 8 of that annex, and

definition proposed by the Secretary-General. The concept was much broader than indicated in paragraph 27 of the annex, in relation to human rights; limiting its scope to human rights and democracy at the national level could hinder efforts to promote the rule of law.

57. The Russian Federation attached great importance to the rule of law, and was prepared to work with all interested stakeholders in ensuring adherence to it at the national and international levels.

58. *Ms. Morris-Sharma (Singapore), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

59. **Ms. Farhani** (Malaysia) said that respect for the rule of law at the international level was essential in ensuring lasting international peace and security; without it there could be no stability and, consequently, no economic development. In Malaysia, the rule of law was enshrined in the Federal Constitution. Malaysia was an active participant in multilateral treaty-making processes. It practised a dualist approach in the adoption and implementation of treaties. Accordingly, rules of international law and treaty obligations were transformed into domestic law by means of acts of Parliament or enabling statutes, thus ensuring domestic compliance with treaty provisions and adherence to the rule of law. Malaysian courts were increasingly applying the provisions of treaties, particularly those relating to human rights, in their decisions. By embracing the multilateral treaty process, Malaysia had committed to advancing the universality of international law, consolidating international consensus, ensuring the accountability of States for their actions and facilitating the peaceful settlement of disputes.

60. Multilateral treaties played an integral role in the development of comprehensive international legal frameworks, including by ensuring that the rule of law served as the basis for inter-State relations. Nevertheless, negotiations on multilateral treaties should not be used as a forum to impose the cultural values of any particular country or group of countries on the rest of the international community. As a developing nation, Malaysia had faced challenges such as financial and human resource limitations and lack of expertise in some subject areas, when it had participated in multilateral treaty-making forums. It had overcome some of those challenges through its participation in regional groupings, which were able to

exercise considerable influence in multilateral negotiations. It also participated in interregional networks that sought to resolve issues and achieve like-minded positions, and it was pursuing capacity-building opportunities for its legal experts and treaty negotiators.

61. The negotiation of free trade agreements and other trade and investment instruments had posed a particular challenge. Such treaties raised potential concerns with regard to equity, human rights, the environment and other issues, which in turn raised questions as to how the country's obligations under trade and investment agreements might impact its ability to fulfil other obligations and how any negative effects might be mitigated. In that connection, her delegation recalled General Assembly resolution 67/171, which affirmed that human rights and the right to development should be guiding considerations in multilateral trade negotiations.

62. The recently concluded negotiations on the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement represented a progressive development in the linkage between the rule of law and trade. In such agreements, a focus solely on trade in goods and services and on investment was becoming less of a norm. Moreover, the focus of free trade agreements had expanded to include non-traditional areas relating to the environment and labour, including protection of human rights. Such treaties were more complicated to conclude, in part because a human rights-based approach to negotiation was not yet a mature concept and there was no consensus as to how it might be applied in the case of a free trade agreement whose primary objective was trade liberalization.

63. Her delegation had observed that questions relating to the inclusion of human rights elements such as labour and environmental standards in free trade agreements between developed and developing nations largely revolved around the issue of whose standard should be adopted and whether the negotiating parties would agree to lower standards in order to reach a common, acceptable level. Malaysia would continue to seek answers to such questions through experience and dialogue with its existing and future treaty partners in an attempt to uphold national interests and the rule of law in the conclusion of international treaties.

64. **Mr. Al-Salman** (Iraq) said that strengthening the rule of law was crucial to the maintenance of peace and

security and the protection human rights. The Iraqi people had affirmed their desire to establish a democratic State based on the rule of law through the adoption of a new Constitution that had established the principle of separation of powers and equality of all citizens with respect to certain rights and freedoms, including freedom of association and expression and freedom of the press. The Constitution had also strengthened the role of women in society. Respect for international instruments and non-interference in the internal affairs of States were key principles enshrined in the Constitution, as was safeguarding the rule of law. He wished to highlight the important role of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq in advancing the rule of law.

65. His Government had undertaken a series of reforms aimed at consolidating the rule of law, restoring public trust in government institutions, meeting the expectations of the Iraqi people and upholding the country's religious values. The Iraqi parliament had enacted a law on treaties in August 2015 with a view to ensuring respect for Iraq's obligations to the international community and protecting its interests and rights in international relations. In addition, a national commission on international humanitarian law had been established with the aim of raising awareness of that type of law and promoting the application of its principles at the national level. Capacity-building at the national level could play an important role in ensuring respect for international and domestic law and in strengthening national institutions. International experts could make an important contribution in that regard.

66. His delegation was hopeful that strengthening the efforts of the General Assembly with regard to the rule of law could make a real difference and ensure greater respect for international law.

67. **Mr. González Franco** (Paraguay) said that the rule of law constituted the basis for the existence of sovereign States and the community of nations. In the historic declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the rule of law at the national and international levels, Heads of State and Government had highlighted the linkage between the rule of law and the three pillars of the United Nations and reached consensus on some elements of a definition of the concept and its scope. Paraguay was deeply committed to the international system and to promotion of the rule of law. In May 2015 his

Government, in collaboration with the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs, had hosted a seminar on treaty practice in Latin America and the Caribbean. Participants had recognized the importance of treaties in strengthening the rule of law.

68. The rule of law was firmly entrenched in Paraguay. The country's birth and development as a free and independent nation had not been easy. It had had to contend with being a landlocked State and had endured two bloody international wars, prolonged periods of political instability and a lengthy dictatorship. Nevertheless, for more than 20 years it had succeeded in upholding the values of a full democracy. The rule of law could not be achieved through will alone. It had to be practised in all spheres, while ensuring respect for the sovereign rights of all States. Paraguay followed that rule in its international relations, and his delegation hoped that other States would do the same.

69. **Mr. Mundanda** (Zambia) said that multilateral treaties played an important role in defining how States related to one another and in ensuring greater predictability and fairness in international relations. Major progress had been made through treaties in achieving a common understanding of the obligations and duties of States. The time required to finalize some treaties was cause for concern, however, and steps should be taken to accelerate the process, especially in the case of treaties on which international peace and security might hinge. Zambia was, or intended to become, a party to many multilateral treaties that supported the rule of law.

70. Adherence to the rule of law required States to develop legal and institutional frameworks that supported its basic tenets as enshrined in various multilateral treaties. His delegation appreciated the efforts of the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group and the Rule of Law Unit in assisting Governments in developing national laws that incorporated international norms and standards. It also appreciated the contributions of the International Law Commission and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law to multilateral treaty-making through the progressive development of international law and its codification.

71. To ensure that all persons enjoyed equality before the law, as stipulated in the Constitution of Zambia, his Government continued to support institutions such as

the national human rights and anti-corruption commissions in their role of providing oversight with respect to the human rights and fundamental freedoms of individuals. It had also embarked on judicial reforms aimed at modernizing the judicial sector and enabling it to deliver justice in a timely manner.

72. The rule of law was both an enabler and a facilitator of development, and his delegation was gratified by the emphasis in the Sustainable Development Goals on improving the rule of law at the international and national levels. It particularly welcomed the inclusion of Goal 16 and its target 16.3. Implementing the rule of law remained a challenge, particularly in developing countries, which had limited capacity and resources to support relevant institutions and mechanisms. His delegation therefore called upon the international community to render technical assistance to facilitate the strengthening of institutions dealing with the implementation of the rule of law.

73. *Mr. Charles (Trinidad and Tobago) resumed the Chair.*

74. **Mr. Perera** (Sri Lanka) said that strengthening the rule of law at the national and international levels was a common responsibility of Member States. At the national level, his Government viewed the rule of law as a major contributor to the advancement of peace, democracy, sustainable development and human rights. The Sri Lankan people had recently elected a new President with a clear mandate to strengthen the rule of law, rebuild democratic institutions and usher in reconciliation and good governance. Subsequent parliamentary elections had further cemented that mandate. The new Government had undertaken significant reforms to bolster the rule of law. Far-reaching constitutional amendments had been introduced to limit the powers of the President, and additional measures were being discussed to strengthen Parliament, including through the introduction of oversight committees.

75. While the rule of law had traditionally been approached in the context of individual rights, it was also linked to sustainable development, as reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. His country's Parliament intended to establish, by law, a sustainable development council with a mandate to implement the Sustainable Development Goals. Socioeconomic development and, especially, the empowerment of women were essential in societies

where the rule of law was threatened. Sri Lanka had recently enacted a law on women's rights which would give effect to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Government was also implementing a new programme and plan of action to advance human rights and was committed to conducting credible independent inquiries into alleged violations of human rights during armed conflict.

76. At the international level, the rule of law must be based on an order grounded in international law and the principles of sovereign equality and non-interference, non-use of force or the threat of force and the peaceful settlement of disputes. Those principles formed the cornerstone of the rule of law at the international level and must be respected in the development and implementation of international rules. Moreover, it was on those core principles that the contemporary global order was based, and it was those principles that served to protect States that did not have standing armies or military capacity. The principle of sovereign equality was of particular importance, as it ensured that all States had an equal opportunity to participate in the international law-making process. It is also protected developing States from the harshness of an unequal world. Specific social, religious, philosophical and cultural factors had played a significant role in the evolution of the rule of law in different regions. The rule of law could therefore not be enforced from the outside, nor could it be made to conform to an external prescription that ignored domestic realities.

77. The scourge of terrorism continued to pose a direct challenge to the rule of law at both the national and the international levels. With each passing day, lives were lost, State borders collapsed, and human history continued to be erased. Adherence to international obligations under counter-terrorism treaties and demonstration of the requisite political will to conclude negotiations on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism would bolster the rule of law.

78. The codification and development of international law was a key aspect of the rule of law at the international level. The International Law Commission made a valuable contribution in that regard, as did the International Court of Justice through its jurisprudence. His delegation also commended the important work of the Office of Legal Affairs in

strengthening multilateral treaty processes. The importance of participation by developing States in such processes should not be underestimated, and indeed had often proved vital to their success. In the post-colonial global order, the developing countries were playing an active role in reshaping the traditional rules of international law. Over the years, Sri Lanka had contributed proactively to the negotiation of a number of international treaties and in particular to the codification of the law of the sea.

79. Developing States faced challenges, however, when it came to participating in multilateral treaty-making processes, including insufficient financial and administrative resources and lack of legal expertise. The United Nations had a crucial role to play in assisting States with capacity-building. Its encouragement of the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law would help to strengthen the rule of law at both the national and the international levels. In that regard, his delegation noted with appreciation the role of the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship on the Law of the Sea and hoped that with sufficient funding it would continue to benefit generations of developing country lawyers.

80. **Mr. Abdullahi** (Nigeria), expressing the hope that the Committee's deliberations would provide a new perspective on the nexus between the rule of law and the maintenance of international peace and security, said that the declaration of the high-level meeting on the rule of law provided the normative framework for addressing the topic. Issues pertaining to good governance, democracy, accountability, prevention of impunity, peacekeeping, protection of civilians in armed conflict, counter-terrorism and transnational crime were all intrinsically linked to the rule of law. His delegation had consistently underlined the importance of security sector reform as part of the evolving concept of a multidimensional approach to peacekeeping, peacebuilding and the promotion and protection of human rights. In post-conflict situations, it was of utmost importance to establish civilian oversight of the armed forces, police and security agencies.

81. Adherence to the rule of law was necessary, especially in the international system, to regulate the behaviours of States and ensure that they acted in accordance with the ideals and standards embodied in the Charter. All the instruments, norms and principles

that governed the rule of law at the international, regional and national levels — including respect for the sovereignty, integrity and independence of States and the peaceful settlement of disputes — had proved beneficial to peaceful coexistence. His Government believed in and practised the rule of law as a fundamental principle of governance and as a prerequisite for the establishment of justice and peaceful coexistence and the prevention of armed conflict. At the national level, the country's Constitution provided the basis for a rule of law approach to governance at the national level. Its law-making process was people-oriented and particularly sensitive to the needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. Nigeria had demonstrated strong political will to fulfil its international obligations through the domestication of relevant instruments and practices. The judicial system played a pivotal role in advancing the rights of the people through effective oversight of the executive and legislative branches of government and had created an enabling environment for peace and stability to thrive.

82. At the international level, Nigeria had consistently pursued a foreign policy anchored in the promotion of global peace and security and the protection of the dignity of all persons. It recognized the important role of the International Court of Justice and other international tribunals in the peaceful resolution of international disputes, as was illustrated by its compliance with the Court's ruling in the case concerning the *Land and Maritime Boundary between Cameroon and Nigeria (Cameroon v. Nigeria)*. Nigeria's support for peacekeeping was well known.

83. His delegation appreciated the sustained efforts of the United Nations to promote the rule of law and transitional justice in conflict and post-conflict societies. The international community should work collectively to attain a world where the rule of law, accountability and social justice formed the foundation for sustainable development and lasting peace.

84. **Ms. Abayena** (Ghana) said that multilateral treaty-making processes would undoubtedly help strengthen the rule of law and reinforce the core principles of the Charter. The increase in the membership of the United Nations meant that those processes must become more inclusive, and treaty negotiations must be approached with greater openness and transparency. The involvement of international organizations in such processes posed challenges,

especially with respect to negotiation and participation, which called for a willingness on the part of participants to work together to adopt guidelines that would inure to the benefit of all.

85. Her delegation wished to emphasize the importance of capacity-building and technical assistance in advancing the rule of law. Through its various programmes and activities, the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law played a crucial role in that regard, but it could not undertake those activities without adequate regular budget funding. Her delegation therefore urged all Member States to join in efforts to secure the needed funding for the sustainability and further development of the Programme of Assistance.

86. Her Government remained committed to the rule of law, which underpinned Ghana's Constitution, and to ensuring that the institutions and government machinery established under the Constitution remained independent and relevant to the rule of law, good governance and accountability. It would continue striving to strengthen national institutions and deepen the rule of law in the firm belief that doing so would ensure respect for the fundamental rights of the Ghanaian people and advance national development.

87. **Mr. El Shinawy** (Egypt) said that the rule of law was the main prerequisite for peace, security and stability and for the development of nations. Violations of rule of law principles were at the root of many current conflicts and problems. It was imperative for all States to respect their obligations to implement the rule of law and international law as embodied in the Charter and in relevant international instruments and resolutions. It was equally important to respect the rulings of international courts, ensure accountability and prevent impunity.

88. At the international level the principle of the rule of law must be followed in the settlement of long-standing international conflicts, putting an end to foreign occupation and combating international terrorism by refraining from providing terrorists with funds, weapons, safe haven or any other form of support. Effective use of existing monitoring mechanisms would also enhance the rule of law at the international level. The United Nations and other international and regional organizations had a key role to play in that regard. Capacity-building based on the

principle of national ownership was also vital, and cooperation among countries for that purpose should be encouraged. For its part, Egypt was working with other Arab and African countries to build capacity to apply the rule of law.

89. At the national level, the stability and prosperity of countries was closely linked to respect for the rule of law. With that in mind, his Government had taken a number of steps to enhance the rule of law, including revision and updating of laws to bring them into alignment with international norms, ratification of numerous international conventions and the provision of support to enhance the judiciary. New legislation had been enacted and a national strategy formulated with a view to combating corruption, and the Government had also undertaken a review of compliance with its obligations under the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.