

STATEMENT OF THE STATE OF QATAR

DELIVERED BY

Miss Hessa Saqr Al Marikhi Legal Researcher, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

BEFORE

The Sixth Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations during its sixty-seventh session

ON

Agenda Item 83: The rule of law at the national and international levels

UN Headquarters - New York 10 OCTOBER 2012

Please check against delivery

Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar to the United Nations 809 UN Plaza, 4th Fl., New York, NY 10017 - Tel: 212-486-9335 - Fax: 212-758-4952

Mr. President,

The concept of the rule of law is an important aspect of the manifestation of human civilization, and the promotion of this concept will help to keep peace, encourage development, increase the chances of cooperation and can, therefore, be a supportive factor for building a harmonious world.

At the national level, societies that are governed by an independent judiciary that ensures international norms and standards for the protection of human rights, where there are measures to ensure adherence to the principles of the concept of the rule of law, where there are remedies for reparation, and where all those who violate the law are held accountable, including the state itself, live with adequate security and peace.

At the international level, the rule of law must be based on the general principles of international law and the foundations of justice. Moreover, relations between countries must be governed by the rule of law and the principle of equality among them, the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means and there should be effective deterrent mechanisms in cases of the use of force or the threat to use force by some countries.

Therefore, when countries sign agreements and adopt decisions, they recognize that this legal approach must be respected, for it would be in everyone's interest to respect the law at the international level for the commitments it produces and the rights it gives.

Mr. President,

Undoubtedly, the best proof of the international community's good faith is its active participation in the high-level meeting on the rule of law, which was held on the sidelines of the General Assembly on September 24, 2012. This high-level meeting comes as a recognition by the United Nations of the increasing centrality that the rule of law holds at the national and international level. This indicates that the initiative represents an opportunity for States to expand their consensus on strengthening the principle of the rule of law at the institutional, the procedural and substantive level.

Mr. President,

Talking about the rule of law is not only intended to confirm its importance as a symbol. Rather, the goal lies in realizing that it is indispensable to achieve all our collective goals.

Stemming from its awareness of the importance of the rule of law, the State of Qatar has taken action on various levels and in different sectors to promote good governance, and to strengthen the rule of law as a governing principle of political, economic and social life. The State of Qatar has also made the rule of law an essential part of its national strategies. In this context, the State of Qatar always seeks to uphold the law, equality under the law, accountability before the law, and justice in the application of the law.

In this context, it should be noted that the State of Qatar is seeking to join international conventions and has become a party to many human rights conventions, which clearly shows the State's commitment to its international obligations in this area.

In order to promote the culture of the rule of law at the national level, the state is working on: (1) making the law known to all and can be specific and clear (2) the possibility to access law enforcement mechanisms by all and achieve justice (3) applying the law on equal footing with everyone and ensuring that no distinction is made between people for any reason (4) ensuring access to due process (5) ensuring the independence of the judiciary from the legislative and executive powers (6) ensuring that executive power is subject to the authority of the law (7) ensuring that nobody is subjected to any treatment contrary to human dignity (8) and that the State is respecting its obligations stemming from international agreements and customary international law.

To uphold the principle of the rule of law, the State of Qatar has established an entity of management control and transparency, which are empowered with full powers and the resources that enable it to fulfill its mission. In addition, the Fourth United Nations Conference on Anti-Corruption was held in Doha where a center of the rule of law and the fight against corruption was inaugurated. Moreover, the State of Qatar established a number of national institutions for human rights and democracy.

The State of Qatar always seeks to develop domestic laws and regulations, to join international conventions, promote a culture of respect for national and international law through conferences, workshops and other means.

In conclusion, these procedures, policies and measures all stem from the State of Qatar's belief in the importance of the principle of the rule of law in creating a favorable environment to achieve security and prosperity.

Thank you.