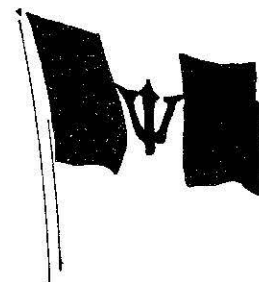


*Permanent Mission
of Barbados to
the United Nations*



STATEMENT BY

MRS. JULIETTE RILEY
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BARBADOS
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON

AGENDA ITEM 85

THE RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL
LEVELS

OF THE

70TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OCTOBER 15, 2015

United Nations Headquarters
New York

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Mr. Chairman,

As this is the first time that my delegation is taking the floor, I wish at the outset to congratulate you on your election to the chairmanship of the Sixth Committee. I also take this opportunity to extend my delegation's congratulations to the other members of the Bureau. My delegation assures you of its full cooperation and support during the deliberations of the Committee.

Barbados aligns itself with the Statements delivered by the distinguished representatives of Ecuador on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and Trinidad and Tobago on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

Mr. Chairman,

As the United Nations celebrates the 70th year of its establishment, it is important that we review the contribution that it has made to the maintenance of international peace and security and the promotion of human rights and development. Barbados therefore welcomes the overall theme of this Session "The United Nations at 70: the road ahead for peace, security and development" and more specifically the focus of this year's debate on the Rule of Law at the national and international levels – namely the Role of multilateral treaty making processes in promoting and advancing the rule of law".

Barbados wishes to express its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his annual report on Strengthening and coordinating rule of law activities. The report provides helpful information on the steps taken by the UN and its specialised agencies in promoting the rule of law at the national and international levels. Barbados is mindful of the invaluable assistance that it continues to receive from several key UN agencies and programmes including UN Women, UNDP, UNICEF, UNODC, UNLIREC and FAO. We wish in particular to applaud the decision of the OHCHR to locate a National Human Rights Officer within the UN Country Office in Barbados. The work of these bodies contributes in no small measure to solidifying respect for human rights and the rule of law in our countries.

Barbados, like many in our region, attaches particular importance to an international system that is rules-based. It is for this reason that we attach such importance to multilateralism and the role that multilateral treaty making processes play in developing rules and norms that are clearly known and therefore predictable. Multilateral treaties have the added benefit of ensuring that the rules benefit and apply to all, irrespective of their size and resources.

Mr. Chairman,

Next year Barbados will celebrate the 50th year of its membership of the United Nations. At independence, Barbados was sure to incorporate many of the provisions of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights in its national Constitution. Since independence, Barbados has become a party to six of the nine core conventions on the promotion and protection of human rights and is a signatory to the Optional Protocol to the ICCPR. We are also a State party to a myriad of Inter-American and United Nations conventions which touch and concern every aspect of our society.

Over the last year, Barbados has ratified the Arms Trade Treaty, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organised Crime and its three Protocols. We have also taken the requisite steps to become a member of the IAEA.

Given the importance of Climate Change to SIDS, Barbados looks forward to the conclusion of an ambitious, legally binding agreement with universal participation as a key outcome of the 21st COP in Paris, in December. We equally look forward to participating in the work of the preparatory committee established by resolution 69/292 to make substantive recommendations on the development of a legally binding agreement aimed at formal recognition of the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of our oceans, seas and marine resources to the sustainable development of SIDS.

We especially want to thank the Office of Legal Affairs and the members of the Advisory Committee on the Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law for their sterling work in ensuring that the Programme continues to provide critical capacity building to Member

States, including developing countries and in particular dualist states. The Programme therefore remains a crucial tool in the promotion of the rule of law at the international and national levels.

Mr. Chairman,

It would be remiss of me to conclude my delegation's contribution to the debate, on this important agenda item, without highlighting the work of the General Assembly in developing and adopting the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. While these developments do not rise to the level of a treaty, they are nonetheless the result of a multilateral process, which when fully implemented, will address key factors - which if left unattended could undermine the rule of law within our societies. We share the view that the *rule of law, peace and security, human rights and sustainable development are strongly interrelated and mutually reinforcing*. We remain committed therefore to playing our part in developing rules and norms that foster an international system that fights impunity, respects international law and upholds the Charter of the United Nations.

I thank you.