

Rev 1

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STATEMENT

BY

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OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE TO THE
UNITED NATIONS**

BEFORE THE SIXTH COMMITTEE

SEVENTIETH SESSION

**THE RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL
AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS
(Agenda item 85)**

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Mr. Chairman,

At the very outset, let me start by extending my sincere congratulations to you upon your election as Chairman of this Sixth Committee and to other members of the Bureau and through you to the new Director of the United Nations Codification Division.

I assure you my delegation's full support throughout the work of the Committee.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished Representative of South Africa and Iran on behalf of the African Group and the Non-Aligned Movement respectively under this item.

Mr. Chairman,

The debate of the present topic in this Committee is, indeed, a commendable step to materialize the commitment made by the 2005 World Summit and by the High-Level Meeting of the 67th Session of the General Assembly on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels.

We believe that an international order based on the rule of law is an essential foundation for peaceful coexistence, cooperation among states, political dialogue, and respect of human rights, and democracy as well as for sustained growth, development and the eradication of poverty and hunger throughout the world.

In this regard, we merit the Secretary-General's report contained in document **A/70/206**, addressing the imperative need of the whole international community to observe and apply the rule of law in all aspects of life. The report gives us an overview on the last developments in the application and observance of rule of law in various aspects of concern such as related to the prevention of conflicts, constitution-making, international courts and tribunals, law reform and justice systems, access to justice, fight against impunity and transitional justice, statelessness, human trafficking and smuggling of migrants, counter terrorism, corruption, among other important issues.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation is pleased to note that activities for the materialization of the rule of law are gaining a central role and recognised as an important tool to achieve the three main pillars upon which the United Nations is built.

Mozambique shares the view that the rule of law and development are intrinsically interrelated and mutually reinforcing. We also believe that the

rule of law, human rights and democracy are also interlinked and mutually reinforcing and that they should belong to the universal and indivisible core values and principles of the United Nations.

We also share the view that corruption has a very negative impact in our development goals as it undermines public confidence, accountability, legitimacy and transparency, and therefore, we want to stress the importance of the rule of law as an essential element in addressing and preventing corruption.

In this regard and in order to increase transparency and avoid corruption while serving and dealing with public affairs, my country has recently passed a Public Probity Law. This law represents a fundamental and a very important achievement in the fight against corruption and wrongdoings in public administration. Since its entry into force we have notice some decrease in corruption practices among civil servants.

With the objective of strengthening the rule of law, my country has also approved, in last December, 2014, a new Penal Code. This code criminalises a lot of wrong inappropriate behaviours and deeds, including corruptions practices, cybercrimes, and domestic violence, among other crimes.

In the context of judiciary reforms, aiming at better serving the citizens, Mozambique has just created a new branch of court of appeal, a judiciary organ that stands in-between Provincial courts and the Supreme Court. With this new branch of courts, it has been possible to process within a reasonable time a lot of pending judiciary processes, thus grating better services for citizens.

Mr. Chairman,

At international level the rule of law must be the foundation for cooperation and peaceful co-existence among sates based in the full respect of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law.

In this context, activities of the United Nations System must promote universal adherence to the said principles and to international law. These activities should mainly include wider promotion, dissemination and teaching of international law; wider participation of all states in the codification and progressive development of international law and building of national capacities for states to implement international legal instruments.

In Africa, African Leaders have adopted the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), a voluntary scheme aimed at enabling African countries to strengthen their democratic rule and governance structures by sharing and disseminating codes of best practices, good governance, transparency and accountability as they subject themselves to constructive peer scrutiny. Mozambique has subjected voluntarily itself to be scrutinized and reviewed. The result was very encouraging and the Government is now addressing some concerns identified in the review process.

Despite various constraints, mainly lack of financial resources and institutional weaknesses, the number of Governments institutions adopting new and correct practices in public administration is growing and individual responsible behaviours are also on the increase.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, my delegation would like to seize this opportunity to reaffirm once again the political commitment of Mozambique in upholding the rule of law at national and international levels.

I thank you.