



Permanent Mission
of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
to the United Nations - New York

STATEMENT

BY

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Mr. Chairman,

We thank the Secretary General for his report “Strengthening and Coordinating the United Nations of Rule of Law Activities,” contained in document A/72/268. We associate ourselves with the statement delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The rule of law is at the core of the UN Charter and international law. It is a fundamental imperative for a peaceful and secure international landscape, where relations between States are underpinned by cooperative relations and respect for the principles of territorial integrity and national sovereignty.

The UN has played an indispensable role in promoting the rule of law at the national and international levels. UN support for Afghanistan over the past 17 years has been crucial in enabling us to make great progress towards a stable and Self-Reliant country, grounded in the rule of law.

Now in its 3rd year, the National Unity Government is working to consolidate the rule of law as an imperative for our long-term stability. We are doing so knowing that the rule is a critical need to enhance progress on all fronts: in improving security; in providing our people with the delivery of services; and above all – in enabling our people to meet their national aspirations.

That said, a strong foundation is in place to transform Afghanistan into a platform of stability. Within the framework of the Afghan National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDF), we are conducting a major overhaul of our security, judicial and other institutions to enhance transparency, effectiveness and accountability in them.

The High Council on the “Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption” is the overarching body spearheading our national efforts to strengthen good-governance across in government institutions, departments and agencies. In this regard, the High Council

recently approved a new Strategy, which aims to address of the problem of corruption along multiple lines of effort.

Furthermore, the Anti-Corruption Justice Center is taking bold measures investigating, prosecuting and holding to account officials involved in illegal activities. To this end, 21 cases have so far been completed, including dossiers on senior government officials.

We are also embedding a culture of meritocracy in the recruitment of officials in junior, mid and senior level positions. Moreover, the National Procurement Commission has led to substantial progress in promoting transparency in the issuance of Government contracts. Seen together, these symbolize the seriousness with which Afghanistan is pursuing good-governance.

Yesterday and today, at the Senior Officials Meeting in Kabul, we presented to the international community, key achievements against the benchmarks of our reform commitments presented at last year's Brussels Conference, co-hosted by Afghanistan and the European Union.

Mr. Chairman,

The United Nations continues to make an important contribution in strengthening legal and judicial responses to pressing international challenges: These include displacement and migration; climate change; transnational organized crime and terrorism and extremism.

In that context, we welcome the commitment of the UN Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED) to scale up its assistance in the area of counter-terrorism capacity building. CTED's visit to Kabul earlier this year identified a number of areas for new cooperative initiatives between that body and various Afghan agencies and directorates.

One area of counter-terrorism assistance relates to support for strengthening Afghan judicial institutions to investigate and prosecute cases of terrorism. We look

forward to the up-coming joint meeting of CTED and donor countries in the coming weeks which will focus on the implementation of key recommendations of the visit's outcome report.

Mr. Chairman,

Ensuring a more efficient and effective UN system is imperative for enhancing this organization's role in advancing rule of law nationally and internationally. To this end, the reform agenda put forth by the Secretary General is an important initiative, which demands the full support of all member-states. We would be remiss in failing to highlight the imperative of a reformed Security Council that can better address the pressing challenges of our time.

In conclusion, Afghanistan reaffirms that a cooperative environment, based on shared gain and common benefit is essential for peaceful and prosperous international landscape, governed by the rule of law. We, ourselves, are a prime example of the benefits of multilateral cooperation, bringing many countries of different spheres together for a common objective. Let us make a new effort to realize the vision of a more harmonious landscape, based on the rule of law.

Thank You!