



PERMANENT MISSION OF MONTENEGRO TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

by H.E. Mr. Milorad Šćepanović

Permanent Representative of Montenegro to the United Nations

Before the Sixth Committee of the General Assembly

on item 82: „The rule of law at the national and international levels“

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Please check against delivery

Mr Chairman,

Montenegro fully aligns itself with the statement of the EU. I would like to add some remarks of particular importance for my country.

Mr Chairman,

Rule of law is one of building blocks of shared prosperity. Adherence to the rule of law is of vital importance since people want accountable governments, access to justice and protection of their human rights. Failure in this regard is our common concern. Montenegro therefore stresses the individual responsibility of all countries to strengthen the rule of law and promote human rights, as well as the role of the United Nations in providing adequate and efficient support to these efforts. As an open society and open economy, Montenegro pays particular attention to the rule of law at national and international level. Respect for rule of law at international level, national ownership of the rule of law activities, incorporation and efficient implementation of international norms within our domestic legal systems are our key objectives.

Montenegro welcomes Secretary-General Report on strengthening and coordinating UN rule of law activities and its addendums which gave important impetus to the rule of law and access to justice on both levels. It also identifies that by strengthening the linkages between rule of law, human rights, peace and security we are actually developing the rule of law on international level. Therefore we are committed to further support joint activities with the United Nations and European Union on their initiatives in the field of rule of law such as peacekeeping operation, training for police, judiciary and others.

Mr Chairman,

The rule of law is a principle that guides both internal and external actions. The rule of law at the national and the international level is inextricably connected, and mutually dependent. Without strong rule of law on national level, attempts to strengthen it at international level are significantly hampered. While to some extent both levels raise their own questions, we reaffirm our strong support to the role of the UN and the aim of its policies in pursuing the nexus between the two levels.

Strong link between rule of law on national and international level stands at the core of our joint mission, which is the right of equal access to justice for all. In that light we welcome the Declaration of the high-level meeting in the General Assembly which was adopted by consensus in September 2012.

Mr Chairman,

Efforts to promote the rule of law and implementation of international legal commitments at the national level are of crucial importance. Montenegro is deeply committed to the rule of law at the international level and its codification through further development of international law, confident that United Nations have the proper tools to deepen it. Respect for the rule of law is a foundation and a prerequisite for the international relations, peaceful coexistence, stability and development. Mechanisms for pacific settlement of disputes and international law tools represent useful mechanisms for maintaining international peace and security and ensuring rule of law and justice on both levels.

Therefore, we acknowledge the importance of the role of International Criminal Court and other international tribunals to fight impunity. Therefore we strongly support cooperation with all international judicial institution, especially International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia.

Mr Chairman,

The rule of law and a well-functioning justice sector support inclusive growth and development. Therefore Montenegro shares the views that human rights and rule of law as critical enablers and goals in themselves must be included in the post-2015 developing agenda that will make sure that no one is left behind.

Improving access to justice, reducing violence, promoting human rights, and ensuring that institutions are effective, fair, and accountable are main issues, and not only for developing states. There is room for improvements in these areas in all countries. Governments should be responsive to needs and concerns of people they are entrusted to serve, civil society actors' participation should be encouraged, democratic oversight over the implementation of rule of law should be allowed. Impartial access to justice and fight against impunity also form essential elements of the mutually reinforcing nexus of rule of law and development. This is why it is important that the post-2015 sustainable development agenda will be a universal one, applying to rich and poor countries alike. Also, leadership and permanent dedication are required having in mind that upholding the rule of law will always be a challenge and demanding task.

Mr Chairman,

Montenegro welcomes the advances in the promotion of rule of law on national and international level and reiterates further commitment to this objective.

I thank you Mr Chairman.