



GEORGIA

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Statement by Mr. Giorgi Mikeladze, Legal Adviser at the Permanent Mission of Georgia
to the United Nations

“The Rule of Law at the national and international levels” (Agenda item 86)

New York, October 8, 2018

(Please check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

Georgia aligns itself with the statement made earlier by the European Union and in addition I'd like to make a few remarks in my national capacity.

My delegation welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on Strengthening and Coordinating UN Rule of Law activities. The protection of human rights and respect for the rule of law requires a strong legal framework and highly functioning institutions that hold both, individuals and the government accountable for their actions.

Since 2012 Georgia has successfully implemented three-waves of judicial reforms to entrench the independence of judiciary and by that consolidate an institutional democracy. Moreover, upcoming 4th wave of judicial reforms will be focused on creation of specialized commercial and tax chambers within the system of common courts of Georgia. We believe, this initiative will have an enormous positive impact on solidifying guarantees for protecting rights and legitimate interests of investors, and will contribute to transforming the country into a regional hub for the resolution of business and commercial disputes.

Mr. Chair,

In July the new Law on State Inspectorate entered into force, which aims to ensure a thorough, transparent, independent investigation into any allegation of the use of torture and ill treatment by the representatives of law enforcing authorities. The Law provides for high degree of independence of the state inspector, including immunities from criminal persecution and criminal procedures, in order to ensure his/her impartiality.

Georgia was one of the first countries to join Open Government Partnership in 2011 and became the lead Chair in September 2017. As a Chair Georgia hosted the 5th OGP Global Summit on July 17-19, 2018. The objective of the Summit was to reinforce and create new alliances with the ambition to better serve citizens. The Summit became the platform for promoting peer learning, inspiring new ideas, and pushing the reformers to address new challenges.

Mr.Chairman,

Peaceful settlement of international disputes is one of the core elements of the Rule of Law at the international level. We do believe that expanding the scope of justiciability of international disputes is vital to enhance the efficiency of international judicial institutions. Georgia is one of the 73 states recognizing the compulsory jurisdiction of ICJ. As an enabling factor for the full-fledged cooperation with the ICC, we have put in place adequate implementing legislation of the Rome Statute at the national level.

As we mark the 20th anniversary of the Rome Statute, on 24-26 October Georgia will host ICC High Level Regional Conference designed to promote and enhance cooperative relationships between the ICC and countries from Eastern Europe and Western Asia - “Opportunities for Cooperation and Exchange of Experience at 20 Years of the Rome Statute”.

Strengthening and promoting the rule of law is our common responsibility. My country fully subscribes to the notion that without the rule of law and accountability, impunity reigns and neither justice, nor peace can be achieved.

I, thank you.