



PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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(translation)

Statement by Mr. Liu Yang

Chinese Delegate

At the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly

On Agenda Item 83

The Rule of Law at the National and International Levels

New York, 11 October 2019

Mr Chairman,

The Chinese delegation welcomes the discussion on the sub-item "Sharing best practices and ideas in promoting respect for international law in all countries" under agenda item "The Rule of Law at the National and International Levels".

The world today faces vast opportunities for development. Economic globalization and scientific and technological revolution have brought us unlimited potential for development. That said, regional hotspot issues keep propping up and terrorism remains rampant. Therefore, maintaining world peace and promoting common security are still arduous tasks. Non-traditional security threats such as climate change and cybersecurity have been proliferating. Deficit of global governance and rule has become even more prominent. In particular, unilateralism, protectionism and acts of bullying have been drastically on the rise, hindering multilateralism and economic globalization and placing the authority of international law and international order under attack. As an important basis for regulating the behavior of states, international law is the cornerstone for building a just and rational international relationship with win-win cooperation at its core. The international community needs international law for the purpose of differentiating right from wrong and settling disputes.

China believes that now there is a need more than ever to build consensus, promote and respect international law, and firmly uphold the international system which we rely on for our survival, development and prosperity. First of all, in jointly promoting international norm-setting, we must all resolutely support multilateralism, reject unilateralism, reject the practice of imposing on others one's own rules as "international rules", and reject the law of jungle whereby "the strong can do whatever they wish while the weak can only accept reality". Second, we must strive for strict compliance with international law, advocate the fulfillment of international obligations in good faith, reject double standard and the practice of applying international law in a selective way. Third, we must jointly safeguard the core values of international law. The application, interpretation and development of international law must not deviate from its

underlying foundation of ensuring fairness and justice in international relations and promoting peace, development and cooperation. We must firmly oppose the distortion and abuse of international law for narrow selfish purpose, let alone acts of hegemonism and interference in the internal affairs of other countries under the pretext of international law.

Mr. Chairman,

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. For 70 years, China has always been committed to promoting respect for international law. China is the defender for and builder of international law. In 1954, China, together with India and Myanmar, jointly proposed the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, namely, "mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-aggression, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful co-existence." Such principles are in line with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and have enriched the basic norms governing international relations. They are not only the foundation of China's foreign policy, but have also been widely accepted by the international community. Despite the vicissitudes in international relations, the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence are as valid today as they were 65 years ago. China has actively safeguarded an international system with the UN at its core and with international law as its foundation, actively participated in global governance in all fields, and promoted international cooperation based on international law. China has joined almost all global intergovernmental organizations and acceded to more than 500 multilateral international conventions. As a permanent member of the UN Security Council and the second largest financial contributor to both the UN Regular Budget and the Peacekeeping Budget, China has been committed to upholding justice on international issues and promoting solutions conducive to peace, cooperation and mutual benefit.

In response to the challenges faced by the world today, China has put forward the vision of building a community of shared future for mankind, advocating to build "an open, inclusive, clean and beautiful world that enjoys lasting peace, universal security, and common prosperity". The five

aspects of this vision are closely linked to promoting respect for international law. They have injected positive energy to multilateralism and to the promotion of international law, representing China's new contribution to the development of international law.

Fully aware that China is a country in the category of developing countries, we have attached great importance to the tremendous role of developing countries in promoting respect for international law, and have worked with a large number of developing countries towards a more just and rational international order in the process of promoting respect for international law. On July 29 this year, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China and the Chinese Society of International Law jointly held in Beijing an international colloquium themed "International Law in the Changing World: The Role of Developing Countries". President Yusuf of the International Court of Justice attended the meeting and delivered a keynote speech. Over 300 experts and officials from more than 80 countries were present, representing government officials in the field of law, foreign embassies in China as well as international organizations such as the United Nations, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Asia-Africa Legal Consultative Organization. At the seminar, in-depth discussion was held on the challenges facing the current international order and international law as well as the role of developing countries in upholding international law and shaping international order. In his message to the Seminar, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi stressed that developing countries constitutes an important force on the international stage, which has greatly contributed to safeguarding and developing international law over the years. In the world today when multilateralism and globalization are encountering resistance, developing countries, as a powerful force, have the responsibility to uphold justice and safeguard rules, and bring the world onto the right track of mutual respect, equity, justice and win-win cooperation.

The Chinese government highly values the significant role of the United Nations and its specialized agencies in the dissemination of international law and has, for many consecutive years, contributed financially to the Assistance Program on Teaching, Research,

Dissemination and Understanding of International Law. China has also directly supported the capacity building of Asian and African countries in the field of international law through the establishment of joint projects. The Chinese government has so far successfully sponsored five training sessions under the "China-AALCO Exchange and Research Program on International Law". Last August, 44 officials from 38 Asian and African countries as well as AALCO and AU attended the 5th training course held in Beijing and Hong Kong. From the 24th to the 25th of this month, China will hold the first Belt & Road Workshop on the Cooperation in the Rule of Law, a platform for training and exchange of views in the field of law, which will benefit officials from over 20 countries.

Mr. Chairman,

Promoting respect for international law serves the common interests of the international community. China stands ready to work with other member states to jointly build a community of shared future for mankind, safeguard and develop international law, and promote world peace and development.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.