



REPÚBLICA DA GUINÉ-BISSAU
MISSÃO PERMANENTE DA GUINÉ-BISSAU JUNTO ÀS NAÇÕES UNIDAS

STATEMENT BY
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AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE SIXTH COMMITTEE
ON THE AGENDA ITEM 83: RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL
LEVEL

Mr. President,

Since it is the first time my delegation is taking the floor in this Committee, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on your election as the president of the sixth Committee and to offer you the full support of my delegation.

Guinea-Bissau aligns itself with the statements made by the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, the Republic of The Gambia, on behalf of the African Group, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

However, I would like to make few comments on my national capacity regarding the efforts undertaken by the authorities of my country to ensure and strengthening the principles of Rule of Law at the national level.

First, I should stress that my delegation has taken note of the important information contained in the Secretary-General's Report A/74/139, and is grateful for the reference made to the Republic of Guinea-Bissau in item A.4.32, recognizing country's efforts in promoting the Rule of Law both nationally and internationally.

Mr. President,

The principle of Rule of Law has long been crystalized in the Constitution of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, as well as our national laws.

Guinea-Bissau is part of most of the international instruments aimed to promoting the assurance of the Rule of Law and has made efforts in this regard, demonstrating our alignment and commitment to international efforts to ensure that States are governed by the Rule of Law.

The country has made progress in strengthening the Rule of Law and thus building an increasingly free and fairer society.

Regarding to access to justice, the country, in partnership with the United Nations Development Program, has made efforts in order to extend the services provided by the Bureau of Legal Information and Guidance (Center for Access to Justice), to keep providing free legal support to women and young women, victims of violence, which has been critically important for these sectors of our society.

In the political arena, I would like to underline the important gains that our country has achieved in promoting gender equality with the adoption of the Law of Parity 2018 by the National Assembly, which established a 36% quota for women in elected offices. This law, allowed Guinea-Bissau to be included in the list of 80 countries that adopted corrective and temporary measures to advance women's participation in politics and decision-making.

Today, following the adoption of the aforementioned law, the country is proud to announce that, for the first time, Guinea Bissau has a Government of men and women in equal numbers at the ministerial positions, placing our country in the forefront of promoting the participation of women in politics and thus advancing toward achievement of Goal number 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Mr. President,

As the concept of Rule of Law is not limited only to a set of static principles imposed at the institutional level of the States but also requires their citizens to take ownership of those principles. Allow me also underline the significant progress that has been made by the country's civil society, particularly by youth organizations, which have played an increasingly important role in monitoring our institutions and advocating for respect of the Rule of Law through a more active participation in national political debate.

Mr. President,

To conclude my remarks, I would like to stress that Guinea-Bissau is fully aware that, in order to face the challenges of implementing the principles of Rule of Law, it is crucial to strengthen the capacity of national institutions, particularly in the justice sector, to ensure full access to justice by the citizens, and the continuous fight against national and transnational organized crime, as well as corruption. And, this is precisely the path that Guinea-Bissau has been taken, with the support of our partners, to reinforce the capacity building of the national institutions.

I must also note that law and strong institutions only, are not enough in this effort to fully implement the Rule of Law. We must also pursue a cross-cutting investment strategy in education and combating poverty, by given economic opportunity to our citizens, in order to build a society that is more aware of their rights and obligations, thus creating the conditions for our citizens to take ownership of and preserve these principles.

Thank you very much!