



Statement on behalf of The Kingdom of the Netherlands

By Ms. Liselot Egmond

First Secretary

Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

agenda Item 83

The Rule of Law at the National and International Level

at the Sixth Committee

-Check against delivery-

Mr. President,

Rule of Law at the national and international level

Thank you for giving me the floor Chair,

Let me start by thanking the Assistant Secretary-General for Strategic Coordination in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, for his briefing this morning. Let me also thank the Secretary-General for his report on 'Strengthening and coordinating United Nations Rule of Law Activities' (A/74/139).

We align ourselves with the statement given by European Union on behalf of the EU and its Member States.

We would like to make some additional comments on:

- (1) Strengthening the rule of Law at the national level,
- (2) Strengthening the rule of Law at the International level,
- (3) Strengthening the rule of law within the United Nations.

[Strengthening the Rule of Law at the National Level]

We would first like to underscore the importance of integrating United Nations' support to police, justice and corrections areas into the mandates of peacekeeping operations and special political missions, to assist national governments in the re-establishment or restoration of police, justice and corrections services, in order for peacekeeping operations and special political missions' to address the root causes of each conflict,

including through strengthening the rule of law at national and international levels, that is paragraph 1 of Security Council resolution 2447 (2018).

The Kingdom of the Netherlands is proud that we were able to get the Security Council to adopt this resolution during our membership of the Council.

We therefore extend our appreciation to the 11.000 police officers, 205 judicial affairs officers and 367 correction officers active in 12 United Nations peace operations. They are at the forefront in strengthening the rule of law under challenging circumstances, aimed at advancing peace and stability, by protecting civilians, supporting victims' rights, ensuring accountability for the most serious crimes, and ensuring access to justice.

We would also like to thank the United Nations Development Program for their work in more than 40 countries aimed at strengthening the rule of law.

For the Kingdom of the Netherlands access to justice, judicial reforms and transitional justice are essential for preventing conflict, sustaining peace and addressing the root causes of instability. They are critical to ensure that drivers of inequality, instability and conflict are addressed so that peace can be sustained.

We are committed to step up our own efforts to accelerate equal access to justice for all. We proudly co-chair with Argentina, Sierra Leone, and The Elders, an international Task Force on Justice under the umbrella of the Pathfinder's initiative. This initiative aims to increase awareness and commitment for investment in access to justice for all.

[Strengthening the rule of law at the international level]

Chair,

As the United Nations Charter states, one of the main tenets of the United Nations is to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind.

This year marks the 70th Anniversary of the Geneva Conventions. The Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols form the core of international humanitarian law, which regulates the conduct of armed conflict and seeks to limit its effects. They protect people not taking part in hostilities and those who are no longer doing so.

The rules are grounded in battlefield realities and designed to protect and respect human life and dignity. The Conventions do not legitimize or prolong war, but instead by reducing suffering they help prepare the ground for peace.

The Conventions are a vital pledge born out of the suffering we see today in conflict around the world. We urge all states and non-state actors to universally and unequivocally respect, implement and ensure respect for international humanitarian law.

[Rule of law at the United Nations]

The rule of law applies not only to all states equally, but it applies also to international organizations, including the United Nations, its Funds and Programs.

In this regard, we welcome that the report contains information on the Administration of Justice. In the next report we would welcome information on the implementation by the organization of judicial decisions taken. We will also repeat this request in connection with the agenda item on the Administration of Justice.

In addition, we would welcome information in the next report on established procedures, open to third parties filing a complaint or request for indemnification for damages caused to them by the organization. More specifically on the implementation of resolution A/RES/52/247 on third party liability.

Finally, we strongly support the United Nations policy against the sharing of evidence for use in criminal proceedings in which capital punishment could be imposed and carried out. We would urge the Secretary-General to put this policy on paper in order to avoid any misunderstanding as to what the United Nations stands for with regard to the death penalty.

Thank you Chair