

*REPUBLIC OF RWANDA*



Rwanda Statement

On Agenda Item 83

Rule of Law at the National and International levels  
Before the Sixth Committee;

74<sup>th</sup> session of General assembly

**October 10 and 11 2019**

**Mr. Chairman,**

I congratulate you and your team for being elected to lead the six committee and I can assure of my delegations support and to constructively engage in deliberations of the work of this Committee.

**Chairperson, Colleagues**

Rwanda attaches great importance to advancing the rule of law at both the national and international levels. We believe this is an issue which is essential for promoting international peace and security, good governance, sustainable development, social progress and human rights for all. Rwanda reaffirms continued commitment to work closely with the UN and other parties in this regard.

The Constitution of Rwanda clearly recognizes the fundamental human rights which are supported by the principles of rule of law, good governance and due process as enshrined in the major human rights treaties.

**Mr. Chairman,**

More than two-decades ago all our state institutions were destroyed. Among those which were severely affected include our rule of law and justice sectors. We had to start from zero with minimal capacity and resources. Nevertheless, in the last 25 years Rwanda has come a long way in consolidating the rule of law throughout the country. Our constitution, serves as the supreme law in the country. It is the very foundation upon which we established our democratic institutions, including the Executive, Legislative and Judiciary bodies, and a vibrant civil society, which is a strong advocate for promoting the rule of law and human rights in the country.

**Mr. Chairman**

Through Vision 2050, Rwanda is committed to being a capable state, characterized by the rule of law that supports and protects all its citizens without discrimination and to the protection of human rights in particular as one of the key prerequisites for good governance. The government is committed to strengthening the organs of the justice system and to expanding access to justice in order to reach all the Districts and grassroots levels in the service of Rwandans.

Significant achievements have been registered as a result of various government laws and policies aimed at helping Rwanda achieve this vision. Access to justice has been greatly enhanced through,

inter alia, an efficient court system, provision of legal aid, a strengthened Bar Association, the Bailiffs Association, expansion of the Notary service up to the Sector level, the efficient functioning of Abunzi (Mediation Committees), a clear focus on efforts against Gender Based Violence as well as institutionalization of Access to Justice Coordination at the District Level.

**Mr. Chairman,**

There will always be challenges on access to justice, especially for a developing country like mine. Therefore, we continue to work on building the people's trust in the legal system. We continue to streamline laws and rules. We harness modern technology to share and popularize legal information, particularly in the remote parts of our country. And finally, the judiciary works toward enforcing judgments in a fair, just and expeditious manner.

We recognize the importance of working together as member states to address these challenges and thereby broadening access to justice.

Let me add that the Charter of the United Nations is the fountainhead of our Declaration on the Rule of Law. In this regard, Rwanda associates itself with the statement of the .... on behalf of AG and NAM. Their statements appropriately focus on

the Rule of Law at the international level, in accordance with the UN Charter.

### **To conclude**

The UN itself is greatest achievement of the Rule of Law. The UN was created to respect the sovereign equality of States, and to enshrine the Rule of Law in the conduct of States and the peaceful settlement of their disputes. The Rule of Law anchors the predictability and stability of national and international development and progress. It allows for an environment of peace and security to flourish.

**I thank you**