



United Nations General Assembly | Sixth Committee
The rule of law at the national and international levels
20 October 2020

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Mr. Chair,

Brazil would like to thank the Secretary General for his report on strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities. This is a pressing issue at both national and international levels, as the world faces the worst health challenge of our generation.

Brazil reaffirms the imperative need for upholding the rule of law at the international level, something that is enshrined in its own Constitution. Upholding international law, and particularly the Charter of the United Nations, is not only desirable – it is the only responsible course of action.

We take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the work of the International Law Commission on several topics, some of them directly related to the very foundations of the rule of law, such as responsibility for internationally wrongful acts. The priceless contribution of the Commission to the codification of customary rules is also a contribution to legal certainty and to the rule of law at the international level.

Mr. Chair,

Moving to the subtopic of this year's debate, Brazil remains fully engaged in the prevention of and fight against corruption. We strongly believe that corruption goes against the very nature of the rule of law, insofar as it undermines the scope of efforts made towards a more democratic society.

The implementation of measures against corruption is a priority for us. Brazil is committed to fighting corruption at all levels. In that sense, high-profile investigations and convictions in recent years by the appropriate institutions are of utmost importance.

Besides numerous domestic programmes and activities, Brazil has been active in negotiating bilateral anti-corruption instruments, as well as in participating in the main multilateral anti-corruption fora, such as UNCAC.

Brazil understands that the issue of asset recovery should be considered a priority for the international community, not only because it might affect the perception that corruption often goes unpunished, but also because the return of those assets surely plays a great role in promoting national development. Brazil has been very successful in recovering assets. In 2019 alone, the equivalent of over US\$ 25 million in assets recovered by Operation Car Wash were allocated to promote the rights of adolescents in conflict with the law. Corruption money now goes into public policies to defend human rights in Brazil.

We also highlight the importance of international legal cooperation in civil and administrative matters regarding illicit asset recovery, so that the financial repercussion of transnational corruption cases can be duly tackled in full.

Mr. Chair,

There is no rule of law where there is no access to justice. In this context, national and international jurisdictions are complementary in fighting impunity, especially for serious crimes, and in providing reparation for victims. Brazil reiterates its commitment to international criminal justice, which finds itself at a critical juncture.

Mr. Chair,

In conclusion, strengthening the rule of law in the United Nations largely depends on reforming the organisation, in order to make it more legitimate and effective. Brazil reiterates its strong commitment to an early and comprehensive reform of the Security Council, in both categories, which will make it more representative and efficient.

We are certain that the efforts to strengthen the rule of law contribute to the promotion of democracy and human rights, and we will continue to advance in this area in order to guarantee a better future for new generations.

Thank you