



PERMANENT MISSION OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF CUBA ON AGENDA ITEM 86 "THE RULE OF
LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS"
New York, 19 October 2020**

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation endorses the statement delivered by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of NAM.

The Government of Cuba reiterates its unavoidable commitment to promote and strengthen a genuine Rule of Law, which will undoubtedly allow us to change the current unjust international order.

We take note of the report of the Secretary-General on this item, contained in document *A/75/284*.

We stress that any assistance or mechanism provided by the Organization to a Member State must be under the strict consent of said State.

Promoting and strengthening the Rule of Law are based on due respect for the legal institutions of all States by the international community, as well as on

the recognition of the sovereign right of peoples to create legal and democratic institutions in line with their social, political and cultural interests.

We should work to strengthen domestic legal systems, on the basis of voluntariness, unrestricted respect for the self-determination of the peoples and without political conditions of any kind.

Mr. Chairman,

Cuba reiterates that a genuine Rule of Law begins with a reformed United Nations that is a banner of transparency, democracy and the participation of the whole international community in the solution of pressing global problems.

As part of this reform and as a contribution to promoting and strengthening the Rule of Law, the central role of the General Assembly, the only organ with universal membership and an exclusive task towards the progressive development and codification of international law, must be consolidated.

We express our commitment to working towards a broad and profound reform of the Security Council in order to turn it into an inclusive, transparent and democratic organ that reflects the genuine interests of the international community, in accordance with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

The Declaration of the High-Level Meeting on the Rule of Law at the national and international levels, adopted on 24 September 2012, clearly states in paragraph 36 that a genuine Rule of Law implies democratizing international economic, monetary and financial organizations, so that these serve to the development of the peoples rather than to the permanent enrichment of a few. The situation caused by COVID-19 supports this statement.

Sovereign equality, compliance in good faith with the obligations undertaken by States, peaceful settlement of disputes, refraining from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or the political independence of any State, non-interference in the internal affairs of other States, as well as non-selectivity, must be the basic principles governing at

all times the actions of States and the promotion of the Rule of Law. The international community should work for the real implementation of these principles.

Mr. Chairman,

In this regard, we draw attention again to the tightening of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States against Cuba as part of its policy of pressure and intimidation.

It is the Government of the United States, with these actions, that repeatedly endangers the Rule of Law at the international level, with its continuous and flagrant violations of international law, especially the Magna Carta of this prestigious Organization.

A genuine Rule of Law requires the unequivocal waiver of any unilateral action or measure, including the enactment and implementation of extraterritorial laws, as well as the politically motivated exercise of the jurisdiction of national or international courts.

Cuba condemns and demands the immediate abolition of the whole set of extraterritorial rules that make up the blockade imposed by the Government of the United States for almost 60 years.

Mr. Chairman,

As part of the national efforts to strengthen the Rule of Law, our country adopted a new Constitution, in order to adapt the Constitution to the new circumstances in which our society develops; to strengthen the political system to consolidate and develop the fundamental rights achieved by our citizens; to improve and modernize the legal system, as well as our power structures, making them more functional and allowing greater citizen control over their actions; to strengthen government self-management mechanisms at the local level and encourage greater citizen participation in decision-making.

Thank you.