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**Statement by Mr. George Mikeladze
Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Georgia to the United Nations
The rule of law at the national and international levels - Item 86
Sixth Committee, 75th Session of the UNGA
New York, 20 October 2020**

Mr. Chair,

Georgia aligns itself with the statement of the European Union delivered under the agenda item 86. Let me add the following remarks in my national capacity.

We express appreciation for the report of the Secretary-General on “Strengthening and Coordinating United Nations rule of law activities” (A/75/284) and commend the UN for the efforts to promote the rule of law globally.

Distinguished Delegates,

Georgia remains strongly committed to the rule of law and democracy, including promotion and protection of all human rights.

We fully concur with the view expressed in the Report that the rule of law is foundational to curbing corruption, restraining the abuse of power and establishing the social contract between people and the state.

In Georgia the Anti-Corruption policy, including Anti-Corruption Action Plan and Strategy documents cover wide ranging priority issues aiming at corruption prevention both in public and in private sectors.

Public Service Halls/Community Centres are effectively operating by offering simplified, bureaucracy-free services delivered based on “one-stop-shop principle”. E-governance has

been domain, where government has invested in extensively which resulted in enhanced engagements of citizens in a policy-making cycle and prevention of corruption.

Amid Covid-19 challenges, we are all in need for resilient democracies with due respect for the rule of law and all human rights. As duly noted in the Report, prisoners are one of the most vulnerable due to the pandemic. To effectively respond to this challenge since March 2020 the Special Conditions are applied to Georgian Penitentiary System taking proactive measures to prevent the possible spread of the COVID-19 within the penitentiary establishments.

We also believe that SGD 16 is key in guiding our efforts towards peaceful societies where the rule of law and human rights are respected. Georgia remains an active member of different global initiatives¹ aimed at supporting successful implementation of the SDG 16 worldwide and thus promoting the democratic values and the rule of law.

Mr. Chairman,

Georgia is a strong supporter of the promotion of and respect for international law and rules-based international order and remains committed to the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter.

Georgia remains committed to supporting the International Criminal Court in different fields to strengthen it both at national as well as at international level. We note both significant accomplishments and challenges that shape the way the Court (ICC) is seen to be living up to the increased demands of international justice.

Georgia recognizes the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice in accordance with Article 36 of its Statute and reaffirms its support to primacy of peaceful settlement of disputes.

Mr. Chairman,

Herewith, let me stress the overarching principle of international humanitarian law complemented by human rights law, according to which the occupying power has an obligation to ensure the well-being of the population living in the occupied territories.

¹Like "16+ Forum", "Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies", Open Government Partnership (OGP), Community of Democracies.

In full disregard for international law the Russian Federation as the power exercising effective control over the occupied Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions of Georgia, has intensified steps towards their factual annexation, seeking full incorporation of these territories into its military, political and economic systems.

The Russian Federation, as the occupying power has clear obligation to protect the local population of occupied Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions of Georgia and bears full responsibility for violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms therein.

I thank you.