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**PERMANENT MISSION OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**  
**315 Lexington Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016 (212) 689-7215, FAX (212) 689-9073**

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF CUBA ON AGENDA ITEM 83 “THE RULE OF  
LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS”**  
**New York, 16 October 2023**

Mr. Chair,

My delegation endorses the statements made by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the NAM and by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on behalf of the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations.

The promotion and strengthening of the Rule of Law is based on due respect for the legal institutions of all States by the international community, as well as the recognition of the sovereign right of peoples to create legal and governmental institutions most in line with their socio-political and cultural interests. In this regard, we stress that any assistance or mechanism provided

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by the Organization to a Member State must be under the strict consent of said State.

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

Mr. Chair,

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

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

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Member States must fully respect the functions of the main bodies of the Organization, whose balance between their respective functions and powers, in accordance with the Charter, is essential.

We therefore note with concern the scope and expansion of capacities granted to the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law, a "mechanism" that has no mandate granted by the Sixth Committee, the competent forum to analyze, discuss and follow up on the subject of the rule of law.

Mr. Chair,

As part of the national efforts to strengthen the socialist Rule of Law and social justice, our country, after the adoption of the new Constitution, is carrying out a process of legislative updating for the implementation of the postulates of our Magna Carta through complementary laws that have been the subject of

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extensive debate and analysis, which gives them an inestimable value as a democratic exercise.

Cuba is working on strengthening its political system, under the premises of consolidating and developing the wide range of fundamental rights achieved by our citizens. This process will adjust the domestic legislative framework to the new circumstances and to international law.

Mr. Chair,

Cuba's efforts to strengthen the Rule of Law at the national level are deliberately hindered by the policy of the United States aimed at destabilizing and subverting, including through media operations, the socialist rule of law and social justice that Cubans have chosen as their own political system. The efforts of a foreign power to subvert the constitutional order freely chosen by the people are of no use. Neither are sanctions and unilateral lists aimed at changing the established regime.

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In this regard, we call attention once again today 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. We also denounce the existence of a media campaign that manipulates reality, including the call for violence and vandalism that qualifies as terrorism, also promoted and sponsored from that country against Cuba.

Mr. Chair,

The Declaration of the High-Level Meeting on the Rule of Law at the national and international levels, adopted on 24 September 2012, in its paragraph 36, clearly states that a true Rule of Law implies democratizing international economic, monetary and financial organizations, so that they serve to the development of the peoples rather than to the permanent enrichment of a few.

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We insist that socio-economic development is indispensable to achieve the Rule of Law in any country in the world, and in that sense, we condemn and demand the immediate abolition of the set of extraterritorial legislations and regulations that make up the blockade imposed on my country by the Government of the United States for over 60 years.

We denounce the double standards of some countries that pretend to promote international law while violating its provisions and principles. A true Rule of Law requires the unequivocal renunciation of any unilateral act or measure that violates the principles of international law.

Mr. Chair,

In relation to the annual item under discussion, we would like to add that the new legal norms recognize the use of ICTs as tools for the processing of judicial proceedings, procedural communication with the parties, the holding of judicial acts, the access of

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individuals to information on processes, as well as the right to file complaints and receive responses.

The experience of Cuban courts in the use of ICTs dates back more than a decade, although its greatest momentum was achieved in the last four years when new applications were introduced that have allowed the digital development of justice, centered on the human being, designed both for the people involved and the judicial personnel and guided by the fundamental principles of the judicial system of impartiality, effective judicial protection, and other guarantees of due process provided for in Article 94 of the Constitution.

The use of ICTs in the Court System and the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic of Cuba (FGR, by its Spanish initials) makes its management more efficient and effective and reduces solution times of judicial processes and their costs, always guaranteeing legal security.

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The reform of Cuban judicial institutions has deployed actions to guarantee communications with internal and external users, as well as to achieve transparency in its functions with citizens, facilitating the use of technology to promote access to justice for all.

FGR has an interactive web portal that complies with the 38 UN indicators applicable to the organ, which allows for the transparency of information on economic and budgetary management, human resources management, contractual management, annual work results and accountability to the National Assembly. The website is the organ's main means of communication with external users, helping to improve people's legal education.

It also makes it possible to interact and learn about the opinions on the contents published, make suggestions and consult the status of the same. This web portal also provides a glossary of terms and frequently asked questions and answers that contribute to legal guidance.



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Mr. Chair,

In conclusion, the Government of Cuba reiterates its unavoidable commitment to promote and strengthen a true Rule of Law, which will contribute to change the current unjust international order.

I thank you.