



Statement by
Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran
to the United Nations

Before
The Sixth Committee of the
78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
On
"the Rule of law at the National and International levels"
(Agenda item 85)
New York, 16 October 2023

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation aligned itself with statements delivered by NAM as well as by the group of Friends in defense of the United Nations Charter.

Drawing on lessons from the past, the founders of the United Nations established an international legal order on the basis of sovereign equality of States and prohibition of the threat or use of force in international relations to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war. The founders opted for the path of multilateralism and peaceful settlement of disputes as a viable solution to end conflicts. Since the inception of the UN, multilateralism, in and of itself, has been a major achievement of the UN system. However, this important achievement has been repeatedly challenged by the unilateral approaches of certain member States.

Unilateralism manifests in the withdrawal from international treaties and international organizations; waging trade wars against countries; committing economic and medical terrorism in the form of imposing inhumane universal coercive measures to gain political objectives; weaponizing one's currency to abuse the international financial system; penalizing nations across the entire world for abiding by Security Council resolutions; confiscating assets of national banks; and



violating one's commitments towards the UN through the imposition of inhumane restrictions on the representatives of some Member States accredited to the UN. These are all examples of the vicious approaches taken by certain member States toward the international community to seriously endanger the rule of law at the international level.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, in an effort to defend its legitimate rights against lawlessness in international and bilateral relations, has opened three cases before the International Court of Justice. The Court unanimously issued its provisional order in 2018 requesting the U.S. to remove the obstacles created as a result of its illegal actions and decisions following its withdrawal from the JCPOA, including its impediments imposed on Iran's trade in certain domains and access to humanitarian goods. The defendant blatantly disregarded this decision of the main judicial organ of the UN and, contrarily, intensified sanctions against my Country and its people. The unfortunate practice by the latter to disrespect the Court's judgments has other precedents including refusing to grant compensation and economic reparations to the Republic of Nicaragua for the human loss and material damages caused by the US military and paramilitary aggression in the 1980s. Such disrespectful policies following the decision of the main judicial body of the United Nations most certainly undermines rule of law at the international level.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation strongly objects the continued policy of new colonialization against the global south, particularly in the African continent, by the same powers that practiced old colonialization before the UN's establishment. These modern colonial practices, particularly against independent and sovereign states, are threats against the UN Charter and blatantly disown the core tenets contained therein.

In conclusion, **Mr. Chairman**, my delegation would like to express its most serious concern at attempts to establish new concepts and introducing them as principles of international law such as so-called "rules-based order" or the "responsibility to protect", which remains unclear and which has the potential to undermine the rule of law at the international level, while disregarding the very principles of the UN Charter and provide unclear and arbitrary interpretations for military and non-military interventions and interference in the internal affairs of States. We stress that such attempts shall not be accepted in any way and call on



firmly upholding the UN-centered international system and an international order underpinned by international law.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.