



PERMANENT MISSION OF NIGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

BY

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**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
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ON

**RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND
INTERNATIONAL LEVELS**

AT

**THE 78TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

NEW YORK 16 OCTOBER, 2023

Mr. Chair

My Delegation commends the Secretary General for the Report on Strengthening and Coordinating the United Nations rule of law activities. We align with the Statement delivered by the Distinguished Representative Uganda on behalf of the African Group and the distinguish representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on-behalf of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

2. The outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic has posed serious challenge to the rule of law as it hampers access to justice. Sustainable efforts need to be made to enhance promotion of the rule of law despite setbacks caused by the pandemic. The UN Member States must put measures in place for a just and equitable world, where the supremacy of the rule of law cannot be comprised. My Delegation, therefore, commends the sustained initiative of the United Nations to promote the rule of law and transitional justice in conflict and post conflict societies all over the world.

3. The importance of the rule of at the national and international levels cannot be underestimated in promoting global peace and stability. It is the bedrock of just and equitable societies. My Delegation notes that the Declaration of the High-Level Summit on the Rule of Law at the National and International levels adopted at the 67th Session of the General Assembly provides us with the basis to address this important subject.

4. The rule of law is about adherence to the principles of supremacy of the law, equity before the law, accountability to the law, and fairness in application of the law. The observance of the rule of law is non-negotiable in terms of social and economic development, political representation and participation, security as well as public order. Nigeria considers the rule of law as the basis for the establishment of justice for peaceful co-existence and the prevention of armed conflict. Therefore, we envisioned the promotion of the rule of law at all levels as a vital means of strengthening cooperation, establishing enduring peace and security within and amongst states.

Mr. Chair

5. Nigeria recognizes the rule of law as fundamental article in its national jurisprudence, and it is pivotal principle of governance. We are committed to promoting it at the national, regional and international levels among multiple bodies, the National Human Rights Commission of Nigeria for example was established to create an enabling environment for the promotion, protection and enforcement of human rights in the furtherance of the promotion and adherence to the principles of rule of law in the country.

6. Furthermore, the various anti-corruption agencies such as the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), the Independent Corrupt Practices and Related Offences Commission (ICPC), the Nigeria Financial Intelligence Unit

(NFIU), the Nigeria Police Force, (NPF) and the Code of Conduct Bureau and Tribunal, are meant to ensure that due process is always observed.

Mr. Chair

7. Successive Administrations in Nigeria have shown strong political will to promote the rule of law and due process in the country through enactment of various laws in consonance with international best practices. Such enactments include, but are not limited to, Trafficking in Persons (Prohibited) Law Enforcement and Administration Act, 2015; Anti Torture Act 2017, Compulsory Treatment and Care for Victims of Gunshot Act 2017; National Disability Act, 2019. The Administration is tenaciously upholding the sanctity of the rule of law.

8. At the international level, Nigeria anchors its foreign policy on the promotion and achievement of global security, as well as the protection of the dignity of all persons. There are corresponding regional and sub regional instruments in Africa embedded in the African Union (AU) Constitutive Act and ECOWAS protocols to which Nigeria is a signatory. The rule of law is a fundamental principle in our National Jurisprudence. Nigeria's recognition and membership of the International Criminal Court, International court of justice, Permanent Court of Arbitration and other International Tribunals confirm its respect for the rule of law.

9. Promotion of the rule of law for maintenance of global peace and stability is a collective responsibility of all. Nigeria,

therefore, calls on Member States of the United Nations to jointly promote the rule of law across the globe as one the major panaceas to global crises. Nigeria will continue to work and collaborate with the UN Member states and relevant regional and continental organizations to attain a world where the rule of law is supreme and global peaceful co-existence is sustained.

10. I thank you for your attention.