

STATEMENT

BY

BETELIHEM TAYE, THIRD SECRETARY

**ON BEHALF OF THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF
ETHIOPIA**

AT

THE 78TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ON

**AGENDA ITEM 83: “THE RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND
INTERNATIONAL LEVELS”**

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Mr. Chairperson,

My delegation expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his reports on “Strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities” contained in document A/78/184.

Ethiopia aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the African Group, and would like to make the following remarks in our national capacity.

Mr. Chairperson,

Ethiopia believes predictable legal system with competent and legitimate legislative and independent judicial organs is a corner stone of national governance. My country has undergone several reforms of our legislative, law enforcement and judicial sector. From our experience, we believe in addition to answering the current day expectations of citizens, it is critical to acknowledge and address grievances that if unaddressed will foment instability.

Furthermore, it is necessary to address the root causes of discord to pave the path for building a just, equitable and harmonious society. In support of these efforts, the United Nations and other organizations should complement the efforts of member states to finding home-grown solutions to challenges faced by rule of law.

In this regard I also would like to recognize the role of modern technology, including ICT, which is also the subtopic for this year's discussion. From Ethiopia's experience, the use of information technology in vital registration and in the work of law enforcement and judicial organs have generated substantial momentum in ensuring access to justice. On the other hand, progress in ICT has also expanded the loopholes exploited for the use of counterfeits. Managing these two aspects requires increasing investment on ICT infrastructure and enhancing capability to preserve information integrity.

In this regard, it is necessary that countries share best practices, technical knowhow, and resources to ensuring safe and secure use of ICTs to enhance law enforcement and judicial organs.

Mr. Chair,

Rule of law, at the international level and in the global institutions still suffers from serious shortcomings. Unilateral coercive measures, inequitable international cooperation, biased interpretation and application of international norms and treaties, systemic double standards, and indisposition to serve justice have undermined rule of law at the international level. Hostility towards states and use of modern technology to redouble pressure and discredit governments is a continuing unfortunate practice.

Furthermore, despite our cardinal principle that guarantees sovereign equality of states, UN institutions including the UN Security Council remain unrepresentative and undemocratic. The working method of the Council that has no regard to the voice and representation of the country concerned is also antithesis of rule of law. The lack of rule of law at the helm of the United Nations is bound to cascade over its decisions and their credibility.

In conclusion, Ethiopia reiterates the need to recognize the impact lawlessness has on promoting instability and underdevelopment. It is high time for community of nations to preserve and demand respect for international laws.

I thank you.