

УКРАЇНА



UKRAINE

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STATEMENT

BY

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AT

**THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING
ON THE RULE OF LAW ON NATIONAL AND
INTERNATIONAL LEVELS**

New York, September 24, 2012

Distinguished Mr. President!
Honorable Heads of Delegation!
Ladies and Gentlemen!

Ukraine welcomes the first in the UN history High Level Meeting of the General Assembly dedicated to such an important issue as the rule of law at the national and international levels. We would like to express our gratitude to the Presidents of the 66th and 67th Sessions of the General Assembly and all the delegations participated in the organization of this important event.

Ukraine believes that respect to the rule of law at the international level is a basis for international peace and stability, a key precondition for prevention and settlement of conflicts, and a guarantee of predictability and legitimacy of international relations.

In this regard Ukraine emphasizes the need to increase the role and effectiveness of international judicial bodies in addressing issues of peaceful settlement of disputes. After all, the effectiveness of such mechanisms in our opinion would be the key to their increasingly widespread use by members of the international community and an important factor in strengthening the rule of law at the international level.

Ladies and gentlemen!

Ukraine is moving steadily along the path of reforms aimed at strengthening the rule of law at the national level. Furthermore, the rule of law as a principle is stipulated in the Constitution of Ukraine.

Unfortunately, Ukraine became a frequent object of criticism by some international organizations and governments in regard to the compliance to this principle. However, in the last few years there was made a number of steps for establishing guarantees of the rule of law in different areas. In this regard we should mention public administration reform, judicial reform, large-scale anti-corruption programs and comprehensive criminal procedure reform, which was a "crucial challenge" for the Ukrainian authorities for years.

Steps taken by the Ukrainian authorities aimed at maximal openness and transparency of the decision-making process are reflected not only in the national legislative initiatives but also in voluntary international commitments of our country, such as participation in the international Initiative "Open Government Partnership".

The maximum openness and wide public discussion were the defining characteristics of the drafting of the national report of Ukraine on Human Rights in the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review.

Today we would like to reaffirm the determination of Ukrainian leaders to fulfil obligations taken by Ukraine in the field of ensuring the effective methods of public

administration, promoting of equal access to justice for all, fighting against corruption and involving of civil society to the process of defining and implementation of state policy.

Ladies and gentlemen!

Ukraine highly appreciates the efforts and active participation of the UN in dealing with a wide range of global challenges of our time ranging from climate changes, terrorism, human rights protection, and settlement of armed conflict, each of which is closely linked to the rule of law issue. Thus, in the context of existence of such a significant international experience, we believe that the UN should continue to remain the centre of international efforts to strengthen the rule of law

Thus we believe that in the future one of the priorities to strengthen the rule of law should be to increase the effectiveness of international judicial and quasi-judicial institutions. Crucially important is to provide a new impulse to the process of global nuclear disarmament and establishment of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. To this end one of key element of such a regime should be the ensuring of legal security guarantees for states that renounced nuclear weapons.

Thank you!