



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**
866 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA, SUITE 517
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017
TEL: (212) 308-8504, 8723 FAX: (212) 308-8724
newyork@mfa.gov.mk

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Intervention

By

H.E. Nikola Poposki,

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Macedonia

at the

High-level meeting of the 67th session of the General Assembly
on the Rule of Law

New York, September 24th, 2012

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I join the other speakers in welcoming this high-level debate aimed at streamlining international efforts to strengthen the rule of law both at the national and international level. I would also like to join the others in welcoming the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly of March 16th and the proposals contained therein, *inter alia*, for the General Assembly to adopt a programme of action for the rule of law, to agree to a process to develop clear rule of law goals and to adopt various mechanisms to enhance stakeholders dialogue on the subject, including developing corresponding benchmarks and indicators to measure progress.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Republic of Macedonia is fully committed to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and international law. We firmly believe that international order based on the rule of law is a prerequisite for more just and prosperous world and for ensuring peaceful relations among states and peaceful settlement of disputes among them. In this regard, UN member states and its principal organs share the same responsibility of abiding by the principles enshrined in the UN Charter.

Mr. President,

Ensuring strengthening the rule of law at the international and national level entails creating mechanisms for strengthening international adjudicative dispute resolution, in particular strengthening the role of the ICJ as the principal judiciary organ of the United Nations, by ensuring effective implementation of its decisions by the parties concerned. As you may be aware, the Republic of Macedonia has brought a bilateral dispute to resolution by the International Court of Justice but the ICJ Judgment of 5 December of last year in the case is yet to be honored by the party concerned.

Furthermore, we support the recommendation of the Secretary-General, that for the ICJ to strengthen its role in international relations and to increase

legitimacy and compliance of the actions taken by the principal organs of the United Nations with the international law, they should, where appropriate, make greater use of the ability to request advisory opinions from the ICJ so as to ensure that the international legal system is equally accessible and that the international law is not selectively applied.

The Republic of Macedonia supports the efforts of the Secretary-General to launch a campaign to increase the number of Member States that accept the compulsory jurisdiction of the ICJ pursuant to Article 36 of the Statute of ICJ. My country is considering accepting its compulsory jurisdiction, being fully aware that such optional declarations are the best way of ensuring that international disputes are settled peacefully in accordance with the international law.

Mr. President,

My country welcomes the Declaration we are about to adopt at this high-level meeting, drafted in an extensive and inclusive consultative process over the last couple of months. The Declaration is action oriented and provides a comprehensive platform for further activities to be carried out at the international and national level to strengthen the rule of law and its impact on the three main pillars of the United Nations action – peace and security, human rights and development.

Let me conclude by quoting Thomas Hobbes... “Ignorance of the law is no good excuse, where every man is bound to take notice of the laws to which he is subject.”. The same applies to states.

I thank you.