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OF ESTONIA TO THE UN

Republic of Estonia

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70. Session of the United Nations General Assembly Agenda item 85: "The rule of law at the national and international level" Statement by Mr. Gert

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principle in our interactions abroad. Estonia firmly believes that loyalty to the rule of law, on both the national and international level, first and foremost should be considered a prerequisite for the flourish of our fundamental values as articulated in the three pillars of the United Nations Charter as peace and security, development and human rights. We cannot achieve these values without the promotion of the rule of law, and rule of law cannot thrive without the protection of these values. As such, they are mutually reinforcing.

On peace and security the rule of law provides the foundation for effective conflict prevention, peacekeeping, peace-making, and peacebuilding. Adherence to the rule of law and the provision of justice fosters public trust in national government institutions, which is essential for developing a safer environment for us all.

When it comes to sustainable development, good governance, transparency in decision-making processes and low corruption at all levels are the best guarantees for progress. The General Assembly recognized this important role of the rule of law when adopting the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, which we need to implement effectively and comprehensively. Modern digital technology provides a valuable assistance in building the necessary effective and accountable institutions, which are powerful enablers for sustainable development. On a practical level, Estonia has developed an e-governance system that increases transparency and helps eliminate corruption. We have offered it to all countries that share

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UN entities' support to the judicial institutions, especially in investigating and prosecuting conflict-related sexual violence.

At the same time, Estonia recognises the need for balancing the rule of law between the national and international level. First and foremost, the responsibility of providing accountability is a domestic task. Therefore, it is essential that States build national capacities to investigate and prosecute serious international crimes. This should include a comprehensive legislative framework to ensure investigation and prosecution of crimes, incorporation of Rome Statute crimes of sc48o3c 10.4 0 0-