

77<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly

Sixth Committee

Agenda item 84: The rule of law at the national and international levels

Statement by Austria as coordinator of the Group of Friends of the Rule of  
Law

delivered by

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Nations

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More of these parameters of the rule of law would have been useful regarding measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, an important lesson learned for future pandemics. We are convinced that strengthening the rule of law is vital for strong, healthy and resilient societies.†

renewing their social contract with their citizens in this respect through assistance programs.

Mr. Chair,

@ wants to reaffirm the fundamental importance of the rule of law for the maintenance of international peace and security. A rule-based international system with norms that are adhered to is an essential condition for lasting peace and security. All member states of the UN signed up for an international order based on the rule of law and international law with the UN Charter and its principles at its core.

By agreeing to the UN Charter, UN Member States shall fulfill in good faith the obligations assumed by them and settle their disputes by peaceful means. Action in contravention of the UN Charter

International Court of Justice (ICJ). These rules contribute to the settlement of disputes by peaceful means, including through the ICJ complying with its judgements and orders. That is also why we call on all States to consider accepting, without reservations, the compulsory jurisdiction of the ICJ.

Holding individuals responsible for their actions and holding them accountable for violating the law is a basic principle of the rule of law. No legal background is needed to understand that this is an important part of fairness – a fairness we call justice. This justice is impossible as long as there are ways to allow impunity for the most serious crimes under international law (the crime of aggression, genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity). Individuals and vulnerable groups must be protected from these most serious crimes and perpetrators must be held accountable. Without accountability there can be no reconciliation. There can be no lasting peace. No peace of mind for victims.

Our commitment to international law and the rule of law also includes enabling and encouraging the continuous development of international law. The International Law Commission (ILC) plays an important role in this regard. Appropriate follow-up of states in the framework of the 6<sup>th</sup> Committee to draft articles prepared by the ILC needs to be ensured. The work of the ILC including reflection on already existing customary international law and preparation of legal solutions for pressing international topics contributes to ensuring legal certainty. We hope the 6<sup>th</sup> Committee will be able to further support the development and codification of international law in this regard.

Dear colleagues,

Rules that are internationally respected, enforced and upheld make the world more predictable, safe and stable. We want our world to be ruled by the law, not by the mighty. The Group of Friends of the Rule of Law reaffirms the commitments all UN Member States made in the declaration on the rule of law 10 years ago and continue to work

towards this objective. We invite all other partners to join our efforts in this regard

Thank you.