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**THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL**

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**Introduction of the report of the Secretary-General on  
strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law  
activities (A/78/184) before the Sixth Committee**

**78<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly**

17 October 2023

Trusteeship Council Chamber

**Distinguished Chair,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**Good afternoon.**

**Let me begin by thanking you, Mr. Chair, along with the Bureau, for your exemplary leadership in steering the Sixth Committee at this 78<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly; as well as the Secretariat of the Committee for its professionalism in facilitating your work.**

**Distinguished delegates,**

**Last year, you decided that**

**recognize that while technological tools can be enablers of progress, they can also amplify inequalities.**

**And if they are not developed and used in a human rights-compliant way, they can even lead to harm.**

**The report before you highlights examples of how the United Nations is working with Member States who have requested technical assistance and capacity-building measures in areas as diverse as:**

**x Extending justice services in underserved communities;**

**x Deploying judicial personnel in temporary mobile courts;**

**x**

**Today, I am pleased to announce that we have moved from vision to reality, and that work has begun to implement it across the UN System.**

**After a year-long consultative process and in the run-up to the Summit of the Future and the World Social Summit, the New Vision will serve as our lodestar for rule of law efforts across the UN system.**

**The New Vision will serve as a cross-cutting tool that, along with the New Agenda for Peace, will focus efforts, so needed in these critical times, to promote peace, prevent conflicts, and ensure justice.**

**It refers to rebuilding trust and respecting integrity in public information ±and making sure that technology and the digital ecosystem are inclusive, and they are working for people rather than against them.**

**It will guide our efforts to enhance and coordinate UN technical assistance and capacity building to help Member States when they request it ±while fully recognizing that national ownership and engagement is key to the success of any initiative.**

**The New Vision reaffirms that the rule of law is at the very heart of our international system.**

**Four elements are vital in this regard:**

- x **First, the New Vision is inclusive and people-centered.** Rule of law, as both a means and an end, is not just relevant to what we traditionally think of as legal sectors. It is about supporting stronger, more resilient and more representative institutions across the board.
  
- x **Second, the New Vision contributes to conflict prevention and peace.** The rule of law is fundamental to lasting peace and security because it is essential for addressing injustices and inequalities that fuel conflict in the first place, and it is essential to protecting civilians in crisis and post-conflict situations.
  
- x **Third, the New Vision sharpens attention on SDG 16 on Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions.** We are seeing progress on violence reduction, access to justice, inclusive governance,

**As such, the New Vision is firmly grounded in agreed documents, including the UN Charter, as well as the landmark 2012 Declaration of the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Rule of Law at national and international levels.**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**At the international level, the Report discusses the development and codification of international law, documenting the work of the International Law Commission and other bodies**

**In closing, let me thank the delegations of Liechtenstein and Mexico for once again taking upon themselves the task of facilitating the annual resolution on the rule of law at the national and international levels.**

**I wish you fruitful and productive discussions. And you can continue to count on my full support.**

**Thank you.**