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The 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly

Sixth Committee

Agenda item 83 - The rule of law at the national and international levels

Statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations,

H.E. Mr. Cornel Feru

New York, 17 October 2023

Mister Chair,

Romania aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the European Union.

Our delegation welcomes the resumption of the debate in the Sixth Committee on the topic of the rule of law at the national and international levels and wishes to thank Secretary-General for his *Report on Strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities (A/78/184)*.

Firstly, I would like to make a few remarks on the continued relevance of the rule of law. The Report under our consideration starts from the grim conclusion that ‘the reporting period saw a global decline in the rule of law and a backsliding of democracy’ This is a very concerning trend that we need to reverse. In our view, restoring respect for international law and its rule is a task shared by us all.

Here, at the United Nations, we can do more to bring the rule of law agenda to the forefront and have a cohesive approach towards its promotion across UN processes. A positive example in this respect was the leadership showed by Japan in the Security Council, including by organising during their Presidency an Open Debate on ‘Rule of Law among Nations’ which sparked a vivid interest among delegations.

Informal networks such as the Group of Friends of the Rule of Law can also be used as a platform for coordination and promotion of concrete initiatives that would advance the rule of law.

Secondly, on the efforts to promote the rule of law at national level, we welcome the new vision of the Secretary-General for the rule of law. We particularly value the targeted assistance and concrete projects undertaken by the United Nations in many Member States.

In addition, each country must assume its own role and responsibility and contribute to the consolidation of the global rule of law. Romania remains committed to improving its own national framework and track record and is available to offer assistance based on its own transition to a consolidated democracy.

Mister Chair,

Lastly, we want to highlight the activities of international courts and tribunals. Romania remains committed to supporting the ICJ, as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, and its role in promoting and reinforcing the rule-based international order. The impressive docket of the Court, covering a wide array of topics and involving States from various geographical areas of the world is indicative of the States confidence in its high-quality judicial work.

Looking to encourage a wider use of the Court, in 2021, Romania put forth an initiative promoting the broader use of the Court. The Declaration lists the main arguments for accepting the initiative.

States to confer jurisdiction to the ICJ by any of the means envisaged in its Statute, as deemed appropriate. The document reaffirms the important contribution of the ICJ to the peaceful settlement of disputes and the promotion of the rule of law globally, while inviting States to make better use of this potential. We renew our invitation to all UN Member States to endorse the Declaration.

In relation to the International Criminal Court we should continue to strive for the universality of the Rome Statute; continued political and financial support for the Court is also crucial given its vital role in the fight against impunity.

Stemming from our commitment to these international courts and their important role, Romania has put forward candidates for both judicial elections in 2023.

Romania stands ready to continue to play its part in all these efforts, living up to its own words as a responsible actor in the international arena and a strong supporter of the global rule of law.

I thank you!