

HRC33 - ITEM 8 - RULE OF LAW JOINT STATEMENT

Delivered by Ambassador Kaji of Japan

Mr President, I have the honour to deliver this statement on the Rule of Law on behalf of a cross-regional group of 75 States.

Mr President, the Rule of Law is at the heart of the UN, along with democracy, good governance, human rights and fundamental freedoms. The concept of the Rule of Law includes equality before the law, prohibition of any form of discrimination and ensuring the right to a fair trial. Reinforcement of the Rule of Law within societies at the domestic and international level is a key tool to operationalise and promote human rights and vice versa.

Transparent, fair, effective and humane justice systems, enforcement structures and an independent judiciary are all essential for the Rule of Law. This protects individuals from arbitrary governance and empowers individuals, including those who may be otherwise marginalised in their societies. Because of this we underline the importance of strengthening the Rule of Law to enhance the protection of human rights and for the protection of all individuals. Societies with a strong Rule of Law and respect for Human Rights are more likely to be peaceful, stable, just, equal, inclusive and resilient; and they are more likely to achieve stable and prosperous societies and bestow dignity on their people. We therefore underline the importance of States actively promoting the Rule of Law. In addition, we commend the ongoing efforts of all relevant UN organs and agencies to assist States in all regions of the world to strengthen the Rule of Law and we encourage them to continue their important work in this regard.

We continue in our conviction that the Human Rights Council can play an important role in strengthening the rules-based international system and assist in promoting the Rule of Law at the national and international level. States should work together to promote implementation, based on respect for the Rule of Law, of Goal 16.3 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which includes providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

We urge all States to do their part at both the national and international level.

Thank you Mr President.

Supporting States at time of delivery

1. Albania
2. Andorra
3. Australia
4. Austria
5. Azerbaijan
6. The Bahamas
7. Belgium
8. Bosnia and Herzegovina
9. Bulgaria
10. Cameroon
11. Canada
12. Chile
13. Columbia
14. Costa Rica
15. Croatia
16. Cyprus
17. Czech Republic
18. Denmark
19. El Salvador
20. Estonia
21. Finland
22. Former Yugoslav Republic of
Macedonia
23. France
24. Georgia
25. Germany
26. Greece
27. Guatemala
28. Honduras
29. Hungary
30. Iceland
31. Ireland
32. Israel
33. Italy
34. Japan
35. Jordan
36. Latvia
37. Liechtenstein
38. Luxembourg
39. Malaysia
40. Maldives
41. Malta
42. Mexico
43. Monaco
44. Mongolia
45. Montenegro
46. Morocco
47. The Netherlands
48. Norway
49. Pakistan
50. Panama
51. Paraguay
52. Peru
53. Philippines
54. Poland
55. Portugal
56. New Zealand
57. Republic of Korea
58. Romania
59. Rwanda
60. St. Kitts and Nevis
61. Serbia
62. Sierra Leone
63. Slovakia
64. Slovenia
65. Spain
66. Sudan
67. Sweden
68. Thailand
69. Timor Leste
70. Tunisia
71. Turkey
72. Ukraine
73. United Kingdom
74. United States of America
75. Uruguay