

BRAZIL

VI Committee

Agenda Item 83

The Rule of Law at the National and International Levels

Statement by H.E. Antonio de Aguiar Patriota,  
Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations

10 October 2014

(check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

Brazil aligns itself with the statement delivered by Costa Rica on behalf of CELAC. I would like to take this opportunity to address a few issues from a national perspective.

Concerning the strengthening of the rule of law at the national level, Brazil welcomes the fact that this year



In 2012, the General Assembly recognized that the rule of law is not only a **cause** of development, but also a **consequence** thereof. The fulfillment of ODA commitments is therefore of critical importance. Unfortunately, the gap between aid effectively disbursed and official financing announced by donors amounts to billions of dollars, in accordance to the 2013 MDG Gap Task Force Report . Meanwhile, billions flow consistently to the development of weapons and military budgets, while falling short in development assistance.

Mr. Chairman,

Brazil is concerned that the discussions related to this rule of law have been unbalanced to the detriment of implementation on the international level where it reminds us that no State is above the law and that claims of exceptionalism are unacceptable and damaging to the multilateral system.

Abiding by the rule of law at the international level means no single country, no matter how powerful, is exempt from compliance with its obligations, or beyond reproach for circumventing international law in the assertion of its national interests. In this regard, we cannot forget that a reform of the UN Security Council, in order to make it more representative and effective, would certainly provide long awaited improved grounds for the promotion of an order based on respect for International Law.

Mr. Chairman,

Before concluding, allow me to remind this Committee that the debate on the rule of the law has been gaining prominence in this organization at the same time, and paradoxically, we bear witness to a continuous lack of funding for the Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law, whose main purpose is to foster the rule of law by means of promoting education in International Law. If we are to be coherent, we ought to overcome this situation. At a time when the Secretary-General himself has emphasized the importance of prevention, let us not forget that education in International Law is a cornerstone of lasting peace.

Thank you.