Mr. Chairman,

Allow me at the outset, to associates my delegation with the statement made by Iran and South Africa on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the African Group, respectively.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Secretary General for his informative and comprehensive report on the rule of on national and international levels. My delegation values the support it is getting from the UN system, as mentioned in the Secretary General's report, for the implementation of national plans to address human trafficking as well as the drafting of the new legal aid strategy as part of the national human rights action plan

Ethiopia attaches great importance to the advancement of the rule of law both at the national and international levels. We support the leading role of the United Nations, in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Charter , in promoting and coordinating international efforts towards advancing the rule of law. We indeed attach great importance to the mandate and the work being performed by the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation recognizes that the rule of law is essential for promoting international peace and security. And for normal international life to be possible, the rule of law should govern inter-state relation in all spheres of life. It is needless to say that lack of compliance with principles of international law is at the root of inter-state misunderstanding and discord. There is no doubt that strict adherence to principles of international law can lay the basis for the prevention of conflict and for making it possible for people and countries to focus their attention on the challenges of development.

The challenge often faced here is not related to the general expression of commitment to the rule of law and to legal obligations but ensuring adherence to the rule of law in practice. That is where a real deficit exists and not too many can claim that they have no shortcomings in this regard.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation realizes that the rule of law is also a means to advance socio-economic development and promote the protection of human rights at the national level. My Government has been striving to make the necessary effort to help ensure that rule of law is implemented and promoted as effectively as possible. Over the last twenty years we have made major progress to see to it that the rule of law is the basis of governance and citizens count on the state carrying out its obligations in this regard.

Good governance and capacity building is taken as a key element for the achievement of the country's vision and to sustaining rapid and broad-based economic growth. We are convinced that the right to development is an important aspect of human rights. Ethiopia places major emphasis on the strengthening of democratic institutions, as well as building up the capacity of
the civil service and civil society organizations. Strengthening the participation of the public at
all levels of governance is also critical in ensuring the transparency and accountability of public administration.

Ethiopia has come a long way to strengthen law enforcement institutions; to ensure the independence, transparency and accountability of the judiciary; and to improve the effectiveness
of the justice system. We realize that we have made a considerable leap forward considerable8.9 224