STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR FREDERICK SHAVA PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE TO THE UNITED NATIONS DURING THE DEBATE ON THE RULE OF LAW: SIXTH COMMITTEE OCTOBER 2014.

Mr. Chairman,

As this is my first time to speak in this Committee, I wish to congratulate you, Ambassador

As agreed to in the Declaration on the Rule of Law at national and international level adopted by Heads of State and Government on 24 September 2012, States must refrain from the threat or use of force to solve disputes. The tendency to resort to force at the slightest excuse undermines development peace, security, human rights and the rule of law. There are ample recent experiences which demonstrate that heavy handed interventions do not always bring about sustainable solutions, but only cost more lives, destroy and degrade economic and social infrastructure and often leave behind more unstable situations that those they intended to resolve. More often than not, the weak and defenseless innocent civilians are left to pick up the pieces from a trail of destruction.

Mr. Chairman,

The Declaration on the Rule of Law also cautioned States to avoid the use of unilateral punitive sanctions and other measures against other States. Regrettably, such measures which are employed by powerful states against weaker ones to achieve narrow political objectives undermine stability and socio economic development efforts. My country and a number of other developing countries continue to suffer under such unjustified unilateral sanctions and measures. As we frame out the Post-2015 Development Agenda with a focus on eradicating poverty and transforming our economies, we hope that development country efforts will not continue to be hindered by these unilateral economic sanctions and other coercive measures.

Mr. Chairman,

Zimbabwe supports international efforts to end impunity and to hold those responsible for atrocities accountable. We are, however, concerned that the international criminal justice system has operated in a selective

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Africa. These perceptions undermine confidence in the system. For the system to be credible, it has to be seen to apply universally and equally to all.

Mr. Chairman,

At national level, Zimbabwe is committed to the rule of law and good governance through strengthening accountability law, and justice institutions. Our new home grown Constitution has re-emphasized the separation of powers between the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary and the independence of the latter institutions has been enhanced

All laws are being realigned to be consistent with the new Constitution. Any laws that may not be in line with the Constitution are deemed in any case to be null and void. Zimbabwe
has also set up independent bodies and Commissions such as the
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