



# CROATIA

Statement by

Mladen Bru i -Matic  
*Counsellor*

*Permanent Mission of Croatia to the United Nations*

at the

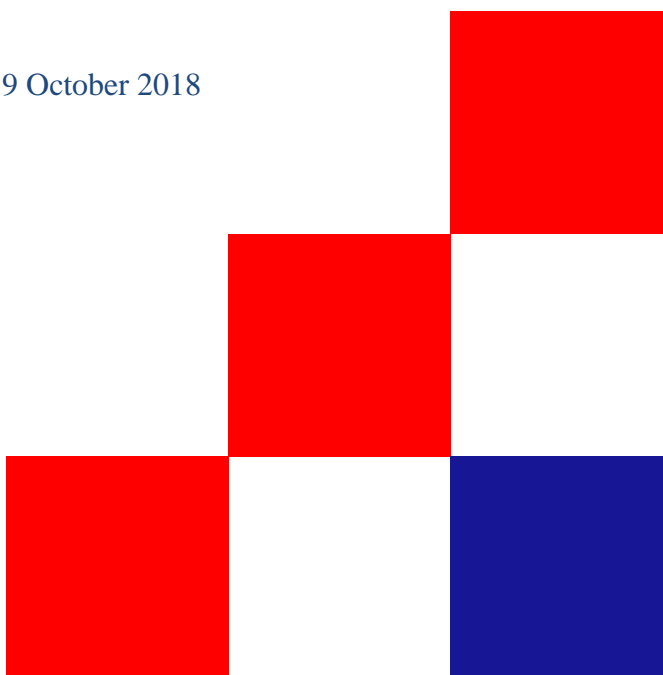
73rd Session of the General Assembly  
Sixth Committee

*Agenda Item 86*

**The rule of law at the national and international levels**

9 October 2018

*Check against delivery*



Mr Chairman,

As this is the first time my delegation takes the floor at the 73<sup>rd</sup> session of the Sixth

harmful to the system of international arbitration, both within and outside the PCA system including in the context of things like investor-state arbitration.

We should take the opportunity to deal with these issues honestly, but constructively, to enhance and to improve the system for the benefit of a rule of law as a protective mechanism. It's a delicate system, each of the courts and tribunals is a delicate creature, and those who wish to attack the system as a whole or individual courts will seize on these kinds of practices and will do very great damage indeed.

Compromising the impartiality or independence of international courts or tribunals, as was the case in the arbitration process between Croatia and Slovenia, makes their decisions legally void — and left Croatia with no choice other than to withdraw from the arbitration process. We consider that this example of undermining the rule of law is a discouragement for States considering third-party dispute settlement. The border issue between Croatia and Slovenia, which is a sensitive bilateral matter that concerns only two countries, remains open and Croatia wants to solve it with its neighbouring friend and ally Slovenia through bilateral dialogue.

Mr Chairman,

Croatia strongly supports the full and unequivocal implementation of international humanitarian and criminal law, as well as all efforts aimed at ending the “culture of impunity”, which includes, among others, the full investigation and punishment of

In conclusion, let me briefly touch upon the implementation of the rule of law aspects of the 2030 Agenda. Croatia places great emphasis on peace, justice and strong institutions as inseparable part of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals. This is important as for the international peace as it is for the development and economic prosperity. Without peace and the rule of law there can be no development. The rule of law is the very essence and