



Mr. Chair,

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the European Union.

Allow me, at the outset, to thank Assistant-Secretary-General Volker Türk for introducing the report on *Strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities*, which addresses a very wide range of issues. It underlines the fact that virtually every area of human activity, including international relations has legal aspects or consequences. This, however, does not imply that the Sixth Committee is the appropriate forum for discussions and deliberations on all issues covered by the present report.

Turning to the international level, Mr. Chair, I wish to stress that rule of law is at the heart of the current international order. In today's complex world, States and other subjects of international law are more than ever required to act in compliance with the relevant norms. Otherwise, the very foundations of the rules-based system may be irreparably damaged. Yet, we are, unfortunately, still witnessing gross violations of international law, particularly international humanitarian law ~~g(166)t~~w