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Mr Chairman

On behalf of my delegation I wish to begin by thanking you for this opportunity. At the onset, let me associate myself with the statement delivered by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and Algeria speaking on behalf of the African Group.

Mr Chairman

South Africa would like to commend and congratulate the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report (A/74/139) which deals with strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities in relation to the rule of law at the national and international levels during the past 12 months. My delegation has studied the report with keen interest, which, *enter alia*, highlight the very significant activities undertaken by the United Nations. We are pleased to note the steady increase over

the process of independence of Mauritius was therefore not lawfully completed. Secondly, that the UK is under an obligation to end its administration of the Chagos Archipelago as rapidly as possible. Thirdly, that the modalities for completion of the decolonization of Mauritius falls under the UN General Assembly, but the Court cannot prescribe to that body which steps to take in this regard. Fourthly, as respect for the right to self-determination is an obligation (in other words, all States are bound by the obligation), all UN Member States must cooperate with the United Nations to put these modalities into effect. And lastly that the General Assembly

should also address the matter of the resettlement of the expelled nationals of

Mauritius during the process of the decolonization of Mauritius.

Mr Chairman

The rule of law is a foundational constitutional concept of great importance and a cornerstone of any constitutional democracy. The rule of law requires legality, that is, that public power be exercised in compliance with the law and within the boundaries set by the law. Without effective, inclusive and functioning justice, criminal

public institutions or bodies have the responsibility to protect the rule of law. They

cohesion that has the great potential to protect the rule of law, where the role of our