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National and International levels Elizabeth Grosso, Acting Deputy Legal Adviser October 16, 2023

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The United States appreciates the Secretary- * HQHUDO¶V UHSRUW RQ VWUHQC coordinating United Nations rule of law activities. We would also like to thank the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group as well as the Rule of Law Unit. The individuals who perform this work often do so under very difficult circumstances and we are deeply grateful for their efforts.

We are pleased to see the excellent work of the UN in promoting the rule of law at the QDWLRQDO OHYHO)RU H[DPSOH ZH DSSUHFLDWH WKH 81 ¶ clarify the legal framework, allow the return to work of former judges and other justice personnel, especially women, and reinstate accountability within rule of law institutions. We DOVR YDOXH WKH 81 ¶ V HIIRUWV DURXQG WKH ZRUOG DLPHOPDQQHU W-Kii DrWhinlatVry, 3 QeRfOendly, fair, DQG WDLORUHG WR GLYHUVH SHOOVR WDNH WKLV RSSRUWXQLW\ WR UHFRJQL]H WKH 81 ¶ crimes under international law and to strengthen criminal accountability, including the laudable achievements of the Special Criminal Court in the Central African Republic.

As Ambassador Thomas- * U H H Q I L H O G K D V V D L G W K H U X O H R I O D Z I R U W K H 8 Q L W H G 6 W D W H V D Q G D I X Q G D P H Q W D O S U L Q F L S O H the UN and Member States are to protect and enhance the rule of law in their respective jurisdictions, and to support other States and civil society organizations seeking to do the same. The United States believes that the rule of law is a critical factor in the advancement of democracy and human rights, and is a precondition for access to justice, especially for underrepresented populations. As such, the United States makes great effort to maintain and protect the rule of law in our own country as well as to support rule of law initiatives across the globe.

:LWK UHVSHFW WR WKLV \HDU¶V VXEWRSLF RI ³XVLQJ W DOO´ WKH 8QLWHG 6WDWHV FRQWLQXHV WR SURPRWH EUR society, investigative bodies as well as the tech sector to advance access to justice.

In April of this year, the United States Agency for International Development \pm USAID \pm UHOHDVHG LWV XSGDWHG 5XOH RI /DZ 3ROLF\ ZLWK D YLVL