

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group.

The African Group thanks the Secretary-General for his report contained in document A/779/117, which provides valuable information on efforts to promote and strengthen the rule of law at the national and international levels as well as on the coordination of United Nations rule of law assistance.

The African Group shares the view that the rule of law is interrelated and mutually reinforcing with several key contemporary issues such as peace and security, technology, the planet/**protection of the environment**, human rights and access to justice and that the advancement of the rule of law, at the national and international levels, is essential to handle these issues in a decisive manner. This is particularly crucial at a time when, thanks to the recent Summit of the Future, our Heads of State and Government have defined a vision of the future of international cooperation by providing a new momentum and renewing their commitment to addressing these issues which are essential for the development, well-being and prosperity of the humankind.

In this context, the African Group reaffirms its commitment to the rule of law both at the national and international levels and notes with appreciation the efforts and the assistance provided by the United Nations system during the past year. The

In resolution 78/112, the General Assembly invited Member States to focus their comments during the Sixth Committee debate on the rule of law agenda item on

In the same vein, the African Group acknowledges the concerted actions aimed at ensuring the entrenchment of the rule of law at the international level. We note that significant measures have been carried out regarding the codification, development and promotion of international instruments, norms, standards and rules in various sectors including the law of the sea, transports, human rights, disarmament, investments, information and communications technologies. It has also been observed that the international courts and tribunals have increasingly been substantially engaged and

Furthermore, as we reiterate our support to the vision of the Secretary-General for a stronger, more networked and inclusive multilateral system contained in *Our Common Agenda*, we think that common efforts should be pursued in enhancing multilateralism which undoubtedly serves as a crucial institutional arrangement for the promotion of inclusiveness and participation of all in the international legal system and as a tool for the universality of international law.

We need a multilateralism that guides the international rule of law to protect a fair and just multilateral system, upholds the authority and unity of international law, offers more institutional public goods to all our countries through cooperation and mutual understanding, and improves the institutionalization of a global community with a shared future for humanity by enhancing global governance and ensuring that no one and no country is left behind.

We need a multilateralism that is free from power politics and prioritizes the international rule of law. Unfortunately, the crises and tensions that the world is experiencing today, one of the solutions to which could have been strict compliance with international law, which is clearly lacking, teach us that we are a long way from the desired prospects. I2-034201017h342002748620n07f17h38JTC0874932.25eWh