



Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

by Mr. Fabio Cannizzaro

Counsellor

Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations

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‘The rule of law at the national and international levels’

United Nations

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±CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY ±

Thank you, Mr.Chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Candidate Countries Montenegro, Serbia, Albania , Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Georgia, as well as San Marino align themselves with this statement

At the outset, we would like to express our sincere appreciation for the Secretary General's Report on strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities. The Report showcases the pervasive and manifold efforts of the Organisation to promote and strengthen the rule of law at both national and

First, the Report confirms the importance of digitalisation for facilitating and improving access to justice. The new EU e-Justice Strategy and Action Plan for 2024-2028 confirms that progressive digitalisation of the justice system continues to be a priority for the EU to make it more effective and efficient and bring it closer to citizens, thus offering better justice services to all in line with the European Declaration on Digital Rights and Principles for the Digital Decade. The new EU e-Justice Strategy for 2024-2028 also focuses on the need of people, notably those lacking digital skills or tools, to enable and foster effective participation and engagement in judicial proceedings.

To that end, a number of initiatives will be further developed to reduce the digital divide. For example

- encouraging access to open justice data, which can serve as means of empowering people and businesses, thereby also increasing the possibilities for autonomous dispute resolution;
- supporting the creation of a new open source case law database in the justice sector, with a view to lower costs and enhance transparency and

by the European Commission confirms the full commitment of the European Union to prevent and combat gender-based discrimination and violence. Last May, the EU adopted a directive to effectively fight violence against women and domestic violence both offline and online, which requires Member States to put in place robust measures of prevention, protection, access to justice, support, coordination, and cooperation between authorities¹. Gender equality and diversity are essential elements from the perspective of human resources, as an essential element for the quality of a justice system. Diversity among judges, including gender balance, adds complementary knowledge, skills and experience and reflects the reality of society.

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This shows the importance of continuing to deepen work on the rule of law, share our respective experience and challenges, and take inspiration from one another to further deepen the tools at our disposal to defend, promote and strengthen the rule of law.

Thank you.