



**PERMANENT MISSION  
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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SIXTH COMMITTEE

**STATEMENT BY MR. SINA ALAVI, LEGAL ADVISER**

THE RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS

Mr. Chairman

Liechtenstein welcomes this year's report on *Strengthening and Coordinating United Nations rule of law activities* and we thank Assistant Secretary General, Fabrizio Hochschild-Drummond for his presentation of the report today. We strongly agree with the report's assessment that the engagement of the UN in collective efforts to promote the rule of law is more critical than ever. This is a crucial moment for all of us to stand up for the rules-based order, which together we have worked so hard to establish in the last decades.

Mr. Chairman

Challenges to peace and security in particular call for the strengthening of the international legal order. The activation of the International Criminal Court's jurisdiction over the crime of aggression this past July 17<sup>th</sup> is therefore of central importance. Criminalizing the most serious forms of the illegal use of force and thus creating individual criminal accountability for aggressive war-making reinforces the UN Charter. And, it is thus a landmark development for the rule of law. We welcome the positive ratification process of the Kampala amendments on the crime of aggression, as reflected in the Secretary-General's report. Liechtenstein is proud to be among the 36 States that have ratified these important amendments. And we will continue to work together with all ICC States Parties towards the goal of universal ratification of the Rome Statute in its amended version.

This July 17th also marked the 20th anniversary of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court – an opportunity many States used to reaffirm its central role in the fight against Impunity. At a time when the rules-based international order as such is under attack, support for the ICC becomes even more significant. Policy-makers and victims alike look to the ICC to try to address the challenges they are facing. 20 years after the Rome Statute was adopted, it is our responsibility to defend the vision it represents and to work together to make it a stronger institution.

Mr. Chairman

The ICC is the central institution in the fight to ensure justice for the most serious crimes under international law. But it is not the only one. National judiciaries retain primary jurisdiction, according to the principle of complementarity. And as long as universality of the Rome Statute is not achieved and the UN Security Council is unable to play the role it has under the Rome Statute, we must look for alternative paths to accountability where necessary. The creation of the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM) for the most serious crimes committed in Syria is a stark illustration of the General Assembly's potential to play a productive role in this area. Created less than two years ago, the IIIM is fully operational and already has concrete impact. We are seeing investigations and prosecutions in a variety of national Courts. States are sharing information with the IIIM. Things are moving in the right direction and accountability for the crimes committed in Syria is now within reach. We look forward to more accountability work carried out by the General Assembly and other UN organs. In this regard, we welcome the recent establishment by the Human Rights Council of a IIIM-type accountability mechanism for Myanmar. This sends a strong message that justice must be ensured. And it is also a sign of the strong political acceptance the Syria IIIM enjoys. The case of Myanmar, where the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court has established limited jurisdiction, will also serve as an important test case for how such accountability mechanisms can co-exist and cooperate with the ICC.

Mr. Chairman

Liechtenstein values the high-priority the Secretary-General has placed on the rule of law and we echo his call to improve the financial sustainability of international accountability mechanisms. Compared to military interventions of peacekeeping missions, activities to ensure justice are economical. More importantly, they are investments in sustainable peace. Holding perpetrators to account facilitates the reconciliation of societies, which fosters stability and prevents cycles of violence. While we are encouraged by the strong political and financial support States have given to the Syria IIIM thus far, we strongly believe that such mechanisms should be funded from the regular budget of the United Nations – as was decided in the case of the Myanmar mechanism. We will continue to work with like-minded States and the Secretary-General to ensure regular budget funding for the Syria IIIM.

Mr. Chairman

The rule of law is an accelerator towards the realization of the 2030 Agenda especially with respect to preventing conflict, sustaining peace and advancing the universal protection of human rights. We therefore commend the UN's efforts to make rule of law assistance to Member States more effective and coherent. We support increasing joint efforts to reach our Sustainable Development Goals. And we look forward to the next High-Level Political Forum in 2019, where progress on the implementation of Goal 16 in particular will be reviewed.

I thank you.