

Security Council Open Debate on Rule of Law
Tuesday, 29th June 2010, Security Council Chamber (GA-TSC-01)

Statement by Ambassador Rugunda, Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations

I wish to thank you, Mr. President, for organizing this important debate on the promotion and strengthening of the rule of law in the maintenance of international peace and security. I also wish to thank the Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Asha-Rose Migiro, and the Under-Secretary-General, Ms. Patricia O'Brien, for their statements.

The Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations expresses the determination of the peoples of the United Nations to establish conditions under which justice and respect for obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained. It envisages an international community grounded in law. Justice and law are therefore fundamental conditions for international peace and security. The international community must rekindle its commitment to fundamental human rights and to the dignity and worth of the human person.

It is often said that there can be no peace without justice. Justice and peace are complementary variables, neither of which can last or even exist without the other. Durable peace must be built on social, economic and political foundations that serve the needs of the people. We therefore welcome the continuing efforts of the Security Council to address the critical issue of early consideration of peacebuilding activities, right from the peacemaking and peacekeeping stages. In that regard, support for building the capacity of institutions for justice and the rule of law is critical if justice is to be meaningfully delivered at national levels.

Promotion of justice and the rule of law is critical, especially in fragile post-conflict situations in order to avoid impunity and the danger of relapse into further conflict. It is essential to insure national ownership and support of the people for programmes for justice and the rule of law.

In intractable conflict situations it would be unrealistic to expect effective delivery of justice and the rule of law where there is no functioning police, judicial institutions or custodial facilities. Therefore a holistic approach is needed to situations leading to or arising from conflict. The international community should contribute to comprehensive and holistic solutions, rather than to half measures that ultimately would not lead to the results envisaged.

Uganda supports mechanisms for dispute prevention and settlement, which include international as well as regional courts and tribunals. We are convinced that such mechanisms offer States the options for settling disputes peacefully.

The promotion of the rule of law is crucial in the maintenance of international peace and security. As a State party to the Rome Statute, Uganda is committed to the role of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in ending impunity for the perpetrators of the most heinous crimes of concern to the international community. Our commitment is further evidenced in our hosting in Kampala of the recently concluded Review Conference of the Rome Statute, which resulted in historic adoption of a resolution (resolution RC/Res.6) on the crime of aggression as a crime punishable by the International Criminal Court.

Uganda has institutionalized the rule of law by promulgating the necessary legislation domesticating the Rome Statute and establishing equally appropriate institutions to dispense justice. The War Crimes Division of the High Court of Uganda is thus complementary to the ICC in the pursuit of justice for the most serious crimes of concern to the international community.

My delegation is not oblivious to the challenges arising from situations of armed conflict and the fight against terrorism. Nevertheless, it is important to ensure that human rights law and international humanitarian law are observed. All parties to armed conflict must respect international law applicable to the rights and protection of **women** and children and other vulnerable persons.

Finally, we thank the Mexican delegation for the draft presidential statement, which Uganda supports.