



PERMANENT MISSION
OF MALTA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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The Rule of Law at the National and International Levels

Statement delivered by Emma de Gabriele
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Thank you, Madam Chair,

As we continue to face increased threats to the international legal order, including grave violations of the UN Charter and the fundamental rules and principles of international law, Malta takes this opportunity to reaffirm its longstanding commitment to upholding the rule of law and thanks the Secretary-General for his report on this topic.

For Malta, the rule of law is not merely a concept, nor is it a matter of choice or convenience – it is a fundamental responsibility of every State and a necessary foundation for peaceful societies and strong international relations. Its value, however, lies not only in the rules themselves, but in our willingness to uphold them in practice. It remains indispensable at a time when respect for international law, including the UN Charter, is under sustained pressure.



This requires a commitment that extends across all levels of governance and recognises the mutually reinforcing nature of the rule of law at the national and international levels: respect for international law must be reflected in national practice, as strong national institutions and adherence to the rule of law strengthen the international legal order as a whole.

This connection also underscores the importance of the processes through which international law is developed and applied. Malta welcomes the focus of the Secretary-General's report on strengthening dialogue between States and the International Law Commission. The Commission's contribution to the progressive development and codification of international law, alongside the role of international courts and tribunals in interpreting and applying it, is central to a functioning international legal order.

Chair,

The relationship between the United Nations and the rule of law is fundamental. Malta welcomes the work of the UN in advancing accountability, access to justice and effective institutions, as reflected in the report. In this regard, the non-selective application of international law is essential to its credibility and authority.



For Malta, this is particularly important. As a small State, we depend on an international system in which sovereign equality, agreed rules and strong multilateral institutions prevail over unilateral action and the arbitrary exercise of power. The international rule of law provides the framework that allows every State, regardless of its size or influence, to exercise its rights, discharge its responsibilities and have its interests protected by law.

Malta therefore calls on all States to reaffirm their commitment to the rule of law through action. Our international legal order can only remain credible and effective if we uphold the rules we have agreed upon, respect the institutions we have established, settle disputes peacefully, and apply the law consistently, without selectivity.

I thank you.