



Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

By

**Gilles Marhic
Minister Counsellor
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at the Sixth Committee

on

**Agenda item 82
"The Rule of Law at the national and international levels"**

United Nations

New York

9 October 2014

- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -

Mr. Chairman,

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

The Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia , Montenegro , Serbia and Albania , the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the Republic of Moldova and Georgia, align themselves with this statement.

The General Assembly invited the UN Member States to focus their comments in the present Sixth Committee debate on the subtopic *'Sharing States' national practices in strengthening the rule of law through access to justice'*.

We reaffirm our attachment to the Declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the rule of law at the national and international levels adopted by consensus on 24 September 2012, which emphasises in paragraph 14 the right of equal access to justice for all. We remain committed to giving effect to this right. Within the European Union, the 2014-2020 EU Justice Programme

As noted in the summary of key messages issued at the high-level event on contributions of human rights and the rule of law in the post 2015 Development agenda on 9 June 2014, the rule of law, including access to justice, was repeatedly raised by UN Member States as fundamental to tackle root causes of poverty and violence.

Respect for the rule of law is an essential condition for peace, stability and development and needs to be pursued at both national and international levels. It is inextricably linked to the protection of h

to support comprehensive consideration of the rule of law and its linkages with the three pillars of the UN. We also welcome the fact that the addendum recalls the pledges made at the high-level meeting on the rule of law in September 2012. In each of the areas covered by the Declaration, the EU and its Member States have made substantive pledges of commitment to strengthen the rule of law, backed up by concrete measures. The EU and its Member States will inform the UN Secretariat about the implementation of their pledges by the end of 2014. We encourage further pledges as well as their implementation by UN Member States.

I thank you.