

Statement by
H.E. Mr. Abbas Bagherpour Ardekani
Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran
before the Sixth Committee of the
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On: "**The Rule of Law at the National and International Levels**"
(Agenda Item 84)
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In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

My delegation takes note of the report of the Secretary-General contained in document A/72/268. We share his view that the rule of law is an outcome that requires continued effort to keep up with the constant evolution of societies and no country is excluded from this effort. All countries, regardless of the stage that they have reached in their development, face challenges in addressing risks and structural weaknesses that could destabilize their political and economic gains.

A rules-based international relations that equally respects the rights of all nations will make an enabling environment in which all countries can best utilize the existing potentials, boost

their capacities and strive for their social and economic well-being.

Mr. Chairman,

The concept of sovereign equality of States is an essential element in upholding the rule of law in the international legal system. In this context, the principle of state immunity is one of the cornerstones of international legal order that has been codified in the United Nations Convention on Jurisdictional Immunities of States and their Property. The primacy of this principle has also been recognized by the community of nations, legal systems and the International Court of Justice. With the sole possible permissible exception of "commercial

Against this backdrop, it is a matter of grave concern that a handful of countries seem to believe that they can easily defy and breach the fundamental principle of state immunity, by unilaterally waiving the immunity of states under an unsubstantiated legal doctrine that the international community does not recognize. Such actions are an obvious manifestation of the rule of power through misuse of an instrument of law and in many cases can be qualified as internationally wrongful acts entailing the international responsibility of the states concerned

Moreover, each nation has the sovereign right to shape its appropriate model of the rule of law and administration of justice, based on its specific traditions, needs and requirements, and to develop an efficient and fair legal system. As it was also highlighted by the Secretary General, "at the national level, there is no single model for the development of the rule of law". Domestic legislation must not, however, violate the basic principles of international law, the international obligations of the state or the sovereign rights of other states. Nor must

international community and international law and bilateral and multilateral obligations be prevailed in the international community, the parties which derogate from their obligations, will be isolated. This should be the main characteristic of a rule-based system, in which accountability, transparency and predictability are guaranteed.