



The primacy of international law over force, together with the basic principle of the juridical equality of States, emerged after the two Hague Peace Conferences, in 1899 and 1907. Latin American States made a decisive contribution to the outcome of such conferences and to the wide recognition of these principles. Brazil is proud of the Latin-American legacy to international law and, in particular, of the role played by the Brazilian internationalist Rui Barbosa in the 1907 Peace Conference.

International law must prevail at all times and in all situations, especially when international crimes and internationally wrongful acts are committed by individuals and States. This is why the rules of criminal accountability and international responsibility also lie at the epicenter of any order that truly abides by the rule of law. They complement



community remains from achieving the enjoyment of economic, social, and cultural rights, all of them inherent to human dignity.

This is why the implementation of SDG 16 has to be made together with the other objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and not in isolation. Ensuring national ownership, policy space and - most importantly - means of implementation are also key elements in this process. Let us not forget that one of the targets of SDG 16 sets the need to broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance. This applies in particular to the United Nations. Strengthening the rule of law in the UN largely depends on reforming the Organization, in order to make it more legitimate and effective.

For decades, we have been discussing in the General Assembly the issue of equitable representation in the Security Council. Despite the overwhelming support of the membership for a reform process, we have made little progress so far. The passing of time is only making

Mr. Chair,