



PERMANENT MISSION OF GREECE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



Security Council Open Debate on Reaffirming International Rule of Law: Pathways to Reinvigorating Peace, Justice, and Multilateralism

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Statement of Greece

delivered by H.E. Ambassador Aglaia Balta,
Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations, New York

Mr. President,

As we reflect on the 80th anniversary of the UN Charter, this debate offers an opportunity not only to reaffirm principles, but to renew political commitment. Revitalizing multilateralism requires ensuring that international law guides action, rather than follows it. It means ensuring that international law and the UN Charter apply to states in the same way; that might does not make right; that solidarity and responsibility towards each other prevail over war, repression and polarization.

Indeed, Greece attaches great importance to the pre-eminence of international law, respect for the UN Charter, the resolution of disputes among States through peaceful means, including recourse to judicial proceedings.

We wish to highlight the following points as regards the international rule of law as a pillar of multilateralism and as a means to achieve justice and peace.

First, a major achievement regarding the rule of law at the international level and multilateralism relates to the conclusion of a wide range of important multilateral treaties under the auspices of the United Nations, a number of which contain provisions on dispute resolution, judicial or non-judicial.

We underscore in this respect the advancement of the rule of law, within the United Nations, in the framework of the protection of human rights, contemplated in article 1 paragraph 3 of the Charter, through the conclusion of the core human rights conventions.

Major achievements of multilateralism regarding the international rule of law also include conventions such as those on the law of the sea, a major achievement in this respect being the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (the UNCLOS) as regards its universal and unified character. We welcome in this regard a recent landmark development with the entry into force on the 17th of January 2026 of the BBNJ Agreement. The Agreement implements UNCLOS and sets specific, legally binding provisions on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

Second, Greece wishes to underscore the impact of the jurisprudence of the International Court of Justice on the settlement of disputes, and of its advisory opinions on the clarification and consolidation of international law. Besides, alongside the ICJ, the jurisprudence and advisory opinions of regional and sectoral courts and tribunals are providing considerable contributions regarding the interpretation and application of international law.

Third, serious challenges are, however, present or lying ahead.

We must absolutely counter the increasing trend around the world of actions which undermine multilateralism, its institutions and the international rule of law. A world without the rule of law as its core pillar, is a more dangerous and violent world. A world without peace or justice - particularly for smaller states.

The Security Council bears a particular responsibility in this regard. When violations of international law go unaddressed, the credibility of the Council itself is at stake. Reaffirming the rule of law must therefore be accompanied by a renewed commitment to restraint, consistency, and support for peaceful settlement and accountability mechanisms.

In this context, threats or use of force against the territorial integrity of States, in stark violation of article 2 paragraph 4 of the Charter, continue unrelenting. In a number of instances these threats are also directed against States which are invoking a legal right that is well-established under international law.

Furthermore, in a number of cases States, parties to international disputes, are taking actions aggravating or endangering the maintenance of international peace and security or impeding the peaceful settlement of disputes. They equally disregard decisions of the International Court of Justice and other international tribunals.

Moreover, important legal gaps on criminal accountability still exist. There is no legally binding international instrument currently in force on the prevention and punishment of crimes against humanity. The process leading to the convening of a UN diplomatic conference to elaborate and conclude a legally binding instrument has just started.

Moreover, the number of States accepting the optional clause of the Statute of the International Court of Justice showed no significant increase in comparative terms for years.

Lastly, Mr. President, the rule of law at the international level has an obvious impact on the domestic level as regards accountability mechanisms, a comprehensive system of judicial remedies and a range of independent authorities and institutions. Transparency, the fight against corruption and organized crime, as well as the respect of international human rights law, constitute essential components, reflecting developments at the international level.

In concluding, the rule of law at the international level, multilateralism and the peaceful settlement of disputes are closely intertwined. Their enhancement leads to justice among Nations and to the maintenance of peace and security internationally with tangible effects also on the rule of law at the domestic level. Greece will always stand on the side of international rule of Law and on all efforts to enhance peace, justice, and multilateralism.

Thank you.