



**PERMANENT MISSION OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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NATIONAL STATEMENT BY:

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK**

**AGENDA ITEM 84:
“THE RULE OF LAW AT THE NATIONAL AND
INTERNATIONAL LEVELS”**

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Mr. Chairman,

As this is the first time I am taking the floor in the Sixth Committee, I would like to take this opportunity, to extend my sincere congratulations to you and other members of the bureau on your elections.

At the outset, Brunei Darussalam aligns itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished representative(s) from Cambodia on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) (and Iran on behalf of the Non-Alignment Movement (NAM)).

I would like to thank the United Nations Secretary-General for his report of 1 August 2017, which highlights the work that the UN undertakes to promote and strengthen the rule of law at the national and international levels.

Mr. Chairman,

Brunei Darussalam welcomes the inclusion of this agenda item. We believe that respect for the rule of law is essential to preserving the peaceful co-existence and good relations amongst States.

It is central to the operations of the UN, and provides an important link between the 3 pillars of the UN - in supporting international peace and security, and socio-economic development.

We support the crucial and leading role of the UN in promoting and coordinating efforts at the global level towards strengthening the rule of law.

Mr. Chairman,

The UN also reinforces the national rule of law in the Member States through its work in areas such as peacekeeping, disarmament, development and good governance.

On its part, Brunei Darussalam is firmly committed to uphold the purposes and principles of the Charter of the UN in the maintenance of international peace and security. We believe that the rule of law is of utmost importance, especially with its linkages between national and international norms.

Mr. Chairman,

The subtopic for this year's discussion entitled "*Ways and means to further disseminate international law to strengthen the rule of law*" is fitting as it is amongst one of the obligations of the UN through the Office of Legal Affairs and its specialised divisions.

As a small state, Brunei Darussalam greatly benefits from the invaluable support rendered by the Office of Legal Affairs through the UN Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law.

We find, in particular, the Regional Courses in International Law for Asia-Pacific, as well as International Law Seminars held in Geneva, very useful, as they provide high-quality training conducted by leading scholars and practitioners in international law.

The UN Audiovisual Library of International Law is another helpful tool under the Programme which is accessible by everyone. We appreciate their high-quality, low-cost international law training, with the objective of enhancing the dissemination and wider appreciation of international law. We also encourage the Office of Legal Affairs to continue its efforts in ensuring that the extensive materials provided under this resource is regularly updated and suggest the Office to widen meetings and events coverage, for the benefit of all.

Mr. Chairman,

The dissemination of international commercial law represents another means in which the rule of law can be further strengthened. We appreciate the work of the UN Commission on International

Trade Law (UNCITRAL) as they promote this objective through one of its main functions of collecting and disseminating information on national legislation and modern legal developments through its own website, as well as with its work regarding its Model Laws which have formed the basis for legislation relating to trade.

Brunei Darussalam has benefited from this work carried out by UNCITRAL through the establishment of several domestic legislations based on the UNCITRAL Model Laws. The International Arbitration Order 2009 gave legal effect to the UNCITRAL Model Laws on International Commercial Arbitration, 1985, whereas the provisions of the Electronic Transactions Act (Chapter 196), enacted in 2000, are generally consistent with the UNCITRAL model laws on e-commerce and electronic signatures.

Mr. Chairman,

Additionally, to show our support to the rule of law, we are also participating in various meetings in other international and regional meetings such as the ASEAN Law Ministers Meeting, Commonwealth Law Ministers Meeting, and the annual session of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Organisation.

Finally Mr. Chairman, Brunei Darussalam remains committed to working closely together with the UN, as well as Member States and other partners to abide by the rule of law, especially in the maintenance of peace and security, both regionally and internationally.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.