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**Statement by Mr. Ghanshyam Bhandari, Deputy Permanent Representative
of Nepal to the United Nations, at 74th session of the UN General Assembly at
the Sixth committee under Agenda Item No. 83: Rule of Law at the National
and International Levels**

14 October 2019

Madame Chair,

I would like to thank the Secretary-

The Criminal Procedure Code and Civil Code which entered into effect last year aim at strengthening rule of law and ensuring accountability in cases of both civil and criminal liability.

Nepal remains committed to its international obligations through the domestication of relevant international instruments. Nepal is a State party to 24 different human rights related international instruments, including 7 out of 9 core instruments.

Our laws provide that obligations under international treaties to which we are a party have equal legal effect to that of our domestic laws.

Nepal accords high priority for the rule of law in its resolve to drive the country towards the new era of peace and development. The principle of good governance underlies all policies and plans of the Government. We pursue the policy of zero-tolerance against corruption. Similarly, the government lays utmost priority on transparency and accountability in all public affairs.

Madame Chair,

While Nepal remains steadfast in ensuring that the rule of law at national level, it attaches equal importance to the rule of law at international level. That is why we stand for the principle of sovereign equality among States and for

As we move ahead in achieving the SDGs, we must be fully aware that the rule of law is not only a stand-alone goal, but it is also a critical enabler of other SDGs. In fact, maintaining rule of law is about giving equal opportunities to everyone and 'leaving no one behind'.

To conclude, Madame Chair, rule of law is never a 'thing' done. It is always in the process of 'becoming'. We must believe in it and work towards it. Such work may be gradual and quiet but it should be sustainable. And, sustainable efforts are those, which take into account the local realities, and keep people at the centre with a view to empowering them. Equally, global governance must be based on rule of law that treats all countries as sovereign equals.

I thank you.