

Non-aligned Movement a

nd by South Africa on behalf of the African Group.

First, we would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report on “Strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities”, outlining the overall efforts made in the rule of law at the national and international levels, in particular in these unprecedented times of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The rule of law is fundamental to achieving peace and preventing conflicts. At the national level, the rule of law is a prerequisite for stability and economic and social progress. At the international level, all instruments, norms and principles that govern the rule of law are instrumental to the maintenance of international peace and security and to building friendly and equitable relations between States.

Therefore, adherence to the rule of law is essential to hold the ideals and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, including the sovereign equality of States, non-interference in the internal affairs of States, the right to self-determination, and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

Mr. Chairman,

This year’s sub-topic on “Measures to prevent and combat corruption” is relevant as corruption has detrimental effects on societies, the economic growth and development and the rule of law. Corruption disproportionately exacerbates poverty and inequality and affects those in the most vulnerable situations, and thus constitutes a serious impediment to sustainable development.

Corruption is even more damaging in times of crisis, as the world is grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic. Through anti-corruption action aiming at preventing and curbing this scourge, we can address one of the major challenges confronting the world today. Therefore, we need to strengthen cooperation and intensify our national and global efforts.

The convening of the first ever Special session of the General Assembly against corruption”, in 2021 offers an opportunity to advance efforts to achieve our global goals of preventing and combatting corruption to unlock progress towards ending poverty and inequalities, and strengthening justice and the rule of law.

Mr. Chairman,

Algeria is committed to the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), to promoting the rule of law and to fighting corruption.

The national legal framework for preventing and combating corruption comprises provisions under several pieces of legislation, including on money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. Algeria is also a party to a number of international agreements on international cooperation, and crime control and prevention and cooperates internationally through various mechanisms and networks.

Algeria also participates in regional and international initiatives and organizations that contribute to the prevention of corruption, including the Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network and the African Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities.

Algeria has several bodies and agencies in charge of preventing and fighting corruption. With the status of independent administrative authority in charge of national anti-corruption policy, the National Agency for the Prevention and Combating of Corruption publishes annual evaluation reports on the prevention and combating of corruption in which it highlights the shortcomings it has identified and proposes legislative and administrative recommendations. Algeria also has a Central Office for the Repression of Corruption, the Court of Auditors, the Higher Council of the Civil Service and the Financial Intelligence Unit. All these bodies enjoy the necessary independence to carry out their functions in this area.

Furthermore, Algeria has implemented a policy and a comprehensive programme to prevent and combat corruption. A new national anti-corruption strategy for the period 2020–2024 is being finalized.

To conclude, I would like to reaffirm Algeria's full commitment to the establishment of an international order based on the rule of law that serves as the cornerstone of peaceful coexistence and cooperation among States.

I thank you!