

SIXTH COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY)
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WIMUN NEW YORK 2026

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

STRENGTHENING RULE OF LAW

Simulation: Sixth Committee of the General Assembly

Welcome to WIMUN New York 2026,

We are very pleased to introduce you to the most authentic simulation of the General Assembly in the world; and hope to contribute to your understanding of the organisation, its mandate, and its critical role in global affairs.

Through a series of pre-conference webinars that will be offered and documents – like this resource guide – we aim to educate you not only about the global issues on the UN agenda, but also about the ways and means through which those topics are discussed, debated and negotiated by real UN diplomats.

This resource guide will provide you with a head start in doing research to gain a deeper understanding of the global issue that you will be discussing and the actions that the government you have been assigned recommends that the international community should take to address this issue. To make the research process a bit easier, the resource guide has been divided into sections and sub-sections to assist you in researching these two components. We strongly recommend you to give a careful look through the sources listed below so that the interaction with your peers is as exciting as possible.

We wish you all the very best in this journey of learning!

TOPIC DESCRIPTION

Strengthening the rule of law has become a central pillar for peace, justice, and effective governance. The rule of law is defined by principles such as equality before the law, accountability, fair legal processes, and legal clarity — so that people can understand their rights and obligations and trust that rules will not be changed or enforced arbitrarily. These principles are vital for protecting human rights, ensuring stability, and advancing sustainable development. The United Nations has called for a “New Vision for the Rule of Law” that is people-centered, ensuring equal access to justice for women, children, displaced persons, and marginalized groups.

At the national level, it is essential for people to have confidence in their justice systems. When laws are predictable and applied consistently, citizens know their contracts will be upheld, their rights will not be stripped away suddenly, and corruption will not distort outcomes. Recent UN-supported reforms in Bangladesh and Kenya have used digitalization to reduce delays in courts and make legal processes more transparent, helping people trust the stability of the system. In Bhutan and South Sudan, expanded legal aid and survivor-centered approaches to gender-based violence cases strengthen the sense that the law is reliable and not subject to arbitrary change or abuse. Similarly, anti-corruption initiatives in Mozambique and Iraq aim to reinforce transparency, so that people can depend on institutions to act fairly and consistently.

At the international level, States rely on stable and predictable international law to govern relations, settle disputes peacefully, and ensure that agreements are honored. The UN plays a key role in helping all States—especially developing and small island countries—participate fully in international lawmaking and dispute settlement. States also rely on international courts applying the law consistently: the International Court of Justice hears cases on genocide, climate change obligations, and territorial disputes, while hybrid tribunals and investigative mechanisms gather and preserve evidence so that justice is not delayed or denied.

Despite these achievements, challenges remain in ensuring the rule of law worldwide. In many regions, weak institutions and corruption erode trust in the law, leaving people unsure whether rules will be applied fairly. In conflict and post-conflict settings, rebuilding justice systems requires years of investment to restore public confidence that the law will be enforced consistently rather than arbitrarily. New challenges—such as cybercrime, disinformation, and the misuse of emerging technologies—also test the ability of legal systems to remain clear, reliable, and stable in rapidly changing environments.

The Sixth Committee of the General Assembly provides a forum to consider these issues. By strengthening the rule of law—ensuring equality before the law, accountability, fair processes, and above all legal certainty—Member States can build more just, inclusive, and resilient societies while reinforcing a fair and predictable international legal order.

Key Points and Main Issues

In discussing the Strengthening of the Rule of Law, delegates must focus on balancing legal clarity, institutional capacity, and community trust. The emphasis should be on promoting justice systems that are transparent, accessible, and grounded in international human rights standards. This framework will help ensure that efforts to strengthen the rule of law contribute to sustainable peace, democratic governance, and the protection of fundamental rights in post-conflict and fragile settings. Here are some of the key points and main issues delegates need to understand:

The rule of law is a foundational principle for peaceful, just, and inclusive societies. It ensures accountability, legal certainty, protection of fundamental rights, and equal access to justice. Strengthening the rule of law is essential not only for national stability but also for international peace and cooperation.

- **Access to justice for all:** Ensuring that all individuals, particularly marginalized groups, can access
 - Legal aid and legal empowerment: Strengthening national legal aid systems to assist vulnerable populations.
 - Judicial accessibility: Removing barriers such as cost, language, geography, and discrimination.
 - Gender-sensitive justice: Promoting justice systems that address gender-based violence and discrimination.
 - Customary and informal justice systems: Integrating traditional mechanisms in a rights-based framework.
- **Independent, impartial, and accountable justice systems:** Reinforcing institutions to function free from corruption, political interference, and bias.
 - Judicial independence: Safeguarding tenure, appointment processes, and financial autonomy.
 - Integrity and ethics: Implementing codes of conduct and oversight mechanisms for judges and prosecutors.
 - Judicial training: Continuous education on international law, human rights, and due process.
 - Case management and transparency: Digitalization and open access to court proceedings.

Key Points and Main Issues (cont.)

- **Legal frameworks that reflect human rights norms:** Promoting comprehensive, clear, and consistent laws aligned with international standards.
 - Constitutional reform: Ensuring supremacy of law and checks and balances.
 - Criminal law reform: Decriminalization of poverty-related offenses and protection of procedural rights.
 - Human rights integration: Aligning national legislation with international treaties and conventions.
 - Law-making processes: Inclusive, participatory, and transparent legislative practices.
- **Strengthening legal and institutional capacities:** Building effective institutions that can uphold the rule of law across all sectors.
 - Capacity-building of justice actors: Training police, judges, prosecutors, and defense lawyers.
 - Interagency cooperation: Enhancing coordination among justice, security, and human rights bodies.
 - Monitoring and evaluation: Establishing systems to assess the performance and fairness of justice systems.
 - Budget and resource allocation: Securing sufficient and sustainable funding.
- **Combatting corruption and promoting transparency:** Tackling corruption at all levels to ensure public trust and the integrity of legal institutions.
 - Anti-corruption legislation and enforcement: Criminalizing bribery, money laundering, and abuse of power.
 - Whistleblower protection: Safeguarding those who expose wrongdoing.
 - Asset recovery mechanisms: Repatriating stolen funds and promoting financial transparency.
 - Open government initiatives: Enhancing civic participation and access to information.
- **Transitional and restorative justice:** Providing justice in post-conflict and fragile settings through inclusive and reparative approaches.
 - Truth commissions and reparations: Addressing past human rights violations.
 - Justice for victims of armed conflict: Ensuring accountability through national and international mechanisms.
 - Reintegration of former combatants: Promoting reconciliation and community dialogue.
 - Non-recurrence guarantees: Institutional reforms to prevent future abuses.

Key Points and Main Issues (cont.)

- **International cooperation and legal harmonization:** Fostering collaboration among states to address transnational challenges under the rule of law.
 - Mutual legal assistance: Cross-border cooperation on criminal matters.
 - Harmonization of legal standards: Facilitating consistency in commercial, environmental, and human rights law.
 - Role of international courts and tribunals: Strengthening the International Criminal Court and regional bodies.
 - Capacity-building by international organizations: Support from the UN, World Bank, and regional organizations.
 - **Inclusion, equality, and non-discrimination:** Embedding the rule of law in efforts to achieve social justice and equality.
 - Protection of minorities and indigenous peoples: Legal recognition and rights protection.
 - Anti-discrimination frameworks: Laws against racism, xenophobia, and gender inequality.
 - Youth and rule of law: Engaging young people in civic education and legal processes.
 - SDG 16 integration: Aligning rule of law efforts with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
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DSG message at the Sixth Committee – 2024**2024**

Summary: On 23 October 2024, the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General delivered a message at the Sixth Committee in New York, reaffirming the UN's commitment to strengthening the rule of law and good governance at both national and international levels. The address spotlighted inclusive, rights-based legal systems and equal access to justice for all.

Strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities**2024**

Summary: It identifies key challenges, including the erosion of democratic norms, shrinking civic space, and rising impunity. The report outlines the implementation of the Secretary-General's "New Vision for the Rule of Law," emphasizing a people-centered, gender-sensitive, and forward-looking framework. It calls for enhanced inter-agency coordination among UN bodies like UNDP, UNODC, OHCHR, and DPO; stronger UN support for Member States in legal and institutional reforms; integration of rule-of-law principles across peace and security operations; and reinforcement of international legal cooperation mechanisms, reaffirming the UN's enduring commitment to uphold justice, accountability, and the rule of law at both national and global levels

Strengthening Rule of Law Crucial to Better Protect Civilians, Secretary-General Stresses in Message for Parliamentary Assembly of Mediterranean Session**2023**

Summary: In the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, Guterres emphasized that the rule of law—rooted in accountability and equal treatment before the law—is the cornerstone for protecting civilians, preventing discrimination, and fostering trust. He warned of rising "rule of lawlessness" and highlighted lawmakers' responsibility to ensure justice, leaving no one behind.

New Vision of the Secretary-General for the Rule of Law

2023

Summary: The document outlines the Secretary-General's new vision for the rule of law within the United Nations system. It emphasizes a people-centered approach to justice, grounded in international human rights standards and aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. While reaffirming the UN's longstanding commitment to the rule of law, the document calls for stronger institutional coherence, increased access to justice, and greater engagement with local communities and vulnerable populations.

UNDP Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development – Phase IV

2022

Summary: Phase IV of the UNDP Global Programme (2022–2025) aims to enhance the quality, impact, and reporting of UNDP's rule of law and human rights programming. This phase focuses on building systems and capacities for improved monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL), aligning with UNDP's 2022–2025 Strategic Plan. The programme operates globally, with a specific focus on prevention, fragility, and responding to crisis and conflict. It seeks to transform justice and security systems to be more inclusive, people-centred, and effective, thereby contributing to the achievement of SDG 16 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Our Common Agenda: Report of the Secretary-General

2021

Summary: This is the Secretary-General's report, presenting a forward-looking vision for global cooperation and multilateral reform. It outlines a roadmap to renew trust, strengthen the social contract, and revitalize multilateral action to address pressing issues like climate change, inequality, digital transformation, and future-generational inclusion.

Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law (GFP) **Factsheet**

2021

Summary: The photosheet outlines the structure, mandate, thematic focus, and achievements of the UN Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law (GFP). Co-chaired by the Department of Peace Operations (DPO) and UNDP, the GFP is a central coordinating platform aimed at strengthening UN support for rule-of-law efforts across peacekeeping, justice, security, human rights, gender, and emerging challenges.

General Assembly resolution on the rule of law at the national and international levels (A/RES/76/117)

2021

Summary: A/RES/76/117, reaffirms the central importance of the rule of law both within and between states. It emphasises the UN's continued commitment to supporting Member States, at their request, with technical assistance, legal reform, and institution-building in order to reinforce legal norms, guarantee accountability, and protect human rights.

The UN common position to address global corruption - towards UNGASS 2021

2020

Summary: This paper sets forth the Common Position of the United Nations system on addressing corruption challenges at the global, regional and national levels and the common framework for the United Nations system on support to Member States. The paper also includes an annex that highlights some innovative ideas and initiatives being explored by Member States to prevent and respond to corruption challenges.

Strengthening the rule of law through education: A guide for policy-makers

2019

Summary: This guide, published by UNESCO and UNODC, offers policy recommendations to integrate the rule of law into primary and secondary education. Aimed at students, education planners and related professionals, it emphasizes education's role in building a culture of legality and preparing youth for ethical, responsible citizenship.

A/RES/70/118 - The Rule of Law at the National and International Levels

2015

Summary: This resolution reaffirms the importance of rule-of-law principles both domestically and globally. The resolution restates that all persons and institutions, including states, must be subject to publicly enacted, equally enforced, and independently adjudicated laws consistent with international human rights standards. It encourages member states to seek UN technical assistance and institutional capacity-building, and calls for enhanced coordination across UN bodies (including UNDP, OHCHR, UNODC, and DPO) to support rule-of-law initiatives and promote legal accountability worldwide.

Guatemala Statement – UN General Assembly 6th Committee: Non-Aligned Movement & CELAC on Treaty and Legal Reform

2020

Summary: Guatemala stressed the dual phases of rule-of-law processes, international treaty negotiation and national implementation and urged modernization of outdated treaty registration systems. The delegation highlighted domestic successes combating corruption, including the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala, and called for the UN's continued partnership in advancing legal integrity.

Rule of law indispensable element for peace, conflict prevention – Security Council

2014

Summary: UN Security Council issued Presidential Statement S/PRST/2014/5, emphasizing the centrality of strengthening rule-of-law institutions to achieving sustainable peace. The Council advocated for peacekeeping mandates that specifically support judicial and legal system development in host countries, stressing the importance of coherent, integrated strategies that align political, security, justice, and rule-of-law objectives. The statement calls for tailored support to national legal frameworks, penal systems, and local justice actors to build robust legal institutions capable of maintaining stability and human rights in post-conflict environments.

Report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on measuring the effectiveness of the support provided by the United Nations system for the promotion of the rule of law in conflict and post-conflict situations **2013**

Summary: Presented to the UN Security Council, S/2013/341 is the annual report by the Secretary-General. It evaluates how well UN entities deliver technical assistance, legal reform, and justice system support in fragile settings. The report identifies strengths and gaps in coordination, resource allocation, and implementation by UN agencies and calls for more strategic alignment, data-driven monitoring, and responsive programming to improve rule-of-law outcomes in post-conflict environments.

Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels **2012**

Summary: This resolution endorses the 2005 Declaration of the High-level Meeting as a foundational framework for the rule of law, both nationally and internationally. It reaffirms all UN Member States' solemn commitment to uphold the UN Charter, international law, justice, and universally accepted rule-of-law principles. Additionally, it encourages technical cooperation and institutional strengthening in rule-of-law initiatives at States' invitation.

Strengthening the Rule of Law in Crisis-affected and Fragile Situations **2011**

Summary: This brochure provides a snapshot of UNDP's comprehensive rule of law programming in conflict-affected countries. It outlines the design and objectives of a global Rule of Law programme aimed at tackling justice and security challenges, especially among vulnerable groups like women and internally displaced persons.

Remarks by China's Permanent Representative to UN Ambassador Zhang Jun at the UN Security Council Open Debate on the Promotion and Strengthening of the Rule of Law in the Maintenance of International Peace and Security. **2023**

Summary: China's Ambassador emphasized the authority of international law and the need to uphold the UN Charter. He called for equality in global rule-making, non-interference in domestic affairs, and peaceful dispute resolution. China opposed the use of unilateral sanctions and legal exceptionalism, warning they erode the international rule-of-law order.

Uniting for the rule of law Statement by Foreign Minister Mr. Hayashi Yoshimasa at the United Nations Security Council Open Debate on "The Rule of Law among Nations". **2023**

Summary: Japan's Foreign Minister outlined three pillars of a rules-based order: faithful implementation of law, rejection of force to change borders, and strengthening international cooperation. Japan pledged to continue its support for legal and judicial reform in fragile states and stressed the role of ICJ jurisdiction and peaceful settlement of disputes.

German statement in the United Nations Security Council Open Debate, "The Promotion and Strengthening of the Rule of Law in the Maintenance of International Peace and Security" **2023**

Summary: Germany underscored the importance of sovereign equality and peaceful resolution of disputes through international courts. It criticized the misuse of veto power and called for greater accountability at the international level. Germany reaffirmed support for the ICJ and ICC and stressed the value of multilateral legal institutions.

National Action Plan on Rule of Law and Good Governance – Kenya

2022

Summary: Kenya's official plan describes measures to strengthen judicial accountability, fight corruption, and increase public access to justice. It incorporates UN guidelines on rule-of-law promotion and emphasizes community participation and legal aid.

The Federal Republic of Germany's National Strategy for the Rule of Law

2019

Summary: Germany's official document outlines its approach to upholding judicial independence, combating corruption, and supporting international legal cooperation within EU and global frameworks. It highlights collaboration with UN bodies and support for capacity-building in partner countries.

Ukraine Statement – UN General Assembly 6th Committee: Rule of Law Coordination and National Reform

2018

Summary: Ukraine endorsed the Secretary-General's report on UN rule-of-law coordination and outlined major national reforms undertaken since 2014, including judicial overhaul, anti-corruption efforts, electronic governance, and the establishment of an independent anti-corruption court. Ukraine emphasized the rule of law as essential for sovereignty, human rights, and international legal accountability; it also highlighted ongoing cases against Russia at the ICJ and urged respect for international rulings.

Strengthening the Rule of Law through the United Nations Security Council

2018

Summary: This document was published by the Australian Civil-Military Centre and the ANU Centre for International Governance and Justice. It synthesizes the outcomes of a three-year, multi-workshop project, offering 66 targeted recommendations aimed at empowering the UN Security Council (UNSC) to reinforce the rule of law when deploying peace operations, sanctions, and authorizing the use of force.

Communication – 2025 Rule of Law Report: the rule of law situation in the European Union

2025

Summary: This Communication outlines the main findings of the 2025 Rule of Law Report, the sixth annual report published by the European Commission. It presents a comprehensive overview of rule of law developments across all 27 EU Member States, identifying EU-wide trends, highlighting both progress and challenges, and offering country-specific recommendations. The report continues to serve as a preventive tool to strengthen the rule of law, deepen dialogue, and guide reforms within the EU legal and political framework.

EU Statement – UN General Assembly 6th Committee: The rule of law at the national and international levels

2024

Summary: The EU reaffirmed its strong support for the Secretary-General's "New Vision for the Rule of Law," emphasizing inclusivity, gender equality, and access to justice. It called for multilateral cooperation, the universality of international law, and strengthening institutions through coordinated UN action. The EU also expressed concern about growing threats to civic space and rule-of-law backsliding worldwide.

Statement by Ambassador Burhan Gafoor, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Singapore to the United Nations, on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations on Agenda Item 84

2024

Summary: Singapore, on behalf of ASEAN, reaffirmed its commitment to a rules-based international order and respect for the UN Charter. It stressed the importance of upholding international law as a stabilizing force in international relations and promoting peaceful dispute resolution, especially amid growing geopolitical tensions.

**Statement by Minister Mr. Solomon Korbieh
Permanent Representative of Ghana to the
United Nations, on behalf of the African
Group on Agenda Item 84**

2024

Summary: Speaking on behalf of the 54-member African Group, Uganda underscored the essential role of the rule of law in upholding the UN Charter and international law. They welcomed the Secretary-General's latest report and called for renewed commitment to the 1970 Declaration on Friendly Relations and the 2012 High-Level Meeting Declaration. The Group urged collective action to reinforce rule-of-law norms in the face of global crises.

**CELAC Statement – UN General Assembly 6th
Committee: The Rule of Law at the National
and International Levels**

2024

Summary: On behalf of CELAC, the Dominican Republic reaffirmed commitment to the rule of law at both national and international levels. The group emphasized the interconnection between domestic legal systems and international obligations, stressing sovereignty, peaceful dispute resolution, and non-interference. CELAC also urged states to refrain from unilateral sanctions inconsistent with international law and called for broad UN technical assistance to promote transparent legal frameworks accessible to all.

**Renew Europe 10-Point Plan – Strengthening
Rule of Law in the EU (by the European Union)**

2024

Summary: This action plan urges stronger EU mechanisms, expanding rule-of-law conditionality to all funds, creating a Democracy/Rule-of-Law agency, boosting EPPO, introducing smart conditionality to support civil society, and fast-tracking responses to rule-of-law breaches.

General Affairs Council – Annual Rule of Law Dialogue (24 September 2024) (by the General Affairs Council)

2024

Summary: This session welcomed progress in justice, anti-corruption, media freedom, and institutional checks, praising the 2024 Rule of Law Report. It committed to objective, equal treatment and decided on a country-focused follow-up in November, targeting countries like Austria, Malta, the Netherlands, and Poland.

Strengthening the rule of law (by Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development)

2019

Summary: This contribution, authored by the OECD, presents expert insights and recommendations on strengthening the rule of law in EU Member States. It addresses structural governance dimensions and policy frameworks to support prevention, promotion, and enforcement of rule-of-law standards across the European Union

Strengthening the Rule of Law (by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) **2025**

Summary: The project, recently published by GIZ, promotes the effective strengthening of administrative justice in Colombia, with a primary focus on defending the rights of victims of the armed conflict. It enhances the capacity of the judiciary and oversight bodies to legally protect citizens, promotes extrajudicial forms of dispute resolution, develops legal policies for anticipatory justice, and supports transitional justice processes.

Worldwide Governance Indicators (Rule of Law dimension) by the World Bank. **2002**

Summary: This data series quantifies rule-of-law performance—including confidence in and adherence to legal frameworks, enforcement, courts, and crime prevalence—using data from over 200 countries since 1996. It serves as a globally accepted benchmark for measuring rule-of-law progress and enabling comparative analysis.

Rule of Law Index 2024 (by the World Justice Project) **2024**

Summary: The report details the 2024 Rule of Law Index, assessing 142 countries using surveys of over 214,000 individuals and 3,500 legal experts. It shows seven consecutive years of global decline in adherence to the rule of law, albeit with some improvements in anti-corruption and criminal justice.

Government at a Glance 2023 (by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Economic Development)

2023

Summary: This edition includes a robust section on the rule of law, emphasizing equal application of legal standards, independent courts, transparency, and accountability. It presents indicators on public trust in institutions, including judicial independence, and explains how robust legal frameworks are key to good governance, economic development, peace, and anti-corruption.

World Development Report 2017 – Governance and the Law (by the World Bank)

2017

Summary: This thematic report highlights why governance matters and explores how rule-of-law reforms can deliver outcomes. It argues that successful reforms require credible commitment, coordination, and institutional capacity, beyond adopting “best practices”. The report provides global case studies and analysis of governance reform mechanisms to strengthen legal institutions.

Strengthening the Rule of Law in the OSCE Area, with a Special Focus on the Effective Administration of Justice (by the OSCE Human Dimension Seminar)

2009

Summary: This document presents a summary of the proceedings of the OSCE Human Dimension Seminar. It compiles the key recommendations and proposals from participating States, experts, and civil society, addressing foundational rule-of-law principles and recent challenges across the OSCE region.
