



In their honor we need to redouble our efforts to promote dialogue and the peaceful settlement of disputes, in line with Articles 2 (3) and 33 of the Charter, while not losing the human dimension and fighting against impunity for the most serious crimes under international law.

There is no doubt, international law is the backbone of multilateralism.

It does more than give guidance on individual issues.

It gives order to human behavior. @

The challenges facing us remain vast. Modern technologies have created a more interrelated world. To support our increasingly global world, we need to improve the way international system works.

That is our role. No other global organization has the legitimacy, the convening power and the normative impact of the United Nations.

No other global organization gives hope for a better world to so many people.

Excellencies,

COVID-19 has tested our preparedness for unexpected challenges.

Here in the Sixth Committee, the custodian of the rules of procedures of the General Assembly, it is crucial that our work can continue in spite of any unforeseen challenges.

I am encouraged to see a growing consensus among Member States on the need for the General Assembly to be able to perform its duties in any given circumstance.

I urge you, legal experts from the Permanent Missions, to come together to find consensus and turn it into action, so we do not face any further disruptions to our critical work.

Distinguished delegates,

One of my priorities for the session is the promotion of gender equality, so I am pleased to see that two prestigious female international lawyers, Professor Boisson de Chazournes and Professor Galvao Teles, are also participating in the event today.

Despite the statistics that show a continuous increase in the number of female law students around the world, surpassing their male counterpart in many countries, the field of international law is still strongly dominated by men.

In over seventy years of the International Law Commission, only seven women have been members. The first women were elected as late as 2001. In the upcoming International Law Commission elections, I hope Member States will make an extra effort to nominate female candidates.

I warmly welcome the two female delegates, from Czech Republic and Israel, who were elected as Vice-chairs for the Sixth Committee. I am delighted that many resolutions and working groups will be coordinated and facilitated by female diplomats this year, including the most ambitious treaty making exercise this session, on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction, which is chaired by a talented female Ambassador from Singapore.

The voices of women in the international law community are needed and valued and you are important role models.

To conclude, it is clear that strengthening the international legal order is essential to reinforce multilateralism, which is a priority of mine this session. I count on your support to make this a reality.

Thank you.