Chairperson

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, and the distinguished representative of the Kingdom of Morocco, speaking on behalf of the African Group.

Chairperson

I wish to thank the Secretary-General for his report A/76/235 on this critical subject. As he observes, the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic presents the global community with real-time challenges as governments around the world are seeking to strike the critical, albeit delicate, balance between guaranteeing the individual rights and freedoms of their respective citizens, on the one hand, whilst also ensuring public health, and public order, on the other.

The question, however, is how do we legitimately determine what rights we may consider derogable, and which ones should never be infringed upon? The Preamble of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is unequivocal:

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind

it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law.

Chairperson

On 22nd September 2021, during a joint press briefing held by Mr Hakainde Hichilema President of the Republic of Zambia, and United States Vice-President Ms Kamala Harris, at the White House, President Hichilema stressed the following:

track, Stolen Asset Recovery Mechanisms, including Courts for Corruption and Economic Crimes.

We will continue to pursue our legal and judicial reform initiatives, and ensure the judicial system remains autonomous and accountable. We will ensure a substantial acceleration and progress in the disposal of court cases. However, in all these efforts we will not pass laws that are arbitrary or that infringe on the rights and liberties of all Zambians, in line with our core values.

Chairperson

As President Dwight D. Eisenhower once remarked:

The world no longer has a choice between force and law; if civilization is to survive, it must choose the rule of law.

Therefore, let me end by stating that if our collective efforts to establish the rule of law at the national level fail, it will be impossible to maintain it at a global scale. Unless all Member States work diligently to establish strong foundations for the rule of law and thriving judicial systems, the tyranny we read about in our history books will very soon define this generation.

I thank you.