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البعثة الدائمة لدولة إريتريا لدى
الأمم المتحدة
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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE STATE OF ERITREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

**Statement Delivered by Ambassador Sophia Tesfamariam
Permanent Representative of the State of Eritrea at the United Nations
At the Open Debate of the Security Council (Ministerial Level) on “the
Promotion and Strengthening of the Rule of Law in the maintenance of
International Peace and Security: the Rule of Law among Nations”
12 January 2023, New York**

**H.E. Minister HAYASHI Yoshimasa,
Honorable Ministers and Distinguished Permanent Representatives,**

At the outset, let me express my delegation’s profound appreciation to Japan for organizing this open debate that provides member states the opportunity to share their perspectives on an immensely crucial theme: “the promotion and strengthening of the rule of law in the maintenance of international peace and security: the Rule of Law among Nations.” I would like also to congratulate Japan for assuming the Council’s presidency for the month of January, as the newly elected member of the Council along with Ecuador, Malta, Mozambique, and Switzerland.

Mr. President,

As enshrined in the UN Charter, pertinent UN Declarations and principles of international law, the rule of law essentially entails, *inter alia*, respect for sovereign equality, territorial integrity, political independence, non-interference in domestic affairs, peaceful settlement of disputes, and prohibition of the threat or use of force. These cardinal principles have been agreed upon by the entire international community— all sizes and powers of nations – big or small; rich or poor – in conducting their relations. As such, they shall be equally respected by all to ensure international peace and security, socio-economic prosperity, and justice.

Contrary to these ideals, the promotion of rule of law has been weathered away owing to the arbitrary unilateral policies and measures adopted by certain powers

against those who don't 'conform' to their self-professed "rules-based order." In utter disregard for the UN Charter, these actors have been intervening in the internal affairs of sovereign nations and instigating chaos; imposing illegal unilateral coercive sanctions, waging proxy wars and intensifying geopolitical tensions, politicizing human rights, and exacerbating inequalities. Developing countries like mine, and the global South in general, have been bearing the brunt of these ill-premised and unfair policies and practices. These must be rectified, and the community of nations should collectively endeavor to ensure a secure/stable global order and a shared future based on the rule of law in adherence to the principles of the UN Charter.

Mr. President,

To briefly share my country's experience, guided by a safe and cooperative regional policy, Eritrea's resolve to the pacific settlement of disputes and adherence to the principles of international law are matters of public record. Even on those disputes imposed upon her, Eritrea had consistently sought pacific settlements and had faithfully and invariably implemented the decisions of international arbitrations. The Eritrea-Yemen Arbitration Decision of 1998/9 and the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission delimitation and demarcation decisions of 2002 are cases for reference. Indeed, for the people of Eritrea, who had fought for decades to achieve and defend its independence and sovereignty, upholding the rule of law is not a policy choice but rather a strategic imperative.

To conclude, with a view to promoting and strengthening the rule of law in the maintenance of international peace and security, allow me Mr. President to share my delegation's modest perspectives:

1. Sovereign equality and political independence of all nations of all sizes/powers must be uniformly upheld.
2. All forms of unilateral coercive measures ought to be immediately annulled.
3. The existing international security architecture and institutional setup must be rigorously reformed to ensure inclusive multilateral decision-making processes that safeguard a peaceful, prosperous, and just international order.

I Thank You, Mr. President!