



Mr. President,
Mr. Secretary-General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Mozambique wishes to warmly welcome and commend HE the Foreign Minister of Japan, President of the Security Council, for convening this open debate on a very timely and important subject entitled *‘the promotion and strengthening of the rule of law in the maintenance of international peace and security: the Rule of Law among Nations’*.

We wish to express our gratitude to the Secretary General for his illuminating statement. We thank the President of the International Court of Justice and Prof. Dapo Akande for their excellent presentations.

Mr. President,

The concept of the rule of law among nations is the bedrock on which the Charter of the United Nations was written.

It was later developed and expounded with the adoption by the General Assembly, on 24 October 1970, of the “*Declaration on Principles of International Law Concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations*”. In fact, the Declaration above was an important restatement of the provisions of the Charter itself.

In this connection, the rule of law is embedded in the letter and spirit of the Charter and it constitutes the foundation of a rules based international order.

In fact, the rule of law in international relations is strongly linked to the fulfilment of the purposes and principles of the United Nations, as prescribed in articles 1 and 2 of the Charter, respectively.

For all we know, the Charter does outline four main purposes for the Organization, which are, in a nutshell: 1) to maintain international peace and security; 2) to develop friendly relations among nations; 3) to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems; 4) to be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of the common goals.

It is therefore clear, from above, that in a world without the rule of law, no peace and security are feasible, no friendly relations can be developed among nations, no international cooperation is achievable, no understanding whatsoever can be attainable.

It was, to a large extent, thanks to the Charter, to the international law in general and to the liberation struggles of peace and freedom-loving peoples that, since 1945, the humankind has made significant progress in expanding the realm of the rule of law.

We have been able to define and reach new frontiers of our liberty, and to affirm the right of self-determination of peoples and countries under foreign yoke, with the momentous adoption of resolution 1514 (XV) Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, of 14 December 1960.

We dared to overcome colonialism, to defeat apartheid and to make huge progress in human rights and fundamental freedoms as never before in human history.

The rule of law at the international level means that all nations, large and small, are duty bound to uphold the Law of the United Nations, embodied in the Charter and more importantly in its purposes and principles. They contain peremptory norms of international law accepted and recognized by the international community of states as a whole and that serve the interests of peace and security.

In this context, it is our strong belief that for the rule of law to be more effective, it needs to benefit from a strong culture of multilateralism and oppose selectivity and unilateralism in our actions.

The Charter is a legally-binding instrument that impels nations *‘to live together in peace ... and to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security’*. This means that peace and security are a common and a global good of humankind. It means that peace and security are premised on a collective security and they require a collective effort to prosper. It means that we must unite our efforts to uproot terrorism, the modern scourge of war that affects the international community. It is a threat to state security and to human security.

We believe more measures of collective security need be taken in order to improve the fate of nations around the world.

I thank you, Mr. President!