

**United States Statement at the 74th General Assembly Sixth Committee
Agenda Item 83: Rule of Law at the National and International Levels
Julian Simcock, Deputy Legal Adviser
United States Mission to the United Nations
October 11, 2019**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

First, let me join other delegations in thanking the Secretary-General for his report on this agenda item. I would also like to thank the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group and the Rule of Law Unit, which often perform work in dangerous and complex environments.

The Secretary-General's report identifies a number of concerning developments. Particularly alarming are its findings regarding the proliferation of hate speech and incitement to violence. As the Secretary-General has said, "Hatred is a threat to everyone – and so this is a job for everyone." We look forward to engaging on the United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech. We believe we can work to address these problems, while remaining cognizant that efforts to counter hate speech must respect freedom of expression.

With respect to this year's subtopic – "Sharing best practices and ideas to promote

With respect to the forthcoming negotiation on the resolution for this agenda item, we hope that the Sixth Committee will once again be able to reach consensus on a subtopic for next year. We think that the past practice of selecting subtopics can lead to more focused and productive debates on the rule of law in this forum.

Finally, let me say that this Committee has a long history of consensus-based decision making. We are optimistic that it will endure. At a time when the rule of law is under attack in many parts of the world, even where it was once considered sacrosanct, this practice is a welcome reminder of the power of collaborative legal discourse.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.