

**Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States**

**By**

**Ms. Simona Popan**

**Counsellor**

**Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations**

**at the Sixth Committee**

**on the Agenda item 83:**

**"The Rule of law at national and international level"**

**United Nations**

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Thank you, Mr/Madam Chair!

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Candidate Countries Türkiye, Montenegro , Serbia , Albania , Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Bosnia and Herzegovina , the potential candidate country Georgia, as well as Monaco and San Marino align themselves with this statement.

As the Secretary-General reminded us earlier this year, the 16<sup>th</sup> Sustainable Development Goal on access to justice for all is a critical enabler for the other SDGs. We thus believe that it is our responsibility to continue to find new means to strengthen equal access to justice for all.

The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the importance, necessity and utility of incorporating new

long as principles of openness, inclusiveness and accountability are built into the design. Digitalization is thus a priority for the EU. We are therefore currently in the process of implementing the EU 2019-2023 Strategy on e-Justice. Two new regulations were adopted that facilitate digital communication as well as evidence and document transmission through protected, decentralized IT platforms. New regulations also endorsed communication which, for example, allow individuals to participate in **cross**border hearings through video-conferencing. These efforts have increased the affordability of judicial processes and rendered them more user friendly for EU citizens and businesses. Additionally, they enhance the transparency of **our** judicial systems, thus reducing the risk of corruption while simultaneously increasing trustworthiness.

*Secondly*, we will look into how digitalization can increase the **55-231W\* BTch E2018 rW\* E212 08** 25501Gw\* BTch E212 08 65Tm0 g0 G(17)

We recognize that, when undertaken in accordance with human rights and data protection, **55-231W\* BTch E2018 rW\* E212 08** efficacy and transparency of judiciatrustworthiness.

a tool for individuals, AI also presents a valuable tool for law enforcement agencies and their ability to