
Statement to be delivered by Nepal at the 78th session of the Sixth Committee of the UN General Assembly on the theme *Using technology to advance access to justice for all* under Agenda Item 83: Rule of Law at the National and International Levels

(New York, October 16, 2023)

I thank you for holding thematic debate on this highly relevant subtopic under rule of law.

We appreciate the Secretary-General's comprehensive report under this agenda item.

I align my statement with the statement delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Nepal reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the UN

Inaccessibility to justice incurs significant individual, community, and societal costs, with disproportionate impacts falling on poor, marginalized and vulnerable groups including women, children, and persons with disabilities.

Over the last few years, technology has increasingly been a much-hyped solution to address the justice gap. The use of technology has been a more efficient and effective option to e-filing as well as holding virtual or hybrid trial or hearing by digital exhibits and evidence presentation.

The wider accessibility of video conferencing and greater penetration of internet connectivity in remote areas has made it possible to the concerned to participate in a hearing or a trial without taking time off work and without spending much money and time in travelling to reach the courtroom.

Though COVID 19 pandemic catalyzed the wider adoption of innovation and transformative ICTs solutions in governance system, access to justice remains yet a major concern in most of the countries. Digital divide is a major impediment to its application in LDCs.

We believe that well-informed adoption of breakthrough ICT solutions could resolve pressing justice issues and enhance access to a people-centered justice system.

Rule of law assistance and capacity-building, including for using technology, must be responsive to the ever-changing global landscape and people's needs. We should not fail to ensure people-centered justice delivery to all, both current and future generations.

Nepal welcomes the Secretary-General's report on the rule of law and justice in the world.

Using technology to advance access to justice for all is a breakthrough solution to leave no-one behind.

UN support to Member States for addressing the digital divide remains vital. Capacity building through appropriate training remains equally important.

Member States should encourage the development and availability of resilient, user-friendly, accessible, and affordable technology to enhance judicial accessibility.

We commend UN bodies and initiatives in setting out norms and promoting rule of law at all levels.

Nepal stresses on inclusive and equitable participation of all Member States in global governance and financial institutions.

In conclusion, rule of law is the lifeline of democratic governance, social justice, and equitable development.

Let's join our hands in promoting rule of law, at all levels, by enhancing judicial accessibility with the use of technologies.

I thank you all.