

**Human Rights Council 38**  
**General Debate Item 8: 2 July 2018**

**Joint Statement on the Rule of Law**  
**Delivered by Ambassador of Mexico**

Thank you, Mr. President. I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of 61 States including the Rule of Law core group which consists of Ethiopia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Morocco and the United Kingdom.

The rule of law is a fundamental principle of the rules-based international order. It means that the law applies equally to everyone. At the level of governance, it ensures that the executive and legislature are not above the law, that laws are justiciable, and that the rulings of the judiciary are enforced. And at the level of the individual, it means that every person is equally entitled to the same rights under the law, irrespective of his or her personal characteristics.

In this session, which has a particular emphasis on women's rights, we recall how the rule of law helps to ensure access to justice for women and girls. Firstly, its implementation ensures that women and girls have the same rights under the formal law as men and boys. Secondly, it gives women and girls greater knowledge of their rights, by ensuring access to education and legal awareness. And, thirdly, it empowers women and girls to assert those rights, both in their societies and, when necessary, in the courts. The positive participation of women in all areas of the judicial process, including as members of the judiciary, is not only a matter of gender equality; it also ensures that all parts of the legal process are informed by gender perspectives.

In forums like the Human Rights Council and the International Law Commission, which this year celebrates its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the international community develops legal and political principles which set out the standards of implementation, dissemination and realisation which States must achieve in order to ensure the universal application of human rights.

Only when all people, including women and girls, have the benefit of equal protection and equal rights, will we achieve a global rule of law.

Thank you, Mr. President.