



THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

335 East 45th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017
Tel (212) 439-4000, Fax (212) 986-1083

Counsellor Saeng KIM
The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea
To the United Nations
The Rule of Law at the national and international levels (agenda 85)
9 October 2013
New York

<Check against Delivery>

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

1. We have taken another significant step in the development of a coherent approach to the rule of law last year with the very encouraging High level Meeting and adoption of the Declaration on the Rule of Law, following the 2005 Summit Outcome Document .
2. The Republic of Korea is a living example of the positive role that the rule of law can play in fostering sustainable peace and development. Our firm commitment to the rule of law played an essential role in enabling economic growth and enhanced human rights. We firmly believe that the mutually reinforcing relationship between the rule of law and the protection of human rights is a necessary precondition for sustainable peace and development in every society.
3. We are wholly committed to an international legal framework that has as its guiding principle the rule of law. While the role of the United Nations is vital in ensuring that these principles are promoted on an international level, dedication to the rule of law will only take root if there is a corresponding national commitment.

4. We welcome the Secretary-General's report (A/68/213) which provides an excellent overview of the past year's actions and challenges. We appreciate the efforts of the Secretary General and deputy Secretary General and strongly support the work of the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group as well as the Rule of Law Unit.
5. We are pleased to note that the International Criminal Court (ICC), as well as other international criminal tribunals, have made great strides in the fight against impunity. Those who have violated the most serious international humanitarian and human rights laws must be held to account. Special consideration must also be given to women, children, and other vulnerable groups in conflict and post-conflict situations.
6. The 2012 Declaration represents a milestone in international efforts to strengthen the rule of law. Paragraph 4 of the Declaration is particularly welcome. It reflects the basic principle of the international community regarding Member States seeking a peaceful solution of their own choice to disputes as stipulated in Article 33 of the UN Charter.
7. We also welcome that the SG's report explicitly recognized the contributions of all international judicial organs, including the ICJ, ITLOS, and the ICC, among others, in establishing and enhancing the rule of law.
8. In conclusion, the Republic of Korea attaches great importance to our continued consideration and promotion of the Rule of Law in all its aspects. We also look forward to a consultation process that involves as broad a spectrum of stakeholders as possible and reaffirm our ongoing contribution to various rule of law initiatives, including capacity building assistance.

Thank you

/End/