

**Statement by Counsellor Younghyo Park**  
**Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations**  
**Sixth Committee, 73<sup>rd</sup> session of UNGA**  
**Item 86 (The rule of law at national and international levels)**  
**8 October 2018**

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Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Let me begin by welcoming the Secretary-General's report (A/73/253), which provides us with a comprehensive overview of United Nations rule of law activities at national and international levels over the past year. We highly commend the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group and the Rule of Law Unit for their valuable contributions.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe that international law is the cornerstone of international order and the bedrock for the lawful governance of global affairs. Rule-based international order and rule of law have the essential value of enhancing the stability and predictability of international relations. The rule of law belongs to the UN's universal core values and reinforces its three pillars.

At the same time, my delegation would like to underscore the importance of inclusiveness in the discourse on the rule of law. The rule of law should function as a means to allow further dialogue, engagement, and cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation appreciates that, for the past seven decades, the International Law

Commission and the 6<sup>th</sup> Committee of the UNGA have been cooperating in the adoption of the various instruments that form the legal foundation of the international community. Their mutual cooperation has contributed to the development of the rule of law, playing a major role in norm-setting in various fields, among them, the laws of the treaties, diplomatic relations and the sea, as well as providing key criteria towards a stable international order.

In particular, reflecting the systems, traditions, practices and perspectives of each nation and region through in-depth discussion in the 6<sup>th</sup> Committee would make international law more effective and workable. We believe that this is directly linked to the advancement of the rule of law at national and international levels.

We need to make continued efforts to improve working methods and enhance efficiency. This can be achieved, for example, by defining the appropriate scope and timeline of the Committee's work so that it can have the chance to thoroughly review the outcomes of the ILC and have constructive discussions among Member States. More concretely, we must strive to better reflect each Member State's view. We also have to address newer fields, such as IHL, environmental law and trade law, to strike a balance with traditional concerns and to meet diverse emerging demands. We have to consider practical solutions to improve communications between the 6<sup>th</sup> Committee and ILC, for instance, through enhanced access, including web-posting of Member States' views.

Mr. Chairman,

This year we commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statutes. However, serious crimes under international law are still of grave concern to the global community.

We join international efforts to end impunity for those who commit the most serious crimes through the relevant domestic legislation. Especially, in the follow-up to the active participation in the treaty-making process of the Rome Statutes, we enacted "the Act on Punishment of crimes under Jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court" in 2007, and fully reflected therein the principle of

complementarity enshrined in the Rome Statute.

Mr. Chairman,

As we are well aware, for sustainable development, it is necessary to respect the rule of law, provide access to justice for all, and build accountable institutions at all levels. In this vein, we look forward to the 2019 High-level Political Forum reviewing SDG 16 in-depth. In the course of promoting the rule of law, it is vitally important to share Member states' best practices and lessons learned with other states which may suffer from a lack of resources and capacity.

We have committed ourselves to strengthening the rule of law at the international level through various programs and activities. In 2016, we launched the annual Seoul Academy of International Law with a view to training and educating those working in the field of international law with up-to-date theories and practices on current international legal issues. This year, it provided a two-week course for 46 participants including diplomats, legal practitioners, scholars, and researchers from 21 countries in Asia and the Pacific.

We also have been actively working on projects that build the capacity of other countries by sharing our expertise and experience on judicial systems and introducing successful cases of ensuring equal access to justice.

Mr. Chairman,

In closing, we firmly believe that enhancing the rule of law at national and international levels is essential for the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals. We reaffirm our commitment to promoting and advancing the rule of law and to fostering peaceful, just, and inclusive societies.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman. /END/