

Statement by the Republic of Korea
74th General Assembly Sixth Committee
Agenda item 78: United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law
H.E. Mr. Chull-joo PARK
Ambassador / Deputy Permanent Representative
October 25, 2019

Thank you Madam Chair,

At the outset, my delegation would like to take this opportunity to reiterate its full support for the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law.

I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his report summarizing the implementation of the Programme of Assistance during this reporting period and its planned activities for the year to come. My thanks also go to the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs for its continued and tireless efforts through its various programs to foster a better understanding of international law.

Madam Chair,

My delegation is of the view that the rule of law is a fundamental principle upholding the three pillars of the United Nations' work. Through its Programme of Assistance, the UN has played an essential role in promoting the rule of law at national, regional, and international levels for over a half century.

My delegation would like to highlight in particular the importance of the International Law Fellowship Programme and the three United Nations Regional Courses in International Law, which have contributed greatly in capacity-building, especially among developing countries.

Such extensive training provided participants with an opportunity to enhance their knowledge of contemporary issues of international law and make future use of such experience. We also highly appreciate the support of the Codification Division in the establishment of an alumni network of participants in training programs.

Madam Chair,

My delegation is pleased to see that the Audiovisual Library website has been accessed by a significant number of new users, following the launch of lecture podcasts in 2018. We appreciate the thoughtful efforts of the Codification Division to further facilitate access by adding a tutorial video detailing the audio features of the website, to cite one example. We expect the Audiovisual Library to be a vital source for the dissemination of knowledge of international law, covering important issues in a timely manner.

Taking this opportunity, my delegation also thanks the Division of Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea as well as Treaty Section for various programmes and activities for dissemination of international law in their respective areas.

Madam Chair,

My Government is also doing its part in line with the UN's efforts in this field. The Center for International Law at the Korea Diplomatic National Academy has been holding its "Seoul Academy of International Law" program since 2016. This two-week course, led by highly qualified international law scholars and practitioners, provides training opportunities on a broad range of core topics of international law for about 30 diplomats and government officials from Asia-Pacific countries every year.

Besides its efforts in promoting the dissemination and wider appreciation of international law at the global and regional levels, my Government is also working toward this end at the national level, by holding an annual moot court competition, awarding a best thesis prize, and organizing on-campus town hall meetings.

In the field of law of the sea, the Korea Maritime Institute has provided capacity-building training for more than 30 developing countries through the Yeosu Academy of the Law of the Sea programme every year since 2014. In addition, the annual ROK-ITLOS International Conference on the Law of the Sea has raised awareness domestic and foreign audience.

Madam Chair,

In closing, my delegation would like to express its appreciation to Ghana, the Chair of the Advisory Committee, for its leadership and all the other members of the Committee for their contribution. We believe that this Committee has been instrumental in dissemination and wider appreciation of international law. The Republic of Korea stands ready to engage with the Advisory Committee to make a greater contribution towards the implementation of the UN Programme of Assistance. I thank you, Madam Chair. /END/