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Statement by Amb. Chull-joo Park (DPR)  
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations  
The Rule of Law at the National and International Levels (Agenda item 83)  
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Madame Chair,

Let me begin by expressing my deep appreciation for the Secretary-General's report on the UN rule of law activities (A/74/139). My delegation would like to commend the hard work done by the Secretary-General and his team to support and strengthen the rule of law both at the national and international level. We believe that training, knowledge-sharing, and other means of assistance provided have been effective and productive in the realization of such progress.

Madame Chair,

My delegation is of the view that the rule of law is a fundamental principle that upholds the three pillars of the UN's work: peace and security, development, and human rights.

The rule of law helps us create a stable international order. It helps us establish good governance, which underpins a solid foundation for economic development and inclusive societies where no one is left behind. We believe that without justice and strong institutions, we simply cannot accomplish sustainable development and sustaining peace.

In this regard, my delegation would like to emphasize the importance of SDG 16, which is closely related to today's agenda.

The target indicators of SDG 16 include reducing all forms of violence, promoting the rule of law, fighting against terrorism, and protecting fundamental freedoms and they are all core elements of the activities described in the Secretary-General's report on this agenda.

The Republic of Korea views SDG 16 as the golden thread that weaves through the entire tapestry of the 2030 Agenda, and has always been a staunch supporter of this important goal. To this end, we have been actively participating in the SDG 16 Pathfinders Initiative, have sponsored annual showcase events of the 16+ Forum for the last two years, and have held side events on SDG 16 on the occasion of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF).

Madame Chair,

As clearly described in the Secretary-General's report, various efforts have been made to reduce armed violence, fight against impunity for serious crimes, and improve access to justice in a number of countries.

In this context, my delegation would like to draw your special attention to the Secretary-General's alarm against proliferation of hate speech and incitement to violence, and fully support his two relevant initiatives led by his Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide and UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations.

My delegation also welcomes the activities done by the UN and its organs to promote rule of law at international level, such as the codification and development of international law by the ILC, and the promotion of international law by the UN Program of Assistance.

The Republic of Korea also continues to join the global efforts to promote international law with a number of programs for wider awareness and deeper

understanding of international law. Some examples of these efforts are the annual “Seoul Academy of International Law” and the “ROK-ITLOS International Conference on the Law of the Sea.” My Government has also launched “Town hall Meetings on International Law” as an outreach to the Korean public at the domestic level.

Furthermore, the Republic of Korea, along with Singapore and Slovakia, is co-hosting a side event on October 29 during the upcoming International Law Week to discuss the “judicial dialogue” between the ICJ and the ITLOS, with the participation by President Jin-Hyun Paik of the ITLOS and Judge Peter Tomka of the ICJ. We hope this event will provide valuable insights for our joint efforts to strengthen the international legal system.

Madame Chair,

As a country that has experienced rapid economic development and transitioned to political democracy, the Republic of Korea is fully aware of the great importance of justice, as well as access to justice, to the lives of all people. The Republic of Korea is fully committed to expanding, deepening, and advancing the rule of law, and we look forward to working closely with other states and partners to this end.

I thank you, Madame Chair. /END/