

STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
(Ms. Hyunseung Lee, 1st Secretary)

Sixth Committee, 75th session of UNGA

**Agenda item 80 : Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its
seventy-second session**

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Mr./Madame Chair,

My delegation would like to thank the Chair Designate of the International Law Commission (ILC) and the Secretariat for their oral reports today. Taking this opportunity, we would like to express our appreciation for the works done by the Special Rapporteurs as well as other members of the Commission to prepare and review the reports on individual topics, which were issued earlier this year. We also appreciate the indispensable role of Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs in the preparation of memorandums and studies on topics in the Commission's agenda.

Since we do not have annual report from the Commission this year, we would like to express our view in a general sense, rather than making specific comments on substantive matters.

First, the Republic of Korea highly acknowledges the important role of the Commission as a key contributor to the codification and progressive development of international law. My Government has been actively participated in the discussions by submitting written comments on various topics such as "Expulsion of aliens", "Identification of customary international law" and "Provisional application of treaties", and we expect to submit written comments in other topics as well. We also actively participated in the annual Sixth Committee debate on the Commission's report.

My delegation welcomes the efforts made by the Commission and the Secretariat in promoting dialogue between this Committee and the Commission. The Interaction with members of the Commission on 28 October was a great opportunity in this regard. We look forward to seeing further engagements by the Commission and its members.

Second, my delegation notes that the Commission's work program increasingly covers wider areas of law, which are not only the topics of general international law but also of the sectoral laws such as environmental law, criminal law and human rights law. We believe that the Commission can provide meaningful legal guidance to the international community in addressing issues of pressing concerns. We hope these topics would be considered on an interdisciplinary basis, and further enhance collaboration among relevant sectors. My delegation takes note of the First issues paper by the Co-Chairs of the Study Group on the Sea-level rise in relation to international law, and looks forward to the next steps including the examination of the issues related to statehood and those related to the protection of persons affected by sea-level rise.

Third, it is true that the pandemic has affected negatively to the work process of the Commission just as other bodies, but at the same time it reminded us the crucial role of normative instruments in maintaining the global peace, security and prosperity. As COVID19 has left numerous challenges in front of us, we need to continue exploring ways to fill the normative gaps so as to promote coordinated response to the remaining and upcoming challenges. In this regard, we support the ongoing efforts by the Commission in identifying topics to be included in its future work program.

I thank you. /End/