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Statement by Ms. Hyunseung Lee (1st Secretary)
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations
Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism (Agenda 114)
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Mr. Chair,

At the outset, my delegation would like to congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau. I am confident that under your able leadership, the 6th committee meetings will produce fruitful outcomes.

Mr. Chair,

Let me start by reiterating Korea's firm position that terrorism cannot be tolerated or justified under any circumstances. Terrorism not only takes innocent lives but also poses a grave threat to international peace and security, which is a serious violation of international law. The Republic of Korea condemns terrorism in all forms and manifestations, and stresses the importance of collective actions to combat terrorism. With this in mind, my delegation would like to highlight three points.

First, as terrorism cannot be contained within borders or specific boundaries, international cooperation is vital, and should be guided by the rule of law and international law. The Republic of Korea is committed to the full implementation of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy (GCTS), and has been making diverse efforts under its four pillars at the national, regional, and global levels.

As a State Party to fifteen major multilateral legal instruments on counter-terrorism and transnational crimes, the Republic of Korea is fully committed to implementing these instruments, as well as all relevant UN resolutions. The Republic of Korea is exerting its best efforts to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorist acts, in line with UN resolutions including Security Council Resolution 2462(2019). Several judicial proceedings were conducted against individuals who transferred funds to terrorist groups, while safeguarding the right to fair trial and due process of law.

The Republic of Korea supports global efforts to enhance legal framework for counter-terrorism, and remains committed to the ongoing works in this Committee with the aim to finalizing the draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.

Second, we should enhance cooperation to prevent the use of new and emerging technologies by terrorists and their supporters. We understand that new technologies can be effective tools to combat terrorism, while they can also be heavily exploited by terrorists to commit, incite, recruit for, fund or plan terrorist acts. Through information sharing and capacity building, we must empower ourselves against these evolving threats.

The Republic of Korea has joined global efforts to address the new threats in various fora including the Review of the UN GCTS and Financial Action Task Force (FATF). The Republic of Korea also extended anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing requirements to virtual assets by amending its national law, namely, the Act on Reporting and Using Specific Financial Transaction Information. Korea will continue to explore ways to reflect these new trends in existing norms and adopt rules to close the impunity gaps.

Third, the outbreak of the pandemic reminds us of the importance of a holistic and long-term strategy in our fight against terrorism. The pandemic has made the world more fragile, unequal, and unprotected. The social grievances resulting from COVID19 could easily drive people into isolation, and make them more vulnerable to violent extremism. The emergence of violence, coupled with prejudice against minorities, and a new wave of hate speech and discrimination has demonstrated that COVID19 is not just a public health crisis but also a socioeconomic one.

It is high time that we pay special attention to the drivers of violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and invest more effort into enhancing resilience and inclusiveness in our societies. Sports and its values are impactful means to prevent violent extremism, and it is in this context that the Republic of Korea provided a voluntary contribution to the ‘Global Programme on Security of Major Sporting Events, and Promotion of Sports and Its Values as a Tool to Prevent Violent Extremism’. My delegation will continue to work closely with UNOCT for the successful implementation of this program.

Before concluding, my delegation would like to express our ongoing support for counter-terrorism activities and the central role played by the UN and its organs. We stand ready to be engaged and act in this regard.

Thank you. /End/