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Statement by Mr. Dongkyu Moon (1st Secretary)
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations
Crimes Against Humanity (Agenda 83)
Sixth Committee, 76th session of UNGA
New York

Madam/Mr. Chair,

First of all, my delegation would like to express our appreciation to the International Law Commission for its work and the draft articles on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Humanity, and especially to Professor Sean Murphy for his memorable contributions. In addition, we would like to express our gratitude to the Secretariat for its great work.

Madam/Mr. Chair,

No one can deny the need to enhance accountability and end impunity regarding crimes against humanity, which are among the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole. Given that everyone recognizes this necessity, there is no reason to delay discussions to establish a legal framework against such crimes. The elaboration of a convention by the General Assembly or by an international conference of plenipotentiaries on the basis of the draft articles, as recommended by the ILC, will strengthen the rule of law at both the national and international level.

Madam/Mr. Chair,

We are well aware of the reality that there are different opinions on the draft articles and the ways forward. The Republic of Korea supports further discussion through a mechanism, such as the Ad hoc Committee or working group, if such a mechanism can contribute to the elaboration of the convention. Moreover, we firmly believe that

there should be clear guidance on the way forward with a specific mechanism to employ and timeline to follow. The international community, and the Sixth Committee itself, have learned lessons from witnessing deadlocks in several law-making processes, which proves the importance of such guidance.

Madam/Mr. Chair,

Before concluding, my delegation would like to mention two points to which we attach importance in the future discussions for the elaboration of a convention based on the draft articles.

First, ensuring coherence and stability in line with the existing legal instruments, such as the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Second, providing enough opportunity for every State to communicate with each other to fully understand different views on the draft articles, which would guarantee procedural legitimacy. This does not, of course, mean endless debate.

My delegation stands ready to engage in the discussions in a constructive and sincere manner.

Thank you. /END/