

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Jongin BAE (Deputy Permanent Representative)
The Sixth Committee of the 7th UNGA
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations
United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination
and Wider Appreciation of International Law (Agenda: 76)**

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Thank you, Mr./Madam Chair.

My delegation appreciates the Secretary-General's Report (A/77/515) and Programmes of Assistance in promoting a better knowledge of international law for over 50 years.

We believe that these Programmes can have synergy when matched by efforts on the part of our Member States to help them effectively reach and even expand their beneficiaries. For instance, we can make many of those Programmes, including the audio-video lectures, more widely known and available to our universities and academia, or make more use of them in training civil servants and diplomats.

Our domestic experience tells us that public international law requires nurturing by the Government to allow it to be resilient. At the national level, for instance, my Government holds an annual moot court competition and an award for best thesis on public international law topics. In addition, it has resumed in-person lectures and trainings at the "Seoul Academy of International Law" and "Yeosu Academy of the Law of the Sea" this year.

Mr./Madam Chair,

Let me make a few comments on the Programme of Assistance.

First, my delegation commends the Office of Legal Affairs' efforts to continue implementing the UN Regional Courses in International Law — a remote self-paced learning curriculum as an interim means of capacity-building during the exceptional circumstances resulting from COVID-19 where in-person training could not be held.

We would like to underline the importance of in-depth exchanges and long-lasting bonds that participants could create with in-person training, which are challenging to replicate in virtual training. In this vein, we welcome that the International Law Fellowship Programme was held in person this year and would like to express our support and appreciation for OLA's work. My delegation believes that continuing to take stock of OLA and other relevant stakeholders' experiences during the pandemic and exploring ways to incorporate them to further strengthen the Programme based on lessons learnt would be a useful exercise in the future.

Second, we ought to pay attention to ways to not just deepen, but also broaden the audience in an effort to make international law more widely understood, especially with respect to the Audiovisual Library of International Law. We believe that some of the approaches would concern the format of lectures, language and accessibility.

- Shorter versions, including the mini-series, could have more potential to introduce the basics of international law and make it more relevant to the general public.
- We see value in preparing lectures in more languages, which would highlight the importance of multilingualism in enhancing the accessibility of activities implemented under the Programme.
- Recognizing that existing digital inequalities could limit individuals' access to lectures, the Secretariat and other stakeholders should continue to address this issue by providing more offline accessibility and relevant information and communications technology capacity-building where possible.

Lastly, the diversity of legal traditions needs to be borne in mind when designing and planning the Programmes. This element can only turn into reality when we make conscious efforts to achieve a balanced outcome. Only then can these efforts enrich the current interactions of international law and help bridge the geographical imbalance.

In closing, my delegation would like to express our firm support for the Programme and looks forward to continued engagement on this important topic.

Thank you, Mr./Madam Chair.