

Statement by Ms. Juyeong Jang
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations
The rule of law at the national and international levels (Agenda 84)
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Thank you, **Mr.** Chair.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Austria on behalf of the Group of Friends of the Rule of Law. In addition, I would like to make the following remarks in our national capacity.

First, we extend our appreciation to the Secretary-General for his report, A/79/117, on strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities. We share the Secretary-General's assessment that there is a concerning global decline in respect for the rule of law. Given that it is the cornerstone of international peace and security, human rights, and development, it is imperative that we intensify our efforts to promote and reinforce the rule of law at both the national and international levels. Adherence to the Rule of Law is the building block for just, inclusive, and equitable societies. This is especially important for the most vulnerable who stand to suffer most in its absence.

In this context, the implementation of the Secretary-General's New Vision this year holds special importance. It lays the foundation for

ensuring full, equal, and equitable access to and participation in the international legal system, which is the subtopic of this year's discussions.

Mr. Chair,

Achieving equitable access and participation in the international legal system requires two essential elements: guaranteeing judicial accessibility and building capacity. Without proper attention on these aspects, it becomes extremely challenging to ensure equitable outcomes that put people at the centre not only within their respective national legal systems but also in the international legal system.

To address this, the Republic of Korea has undertaken numerous initiatives to improve access to justice, particularly for vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities, foreigners, migrants, and the elderly. We have established justice access centers tailored to these groups, implemented an e-litigation system, and expanded legal aid services. These initiatives can serve to remove barriers to justice and ensure that our judicial system is truly accessible to all.

As the Secretary-General's report rightly highlights, capacity-building is fundamental to enabling genuine access to judicial

systems. In support of this, the Republic of Korea conducts training programs for judges and court officials from developing countries through our International Judicial Cooperation Center.

The Republic of Korea is also contributing to holding the ITLOS Workshop for Legal Advisers which aims to enhance the dispute settlement capacity by providing with first-hand insights into the rules, procedures and practices of the Tribunal as well as into substantive matters concerning the law of the sea.

In conclusion, the Republic of Korea reaffirms its commitment to actively contribute to promoting equitable participation at all levels of the international legal system. To fully succeed, these initiatives must be part of a coordinated global effort, which takes into account each country's national context. By sharing our experiences and working collaboratively, we can help ensure that the international legal system is inclusive and serves everyone, regardless of their background or circumstances.

Thank you./END/