



THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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General Assembly Sixth Committee

The rule of law at national and international levels (Agenda Item 85)

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Mr. Chairman,

First of all, my delegation would like to express its sincere appreciation to the Secretary-General for his report (A/70/206), which provides us with a comprehensive and panoramic overview of United Nations rule of law developments and activities at the national and international levels over the past year. We commend the work and contributions of the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group and the Rule of Law Unit for conducting various projects, especially to reduce overlap and promote efficiency of UN activities concerning rule of law. In this vein, we also thank Austria, Mexico, and Liechtenstein for their significant initiative and hard work for organizing informal briefings, which was greatly conducive to enhancing awareness among Member States of activities of the UN and relevant organs relating to rule of law in diverse areas. Our thanks also go to the Office of Legal Affairs for the very informative briefing on the work of the OLA, with a specific focus on various aspects of multilateral treaty process.

Mr. Chairman,

This year we all celebrate the 70th anniversary of the United Nations. Indeed, the UN has achieved a lot for the past seven decades. Among all the feats, my delegation believes, we

can plume ourselves on the fact that the UN has always been at the forefront of the path to rule-based international order, especially with its norm formation functions in various settings. It goes without saying that a fair, stable, predictable, and widely accepted legal framework is an indispensable foundation for a more peaceful, prosperous, and just world, and that is exactly what the UN has been seeking with all its might against all odds. The close linkage between rule of law and the three pillars of the UN as mutual reinforcers has been so eloquently recognized on numerous occasions and strongly emphasized by previous speakers that my delegation does not see the wisdom of repeating it. Nevertheless, my delegation would like to make a point that the Republic of Korea, having achieved both democracy and economic development within a period of less than half a century, has learned the genuineness of the linkage from our own experience. In this regard, my delegation welcomes the launch of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the UN Sustainable Development Summit, which includes various elements regarding rule of law, most notably, the target of the "promotion of the rule of law at national and international levels and ensuring equal access to justice for all."

Mr. Chairman,

With regard to the sub-topic of this year, the role of multilateral treaty processes in promoting and advancing the rule of law, there is an increasing need for multilateral treaties regime as we move forward to tackle various global as well as regional challenges. My delegation believes that for the success of multilateral treaty processes, it is essential to ensure both political will and capabilities of Member States. The significance of these elements spans from the negotiating and drafting stage to implementing stage as well. As such, it is of great importance to do our best to tap collective wisdom of participating States, arduous it might be, to ensure broader support to and wider acceptance of the new regime. It is also imperative to help build capacity of States which suffer from lack or shortage of resources, including expertise and experience, to ensure wider participation in and more effective implementation of the multilateral treaties, whether already existing or coming into existence.

Against this backdrop, it is encouraging that the UN and its Member States are engaged in numerous activities aimed at mobilizing the political will of multi-stakeholders and filling capability gaps to a considerable degree. In this connection, the panel discussion organized by the Permanent Missions of Singapore, Cyprus and Trinidad and Tobago in cooperation with the Rule of Law Unit on perspectives of small states on multilateral treaty-making provided us with a useful opportunity to better understand multiple facets of the multilateral treaty processes. The Republic of Korea is also taking part in the joint efforts to strengthen the rule of law on the international level through various programs and activities. As a case in point, it has been providing education and training for officials and academics from developing countries in the implementation of international instruments on oceans, including UNCLOS. Making contributions of \$500,000 annually to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) is another example. Likewise, the Republic of Korea will continue to do its due part in promoting and advancing the rule of law for a more peaceful, prosperous, and just world.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.