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Statement by Minister-Counsellor Younghyo Park

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations

Sixth Committee, 75th session of UNGA

Item 79 (United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law)

November 6, 2020

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

At the outset my delegation would like to express its support for the United Nations Programme of Assistance in the Teaching, Study, Dissemination and Wider Appreciation of International Law, whose work has continued during these challenging times. We would also like to thank the Codification Division for its tireless efforts in this area.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation appreciates that, through its Programme of Assistance, the UN has improved Member States' knowledge of international law as a means for strengthening international peace and security and promoting friendly relations and cooperation among States. By enhancing their understanding of such norms and legal regimes, Member States are thus better able to fulfill their due obligations under international law.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to highlight the importance of the International Law Fellowship Programme and the three United Nations Regional Courses in International Law, which have contributed greatly to capacity-building, especially among developing countries. It is regrettable that two of the in-person training programmes could not be held for the reporting period due to the outbreak of

COVID-19. We would like to encourage the Codification Division to continue exploring ways to address these challenges in the event of a prolonged pandemic.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation is pleased to welcome the launch of the Mini-Series of the Audiovisual Library of International Law, aimed at providing a general overview of the core topics of international law, primarily for users with little or only basic knowledge. We hope all the planned lectures will be in place soon. We expect the Audiovisual Library to continue to be a vital source for the dissemination of international legal knowledge especially during the extraordinary circumstances.

Taking this opportunity, my delegation also thanks the Division of Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea as well as the Treaty Section for their various programmes and activities performing this task in their respective areas.

Mr. Chairman,

My Government is also doing its part in line with the UN's efforts in this field. We have been holding the annual "Seoul Academy of International Law" program since 2016 primarily for diplomats and government officials from Asia-Pacific countries. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Seoul Academy provided virtual programs in 2020 for the first time since its inception. Despite some initial technical difficulties, the virtual courses eventually proved a success.

Mr. Chairman,

In closing, my delegation believes that the Advisory Committee has been instrumental in the dissemination and wider appreciation of international law. We would like to express its appreciation to Ghana, the Chair of the Committee, for its leadership. We also look forward to the contributions of all the other Committee members during their 4-year term. I thank you, Mr. Chairman. /END/