

**Statement by Ambassador/DPR Jongin BAE
The Sixth Committee of the 76th 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: 81)**

21 October 2021

<Check against delivery>

Thank you, Mr./Madam Chair,

In order for international law to be truly ‘international,’ its dissemination and wider appreciation are vital.

My delegation appreciates the Secretary General’s Report and Programme of Assistance in promoting better knowledge of international law for the past 50 years and, especially, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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 we can make more use of them in training civil servants and diplomats.

Our domestic experiences tell us that public international law requires nurturing by governments to stand up for itself. At the national level, for instance, my Government holds an annual moot court competition and awards a best thesis on public international law topics. In addition, we plan to resume 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 OLA’s efforts to continue the UN Regional Courses during the pandemic in the form of a remote self-paced learning curriculum. We sincerely hope that the training courses will resume in an in-person format. However, this interim means of capacity-building can have the potential to translate into a flexible e-learning modular that can be extended more widely beyond the limited number of applicants.

Second, we ought to pay attention to ways not just to deepen, but also to broaden the audience in an effort to make international law more widely understood. Making the lectures available as podcasts has been a good example in this regard. My delegation

believes that shorter versions, like mini-series, can have greater potential to introduce the basics of international law and also to make it more relevant to the general public.

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

In closing, the Republic of Korea will continue to actively explore ways to scale-up teaching, study, dissemination, and wider appreciation of international law.

We look forward to engagement on this important topic moving forward.

Thank you, Mr./Madam Chair. /END/