

Statement by Ambassador/DPR Jongin BAE
The Sixth Committee of the 76th UNGA
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations
Strengthening and promoting the international treaty framework (Agenda: 88)
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Thank you, Mr./Madam Chair.

Treaty registration is a duty on all Member States arising from the UN Charter. However, its compliance has been uneven and incomplete. The geographical imbalance, as pointed out in the previous Report, speaks to the gaps in implementation as well as the apparent failure to submit treaties in time.

As we discuss how to further amend the Regulations, this reality needs to be highlighted as a symptom to address for a holistic way forward.

With this in mind, my delegation believes that simplified and streamlined procedures have helped reduce the burden on both States and the Secretariat. We appreciate the Secretariat's efforts to transition from print-based to digital-based registration and publication. There remains, however, more room for improvement. A standardized format together with an online registration tool can further encourage States to transmit treaties with ease and less delay.

These improvements can be meaningful only when accompanied by capacity-building. My delegation would like to see, for instance, the Secretariat cooperating with regional legal entities such as AALCO to organize a workshop on treaty registration and practice. For our part, the Republic of Korea will also explore the possibility of incorporating such an initiative into existing or future technical assistance programs.

In addition, the updates with training materials, especially *Treaty Handbook*, will be helpful to reflect the amendments of 2018 including electronic submissions.

Mr./Madam Chair,

We are now compelled to view treaty registration not just as a Charter obligation, but also as a sort of tool in light of its utility and practical value. In our opinion, such questions as whether it really serves its purposes or how we can optimize it so that the burdens do not unduly outweigh the benefits are legitimate.

My delegation notes with appreciation that the Secretariat has made the texts of registered treaties promptly available online through the electronic database. This has substantially enhanced accessibility, and we see added-value in reflecting this good practice in the relevant Regulations.

Concerning the formal publication in the *UN Treaty Series*, however, we have concerns about the significant backlog due to the limited resources of Member States and the Secretariat to provide translations in English and French in a timely manner.

My delegation finds that Spain's proposals deserve more consideration as a way to expedite publication; namely for States to submit a courtesy translation into any of the six official languages on a voluntary basis.

Another pragmatic approach lies in the broadening of the limited publication policy, as suggested by France. Article 12, paragraph 2, of the current Regulations can be either expressly expanded or more broadly construed so that many of the bilateral agreements of a technical and administrative nature, including detailed annexes, do not have to be fully published or translated in the *UN Treaty Series*.

Given the considerable increase in the submission of treaties and their length and technical complexity, we believe that this is a viable option to lessen the workload. In this vein, my delegation would like the Secretariat to look into how to further widen the category of optional limited publication from the perspective of the practical value.

Lastly, my delegation believes that the broad language of this agenda item "Strengthening and promoting the international treaty framework" enables us to accommodate an exchange of views and practices beyond the topic of treaty registration. As Austria once proposed, my delegation would like to see more interactions on treaty-making practice under any subtopics like the practice of

reservations and declarations; obsolete treaties; handling and management of treaty actions; and distinction between treaties and non-legally binding instruments. /END/