

Statement by Mr. Hyunsoo Kim (Counsellor)

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea

The Rule of Law at the National and International Levels (Agenda Item 83)

Sixth Committee, 78th Session of the UNGA

18 October 2023

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Thank you, Mr./Madam Chair,

The Republic of Korea aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Austria on behalf of the Group of Friends of the Rule of Law.

My delegation also would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report, A/78/184 on strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities.

We would like to add a few comments in our national capacity.

Mr. Chair,

My delegation shares the Secretary General's assessment that we are witnessing a global decline in the rule of law and democratic backsliding. Given that the rule of law is the basis for international peace and security, human rights, and development, this is a particularly troubling situation.

Confronted with these urgent challenges, my delegation firmly believes that we must redouble our efforts to promote and strengthen the rule of law at the national and international levels. The Secretary General's New Vision for the rule of law can therefore serve as the foundation of our efforts in this direction.

Equal access to justice for all is an essential part of the New Vision. To achieve this goal, we need to encourage the sharing of best practices and the provision of effective technical assistance and capacity-building measures responding to the specific needs of host countries.

Mr. Chair.

My delegation is confident that new technologies can offer a significant avenue to advance access to justice for all, especially for vulnerable groups.

It can also contribute to the development of just and equitable societies featuring

strong and agile institutions that ensure no one is left behind.

To address these needs, the Republic of Korea has established and has been operating judicial access centers domestically to improve access to justice for vulnerable groups. Additionally, efforts are being made to operate an online video court and Electronic Litigation System based on ICT technology to ensure that judicial accessibility is not constrained by time or distance.

Furthermore, we have been conducting annual capacity-building programs with more than 10 countries.

Mr. Chair,

While we enjoy the benefits of new technologies, we should also ensure that their use is optimized. In this vein, our President, in his recent General Assembly speech, proposed the establishment of an international organization within the UN to discuss the norms governing AI and digital technologies and set forth rules aimed at curbing their misuse and bridging the digital divide.

The rule of law is a living principle, and its inherent value can only be realized when it is upheld collectively.

The Republic of Korea remains committed to advancing the rule of law, and making a contribution to the enduring peace, security, and prosperity of the international community.

Thank you