

Statement by Counsellor Jai Ho YANG

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations

General Assembly Sixth Committee

The rule of law at the national and international levels

6 October 2016

New York

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Mr. Chairman,

The Republic of Korea welcomes the report of the Secretary-General (A/71/169), which provides us with a comprehensive and panoramic overview of United Nations rule of law developments and activities at the

efficiency of UN

activities concerning the rule of law.

Mr. Chairman,

:LWK UHJDUG WR WKRS LFD<sup>3</sup>SKD ULLQVWQD XE RQDO S  
WKH LPSOHPHQWDWLRQ RI PXOWLODWHUDO WUHQ  
treaties as important tools not only for tackling various global and regional  
challenges but also for promoting and advancing the rule of law across a broad  
range of subjects.

The international community continues to confront grave challenges such as war, global terrorism, violent extremism, severe violations of human rights, inequality, poverty, and climate change of unprecedented severity. The nature

and scale of these daunting challenges are called for concerted efforts by the international community as a whole, and multilateral treaties have been used as quite useful tools in these endeavors.

Given the lack of adequate enforcement mechanism in the international community, however, it is essential that each country take effective measures to ensure faithful implementation of these multilateral treaties. In this context, my delegation would like to briefly share some examples of our domestic enactment with a view to the full implementation of critical multilateral treaties.

It is quite encouraging that the Paris Agreement is on the verge of entering into force, most likely within this year. The Republic of Korea has been one of the staunch supporters of the Paris Agreement. Serving as the host country of Global Climate Fund (GCF), Korea has also been playing a pivotal role in promoting the paradigm shift towards climate resilient development pathways and combating climate change. Against this backdrop, my delegation is pleased to announce that the Korean Government is taking domestic steps to complete the ratification of the Paris Agreement.



Without adequate and efficient access to legal information, there equal access to justice nor robust rule of law can properly work, especially in this fast changing information society. Furthermore, free access to legal information enhances institutional transparency and provides a basis for equal opportunities for those who need to make use of law and legal procedures to protect themselves in diverse areas of social, economic, and environmental dimensions, thus helping create an environment conducive to the achievement of justice for all.

Based on this guiding philosophy, the Korean Government has established a system that puts a good amount of legal information available at the fingertips of the general public through the website of the Ministry of Government Legislation on laws, statutes and regulations, and also through that of the Supreme Court on court cases, law articles, and court practices

On another front, a state-of-the-art Electronic Litigation System has been in operations since 2010. With the introduction of this new system, parties can file various litigation documents electronically, and actual trial proceedings are conducted in a court that is equipped with electronic facilities. The E-Litigation System is also eco-friendly and sustainable since it replaces the paper based litigation process. This transformative system of litigation has greatly increased efficiency, transparency, predictability, and effectiveness for justice. As a case in point, the statistics of the Patent Court, the first court to utilize E Litigation System, show that the time span between the completion and the first court appearance has been reduced from an average of 130 days to 78 days.

Complementing these electronic based practices is the mechanism of legal aid.

There are people who cannot afford electronic devices or who are simply not familiar with IT, especially among the poor and the vulnerable. That's why we still need robust legal aid mechanisms to ensure adequate and meaningful access to justice for all. The Korean Legal Aid Corporation, established by the Government, plays an important role in such an enterprise by providing lawyers who are dedicated to providing legal aid to low-income and vulnerable people in the US.