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Statement by Mr. Hyunsoo Kim (Counsellor)

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations

Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization

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New York

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Thank you, Mr. Chair,

First of all, my delegation would like to extend warm congratulations to you on your election as Chair of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization and assure you of our full support and cooperation. My delegation also thanks the UN Secretariat for its assistance in preparing this meeting.

Mr. Chair,

With regard to the question of the maintenance of international peace and security, my delegation reaffirms its position that the UN sanctions remain a crucial tool under the Charter, to safeguard the maintenance and restoration of international peace and security. In this regard, my delegation would like to call on Member States to strengthen their efforts for full implementation of the existing Security Council resolutions.

Mr. Chair,

Concerning the question of “Peaceful Settlement of Disputes”, we look forward to a meaningful thematic debate, which will be focused on the exchange of information on State practices regarding the resort to regional agencies or arrangements and hope that we discuss and share views on this item in a productive and constructive way.

Mr. Chair,

Turning to the Repertory and Repertoire, my delegation would like to take this opportunity to

commend the Secretariat for its continuing efforts to reduce the backlog while sharing the concern of other Member States that we need to address this issue effectively and on a priority basis.

Mr. Chair,

With regard to the remarks by the representative of the DPRK, my delegation would like to emphasize that this Committee is not the appropriate forum to discuss the status of the United Nations Command and the situation of the Korean Peninsula, especially in the context of remarks based on ungrounded and distorted allegations.

However, since the DPRK delegation keeps referring to it, my delegation would like to point out that there is no doubt that the UNC, officially recognized by UN Security Council Resolution 84, continues to contribute to maintaining peace and security on the Korean Peninsula. The DPRK's unilateral call to dissolve the UNC simply does not make any sense.

Concerning the reference to the UNGA resolution at its 30th session, my delegation recalls that there were two resolutions that were adopted at that session on the Korean issue. Resorting to a certain provision of just one resolution out of context is grossly misleading, and runs counter to the stark reality of the situation.

Mr. Chair,

With regard to the misguided characterization of the ROK-US joint exercise, my delegation would like to point out that the joint exercise that has been conducted annually is defensive in nature and is aimed at defending the ROK from the present and clear military threats of the DPRK. Such a defensive measure is the duty of a responsible government, and the least it can do.

On the contrary, it is appalling to witness how the DPRK, a Member State of the United Nations, can completely disregard its international obligations by undermining and denouncing the Security Council. There is no other Member State that blatantly mocks and menaces the functioning of the esteemed body and the principles of the UN Charter like the DPRK.

In this regard, the international community should firmly respond to the DPRK's continued breaches, otherwise, it will inevitably lead to more Member States deliberately ignoring their obligations under UN Security Council resolutions in the future.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.