

POSITION PAPER

Committee: SPECPOL (Special Political and Decolonization Committee)

Agenda: *The Invisible War: Shadows of Proxy Armies – Dismantling State-Sponsored Terrorism, Narco-Crypto Financing, and Intelligence Operations Fueling Middle East Chaos*

Country: Republic of Korea

Background of the Agenda:

Governments across the world have been accused of directly or indirectly funding and supporting terrorist groups for strategic gain. Proxy groups increasingly rely on drug trafficking and cryptocurrency to sustain their operations, with ISIS and other organizations experimenting with Bitcoin wallets as a means of financing. Covert espionage, cyber warfare, and intelligence agency funding further fuel instability, weaken governments, and prolong conflicts in the Middle East, creating a cycle of insecurity that threatens global peace.

Country Position:

The Republic of Korea has taken significant steps to strengthen its domestic and international counter-terrorism framework. The Korea Financial Intelligence Unit (KoFIU) has launched a taskforce to revamp the *Act on Reporting and Using Specified Financial Transaction Information*, thereby upgrading Korea's anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing (AML/CFT) system. In addition, the National Intelligence Service Act defines the scope and duties of Korea's intelligence services, ensuring effective counter-terrorism and national security operations. Recognizing the Middle East's strategic importance — home to 6% of the world's population, 60% of oil reserves, and 45% of natural gas reserves — Korea has expanded its contributions to peace and stability, including humanitarian assistance to Iraq, Syria, Palestine, and Yemen.

Actions Taken So Far:

Since the 1960s, Korea has established diplomatic relations with 18 Middle Eastern countries, supported by 17 embassies and 2 consulates. High-level visits by President Park Geun-hye (2015–16) and President Moon Jae-in (2018) deepened ties with GCC and North African states, reflecting Korea's long-standing commitment to the region. Korea has also contributed to peacekeeping operations: the Cheonghae Unit participates in international anti-piracy missions in the Gulf of Aden, while the Dong-Myung Unit serves in the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), helping to stabilize conflict-affected areas. On the financial front, KoFIU has expanded the crypto travel rule, prepared AML measures for stablecoins, introduced suspension of suspicious accounts, and aligned domestic regulations with FATF global standards ahead of the 2028 evaluation.

PROPOSED SOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Republic of Korea believes that dismantling the invisible war requires harnessing emerging technologies to close the financial and operational loopholes exploited by terrorist networks. Artificial intelligence and blockchain monitoring can be deployed to track illicit financial flows, ensuring that cryptocurrency and narco-financing channels are disrupted before they reach proxy groups. At the same time, Korea advocates for a comprehensive approach that combines security measures with diplomacy and humanitarian aid, recognizing that violent extremism cannot be defeated by force alone.

Our delegation maintains an uncompromised stance against Da'esh, Al-Qaida, and their affiliates, and calls upon the international community to adopt a unified position that denies legitimacy to all forms of proxy warfare. Korea further supports expanding the mandates of UN peacekeeping operations to include intelligence sharing on proxy networks and illicit financing, thereby strengthening collective security. Finally, we emphasize the importance of dialogue platforms that bring regional actors together to reduce proxy escalation while respecting national sovereignty. These measures, taken together, will ensure that new technologies are harnessed for peace rather than chaos, and that the Middle East can move toward stability and dignity.

CONCLUSION:

In conclusion, the Republic of Korea stands shoulder to shoulder with the international community in confronting terrorism and the destabilizing forces of proxy warfare. We firmly believe the United Nations must remain at the centre of these efforts, guiding collective action with legitimacy and fairness.

My delegation is committed to fully implementing the **Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy** and relevant UN resolutions, while continuing to expand Korea's humanitarian, financial, and peacekeeping contributions in the Middle East. For Korea, this agenda is not only about security, but about protecting lives, restoring dignity, and ensuring that new technologies are harnessed for peace rather than chaos. Together, we can dismantle the invisible war and build a future of stability and hope for the Middle East and beyond.

REFERENCES:

- **UNGA Sixth Committee Statements (2022–2024)**
- **Korea Financial Intelligence Unit (KoFIU) AML/CFT Taskforce, 2025–26**
- **National Intelligence Service Act .**
- **MOFA Korea–Middle East Cooperation Forum, 2025**
- **UN Peacekeeping Fact Sheet – Republic of Korea Contributions**
- **UNODC Captagon Trafficking Reports, 2024–25**

