FORUM: General Assembly
QUESTION OF: Measures to Address the Impact of Political Polarization and Democratic Instability in South Korea
MAIN SUBMITTER: Indonesia
CO-SUBMITTER: Saudi Arabia, Chile, Japan, France, Senegal, Peru, South Korea, Ecuador

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

Recognizing that political polarization in the Republic of Korea has been intensified by regional divisions, ideological conflict, generational differences, and declining public trust in democratic institutions,

Deeply concerned that prolonged political conflict can weaken democratic institutions, reduce willingness to compromise, and increase the risk of political confrontation and violence,

Recalling the democratic development of the Republic of Korea since the democratization movement of 1987 and emphasizing the importance of protecting the country's democratic institutions and constitutional order,

Concerned by the increasing influence of online platforms, political echo chambers, misinformation, and algorithmically amplified content on public political discourse,

Recognizing further that economic inequality, unequal employment opportunities, intergenerational wealth differences, and gender-related grievances have contributed to feelings of unfairness among younger generations,

Recalling the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Reinforcing Democracy Initiative and its emphasis on strengthening democratic resilience, public trust, digital democracy, and resistance to misinformation and foreign influence,

1. Encourages the Republic of Korea to implement a National Democratic Resilience and Dialogue Program in purpose to reduce political opposition and to rebuild public trust, including but not limited to:

a) Running the Program with civil society organizations and academic institutions by using existing government institutions,
    i. Holding regular cross-party policy dialogues on specific national policy issues,
    ii. Publishing accessible summaries about discussions that can rebuild public trust,
b) Expanding opportunities in political dialogue for non-partisan participation,
    i. Inviting those with limited access to national political institutions,
    ii. Making sure that participation does not depend only on political support for a particular party,
c) Encouraging political parties and candidates to have responsible political behavior by voluntarily following standards:
    i. Preventing the intentional spread of false information and personal harassment,
    ii. Encouraging political parties to publicly communicate their commitments to peaceful political participation in order to promote political accountability,
d) Supporting local-level dialogue initiatives in a purpose to address political disagreements within communities:
    i. Encouraging local governments and civil society organizations to organize an open environment for public discussions,
    ii. Providing safe spaces in which residents can discuss local policy concerns, promoting respectful communication between groups holding different political positions;

2. Suggesting strengthening development and interregional cooperation to address the socioeconomic foundations of regional political polarization especially in regions with lower economic opportunity, including but not limited to:
    a) Improving essential infrastructure and public services in non-metropolitan regions through:

i. Arranging governmental investment in education, healthcare, childcare, and digital infrastructure,
ii. Providing support to local governments and qualified private organizations to improve the quality and accessibility of public services,

b) Promoting economic development and employment opportunities outside the Seoul metropolitan area through:
    i. Supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and emerging industries based on local resources and regional economic strengths,
    ii. Establishing employment and educational cooperation programs between governments, universities, and private businesses,
c) Strengthening international cooperation to address regional inequality through:
    i. Inviting the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to give research and policy advice about regional economic disparities,
    ii. Encouraging international organizations to provide technical assistance and share successful regional development strategies when requested by the Republic of Korea;

3. Calls upon the Republic of Korea to strengthen social media and information education in order to reduce misinformation spread in political opinions and amplification of political discourse, through methods including but not limited to:

    a) Integrating age-appropriate media and information education into existing educational programs:

        i. Informing students about the severeness of untrustworthy sources, false media, and how to identify misinformation briefly,

ii. Explaining the differences between misinformation, disinformation, and legitimate political disagreement,

b) Expanding voluntary public media-literacy programs beyond schools:
    i. Encouraging cooperation among universities, libraries, and civil society organizations,
    ii. Providing workshops on source evaluation, fact-checking, and information sharing,
    iii. Providing specific help towards communities with limited access of reliable resources and digital education opportunities,
c) Encouraging major digital platforms operating in the Republic of Korea to improve transparency regarding political content and recommendation systems:
    i. Providing users with accessible explanations of the general factors influencing political content recommendations,
    ii. Offering reasonable options for users to adjust recommendation preferences where technically available,
    iii. Publishing periodic information regarding the general volume and categories of misinformation-related reports and platform responses while protecting personal and commercially sensitive information,
d) Enhancing information verification systems so that easily accessible social media platforms like X, YouTube, and Instagram can be utilized:
    i. Promoting access to established fact-checking organizations and publicly available verification resources,
    ii. Encouraging platforms to provide accessible mechanisms for users to report demonstrably fabricated content,
    iii. Providing users with reasonable appeal mechanisms when content moderation decisions are disputed,
e) Restricting AI usage in social media to mitigate misinformation from AI hallucination:

i. Change the recommendation algorithm in how social media shows to users,
ii. Emphasize the importance in showing the work of the information;

4. Urges the Republic of Korea to increase the credibility of domestic political institutions by improving public understanding, institutional openness, and opportunities for lawful civic participation, through methods including but not limited to:
    a) Improving public access to understandable information concerning democratic and legal procedures:
        i. Enhancing the accessibility of the National Election Commission's procedures for citizens through official government websites, educational institutions, and local government offices,
        ii. Creating accessible formats of institutional information for people with disabilities and those with limited digital access,
    b) Expanding civic education upon the importance in the structure and functionality of democratic institutions:
        i. Giving education on the separation of powers and constitutional limits on government authority,
        ii. Enhancing the public understanding of the role of the National Assembly and the judicial independence,
        iii. Explaining the responsibilities and functions of relevant electoral institutions,

    c) Allowing public accessibility towards non-partisan electoral information:
        i. Encouraging the National Election Commission to provide accessible information concerning voting procedures, electoral rules, and voter rights,
        ii. Encouraging cooperation between the National Election Commission, educational institutions, and civil society organizations,

d) Expanding citizen participation and contribution upon opportunities:
    i. Including citizens upon lawful political participation such as supporting public consultations, petitions, and peaceful assemblies,
    ii. Creating voluntary mechanisms where feedback concerning major democratic reforms and institutional policies can be given from the citizens;

5. Recommends the measures to reduce economic and generational injustice that contribute to political polarization, particularly among young adults, while recognizing the differing circumstances of workers and businesses, through methods including but not limited to:
    a) Expanding opportunities to stabilize employment and develop career opportunities for young people:
        i. Supporting SMEs and emerging industries capable of creating sustainable employment,
        ii. Encouraging cooperation between educational institutions and employers to provide internships, apprenticeships, and career-development opportunities,
        iii. Encouraging measures improving the work conditions and developing career opportunities,
    b) Improving fairness and transparency in employment and recruitment practices through methods listed but not limited to:
        i. Setting a clear recruitment criteria and allowing access to the public,
        ii. Giving equal opportunities towards qualified applicants regardless of their gender or socioeconomic background,
        iii. Encouraging institutions to identify and address unfair hiring practices in accordance with national law,
    c) Strengthening vocational education and professional training:
        i. Expanding training programs connected to industries experiencing labor demand,

ii. Supporting career-transition programs for workers seeking to enter emerging industries,
iii. Encouraging cooperation among vocational institutions, universities, employers, and relevant government agencies;

6. Requests the establishment of an International Democratic Resilience Support Mechanism, operating through relevant existing United Nations agencies and international organizations, to assist Member States, including the Republic of Korea upon request, in strengthening democratic resilience and reducing political polarization, through, but not limited to:
    a) Inviting relevant organizations, including the OECD and UNESCO, to provide technical expertise, comparative research, and policy recommendations upon request:
        i. Including the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) and Democracy Without Borders (DWB) to conduct research on the level of democratic resilience in participating Member States
        ii. Establishing a framework and voluntary guidelines for assessing democratic resilience that can ensure its sustainability and reduce political polarization,
        iii. Ensuring that all technical support directly contributes to reducing political polarization, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will monitor its implementation and effectiveness,
    b) Promoting the voluntary exchange of democratic best practices to help identify areas for improvement in strengthening democratic resilience and mitigating political polarization:
        i. Supporting voluntary national assessments measuring public trust in democratic institutions, citizens' participation in political processes, the ability to identify misinformation, and differences in employment, education, and public service opportunities across regions and generations,

ii. Facilitating the voluntary exchange of best practices concerning political dialogue, civic education, media literacy, regional development, and institutional trust,
iii. Encouraging universities and research institutions to conduct non-partisan research on political polarization, public trust, regional inequality, and digital political behavior,

c) Ensuring that all activities under this mechanism remain voluntary, respect national sovereignty and domestic legal systems, and do not interfere with legitimate political expression or democratic decision-making.