



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA  
GENEVA

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The 14th Session of the UPR Working Group  
Review of Guatemala  
Geneva, 24 October, 2012

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**Statement of the Republic of Korea**

Thank you Madam President,

The Republic of Korea welcomes the efforts made by the Government of Guatemala to promote and protect human rights since its first UPR in 2008. In particular, we noted its efforts to implement the recommendations by adopting various legal instruments such as the Act against Femicide and Other Forms of Violence against Women as well as the introduction of institutional reforms including the establishment of 17 regional offices of the national human rights institution.

However, it is regrettable that these efforts have not resulted in strong, tangible improvements in these fields. Guatemala is still experiencing a high homicide rate, many organizations are recommending a fundamental reform of the justice system to prevent impunity. In addition to these concerns, we also note a number of social vulnerabilities within the indigenous population.

Taking these points into consideration, my delegation would like to make two recommendations:

First, in line with recommendations made by other countries, we would like to recommend once again that the Government of Guatemala take all measures necessary to reduce the homicide rate, especially by allocating substantial resources for strengthening the national civil police and for reforming the justice system to ensure the prosecution of those committing homicide.

Second, emphasizing the fact that indigenous people comprise more than half of the population of Guatemala, we recommend also that the Government of Guatemala adopt a legal instrument to protect the rights of the indigenous population especially in cases of land disputes and mining development. Thank you. /END/