

**Closing Statement by the Republic of Korea**  
**25 October 2012**

Madam President Dupuy Lasserre and Distinguished Delegates,

I appreciate your interest, expectations, inquiries and recommendations regarding the human rights situation in the Republic of Korea. I hope our responses have provided deeper insight and a fuller understanding of where Korea stands, and as the head of the delegation I would like to present the following closing comments.

With respect to the discussion and preparations for this UPR session, I can promise you that our government will conduct a thorough review of your recommendations.

Along these lines, our government will examine the possibility of ways to improve human rights policies in accordance with the objects and purposes of your recommendations, as well as look for any measures that would help to further apply those international human rights standards and policies to the national context. The results of the review will be documented and submitted before the UN Human Rights Council in March next year.

We recognize that the three hours and thirty minutes allocated for the UPR is not enough time for an in-depth, comprehensive review of a country's human rights situation. Even so, our government has been preparing for today's review for a very long time. In doing this we have gone through the first monitoring regarding implementation of the first UPR recommendations, drafted and composed the national report, carried out constructive consultation within the country, and prepared for the dialogue. We are aware also that the delegates of each Member State spent a considerable amount of time preparing the evaluations and recommendations for the UPR of the Republic of Korea. On behalf of the delegation, I would like to acknowledge these efforts and express my personal appreciation for the dedicated preparation by our delegates over the last several months. I would also like to praise the efforts of the Korean government and citizens for making clear strides towards enhancing human rights in our country over the course of the past four years.

During this time, certain areas of human rights in the Republic of Korea have improved substantially, while those in some other areas perhaps saw less substantive progress. My government will take the concerns raised in such areas into consideration as we both re-examine our policies and the direction we should take as well as determine the areas that most need improvement. We will also deliberate on measures to implement the recommendations from this second UPR.

We emphasize that the value of the UPR process is not confined to today's discussions, but it is also found in the overall process of implementing the recommendations from the UPR through the government and civil society's continuous communication and consultation.

With this broad, forward looking perspective regarding the UPR, the government of the Republic of Korea will have opportunities to review how the recommendations should be implemented and used to promote human rights in Korea within all government ministries, civil society organizations, and academic circles. Also, we will push for the recommendations of today's dialogue to be reflected in the Second National Human Rights Action Plan, established in March this year.

Madam President, and Distinguished Delegates,

We believe that the will and tireless efforts to improve human rights, as well as a democratic process for these actions are of utmost importance in order to achieve full realization of human rights. Within this context and in line with the three pillars of the United Nations, the government of the Republic of Korea is strongly committed to the promotion and protection of the human rights of every individual in the country. We will also strengthen international cooperation to better ensure the full respect for the human rights of citizens around the world.

I would like to thank the delegates again for your efforts to review the human rights situation in the Republic of Korea, and I thank you especially for your inquiries and recommendations. I also extend my gratitude to those who have come all the way to Geneva on behalf of civil society organizations. I believe our efforts will become a firm basis for the improvement of human rights, in the Republic of Korea and the world.

Thank you.