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STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA  
14<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC  
REVIEW

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA  
(Geneva 25 October 2012)

Thank you Madam President.

Madam President,

The Republic of Moldova would like to warmly welcome the delegation of the Republic of Korea to the 14<sup>th</sup> session of the UPR Working Group and thank the head of delegation for his comprehensive presentation of the national report.

We commend the Republic of Korea for its steadfast efforts to improve the human rights situation, including the launch of the second National Action Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (NAP) for 2012-2016, which is an overarching framework on human rights policies prepared in accordance with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.

We note with satisfaction the promotion of women's rights and incorporation of gender perspectives into policies of the Government of the Republic of Korea, through enactment of Gender Impact Assessment and Analysis Act, aimed at ensuring effective gender equality in Government policies, which was brought into effect in March 2012.

We acknowledge the Government's commitment to prevent and prosecute domestic violence and ensure protection of victims of domestic violence, including the amended *Act on the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Protection of Victims and Others*, effective from May 2012 that enables effective early response by police officers against domestic violence. We equally welcome the Government's efforts to raise awareness about domestic violence which is a crime punishable by law and not a private matter.

We note with satisfaction the strong commitment of the Republic of Korea to fight against human trafficking through a close co-operation at the national and international levels. We encourage the further prosecution and conviction of traffickers, as well as further review of the prostitution policy and relevant legislation, with a view to decriminalizing women's involvement in prostitution.

We have 3 recommendations:

- further ensure effective gender equality into government policies;
- continue its efforts to prevent and combat domestic violence;
- strengthen the cooperation both at national and international levels in fighting against human trafficking equally for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labour.

I thank you.