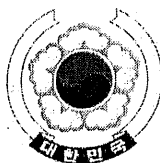


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SOONCHUL KWON

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
GENEVA

The 16th Session of the UPR Working Group
Review of Uzbekistan, 24 April, 2013

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Statement of the Republic of Korea

Thank you, Mr. President.

The Republic of Korea commends Uzbekistan for its continuous efforts to promote the universal respect for human rights since its first UPR in 2008.

Among them, we would like to especially highlight its ongoing efforts to improve the judicial and legal system to ensure the rule of law and the protection of human rights even in the midst of challenging economic and social circumstances.

We also note with satisfaction that, in compliance with recommendations from UN Treaty Bodies, Uzbekistan has developed and implemented a national action plan for areas such as elimination of racial discrimination and promotion of the rights of children.

With an aim to further encourage its continued efforts towards the protection of human rights, we would like to offer the following two recommendations.

First, taking note of the vigorous efforts of the Government of Uzbekistan, we recommend the Government to strengthen its monitoring system to eliminate possibility of forced child labor in cotton production.

Second, with regard to the freedom of religion or belief, we recommend that the Government consider effective measures to prevent any unreasonable restrictions on the freedom of religion or belief as well as any related discriminatory treatment. Thank you.
/END/