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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
GENEVA

19th Session of the UPR Working Group
Review of the DPRK
Geneva, 1 May 2014

<Check against delivery>

Ambassador Ahn Young-jip

Statement by the Republic of Korea

Mr. President,

welcome the delegation of the DPRK &

We take note that the DPRK has expressed its long-delayed position on the recommendations made by the participating states during the first UPR. Although the expressed commitment to the UPR process of the DPRK is recognizable, it is equally regrettable that the position of the state under review comes at the last minute after more than four years of delay.

Therefore, we would like to **recommend** that the DPRK seriously review all the comments and recommendations made by the participating states today and clearly indicate in due time which recommendations it accepts and how it plans to implement them.

The Commission of Inquiry on human rights in the DPRK has concluded that systematic, widespread and grave human rights violations have been occurring in the DPRK and that many of them constitute crimes against humanity. Subsequently, the Human Rights Council, at its 25th Session, adopted a resolution reflecting the conclusions and recommendations made by the Commission, including measures relating to accountability.

In this regard, my delegation would like to **recommend** that the DPRK accept and faithfully implement the recommendations of the COI, especially those contained in the Human Rights Council's resolution. Among others, my delegation would like to **recommend** that the DPRK close political prison camps, eliminate discrimination based on the "songbun" system and cooperate with human rights mechanisms, including the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the DPRK.

In addition, my delegation would **recommend** that the DPRK seriously address the issues of abductees, prisoners of war and separated families. Thank you. /End/