**Draft Statement of the Republic of Korea**

**The 44th Session of the UPR Working Group**

**Review of Bangladesh**

**(Monday, 13 November 2023)**

Thank you, Mr. President.

The Republic of Korea welcomes the delegation of Bangladesh to its fourth cycle of the UPR, and its continuous efforts to engage with international human rights mechanisms.

We welcome the Bangladesh’s commitment to uphold a “zero-tolerance” policy against any violence against religious minorities. And commend the government’s efforts to promote women’s political participation and empowerment.

Bearing in mind the progress made, we would like to present the following recommendations:

1. Continue to strengthen the role of the National Human Rights Commission in line with the Paris Principles.

2. Take effective measures to protect freedom of expression and prevent violence against journalists, and ensure that the Cyber Security Act is in line with international standards.

3.Enhance efforts to eliminate child marriage, by reformulating the Child Marriage Restraint Act to prevent misuse of the “special circumstances”.

We wish Bangladesh a successful review.

I thank you.

\* \* \*