**Draft Statement of the Republic of Korea**

**The 40th Session of the UPR Working Group Review of Venezuela**

**(Tuesday, 25 January 2022)**

Thank you, Mr. President.

The Republic of Korea acknowledges Venezuela’s ongoing cooperation with the OHCHR. Yet, we remain concerned by the overall human rights situation in Venezuela, including the reported cases of extrajudicial executions and arbitrary detention.

Therefore, the Republic of Korea would like to recommend the following:

1. Take necessary steps to secure the independence and impartiality of the judiciary, ensuring that judicial actions are guided by the principles of legality and due process;
2. Enhance efforts to expand civic and democratic space, with a special focus on the protection of journalists, human rights defenders, and political actors from intimidation and attacks; and
3. Safeguard the freedom of peaceful assembly and refrain from the use of excessive force against peaceful protestors.

I thank you.

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