

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

GENEVA

Universal Periodic Review(3rd Cycle) – Serbia <*Check against delivery*>

Geneva, 24 January 2017

**Statement of the Republic of Korea**

Thank you, Mr. President,

The Republic of Korea warmly welcomes the Serbian delegation, and expresses appreciation on its report on how it has worked to protect and promote human rights.

Our delegation also appreciates the extensive efforts extended by the Government of Serbia to accommodate the refugees arriving into its borders. The reception centers provide much needed assistance to refugees and unaccompanied children in times of desperate need. The schools and support system also provide basis for their long-term well-being.

Additionally, we welcome that Serbia is bringing overall reforms to its government system and legal structure to make it more transparent and equitable, as it prepares to join the European Union.

Our delegation would like to provide the following recommendations in this cycle of the UPR:

1. To continue with its judicial reforms to effectively introduce rule of law to all aspects of society
2. To protect human rights defenders, by initiating independent, impartial and effective investigations into threats against them;
3. To effectively guarantee freedom of press by ensuring the safety of journalists and their activities, and the independence of editorial boards of media.

We hope these recommendations contribute to the Serbia’s efforts to promote and protect human rights.

Thank you, Mr. President. /END/