

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

GENEVA

The 30th Session of the UPR Working Group <Check against delivery>

Review of Azerbaijan

Geneva, 15 May 2018

**Statement of the Republic of Korea**

Thank you Mr. President.

The Republic of Korea would like to join others in welcoming the delegation of Azerbaijan to this Council’s working group, and thanks H.E. the Minister of Justice for his presentation of the national report.

Among the achievements made since the last cycle, we note that Azerbaijan has continuously worked to bring its national legislation in line with international standards to further protect and promote civil, political, and social rights. In particular, we welcome the government’s initiatives aimed at enhancing the accessibility of courts and the efficiency of the administration of justice, pursuant to the recommendations made by a number of international human rights bodies including this one.

In the spirit of construction cooperation, my delegation would like to present the following recommendations to Azerbaijan today.

1. To ensure that Article 283 of the Criminal Code on incitement to racial hatred is not misused to persecute or intimidate individuals for their political belief.
2. To investigate all allegations and prosecute perpetrators of torture and ill-treatment of journalists and political opponents, and to strengthen the training of relevant public authorities and staff on human rights.

We wish Azerbaijan a successful review. /END/