

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

GENEVA

The 32nd Session of the UPR Working Group <Check against delivery>

Review of Eritrea

Geneva, 28 January 2019

**Statement of the Republic of Korea**

Thank you Mr. President.

The Republic of Korea welcomes the delegation of Eritrea to its third cycle of the UPR.

We welcome the historic Peace and Cooperation Declaration of July 2018 between Eritrea and Ethiopia, which resulted in the free movement of people across the border enabling the reunion of many families separated since the border war. As regards our recommendations to Eritrea in the second cycle on the rights of women and girls, we are pleased to see that the state’s efforts to combat female genital mutilation and early marriages have continuously been strengthened, and women’s public participation has shown promising improvement.

We remain concerned however, about the continuous reports of human rights violations arising from the indefinite conscription into the military, in particular widespread sexual violence against women and girls recruited into national service. We recommend that Eritrea limit the duration of compulsory national service, prioritizing the protection of the rights and security of women and girls in this context.

We also note with concern recurring censorship and forceful shutdown of media, and recommend that Eritrea remove severe restrictions placed on the freedom of press in accordance with the Article 19(2) of the Constitution.

Finally, we recommend that the Eritrean government fully cooperate with the Human Rights Council, including by inviting the Special Rapporteur to conduct a country visit.

We wish Eritrea a successful review.

I thank you Mr. President. /END/