

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

GENEVA

The 33rd Session of the UPR Working Group <As delivered>

Review of Equatorial Guinea

Geneva, 13 May 2019

**Statement of the Republic of Korea**

Thank you Mr. President.

The Republic of Korea warmly welcomes the delegation of Equatorial Guinea to this Council’s Working Group, and congratulates the achievements made since the second cycle particularly with regard to the rights of persons with disabilities and women’s rights.

As a State Party to the CRPD, Equatorial Guinea took notable measures in promoting the rights of persons with disabilities in the areas of social security, education, and health care. Moreover, progress has been made in translating gender equality enshrined in the 2012 Constitution to concrete legal initiatives, such as the pending bill on the protection framework for gender-based violence and the Constitutional Court’s ruling on married women’s equal right to property.

Today we would like to present three recommendations, with a view that more can be done in the following areas.

1. Guarantee full independence of the Office of the Ombudsman in its appointment and function in line with the Paris Principles.
2. Improve public access to information on laws and policy measures relevant to human rights and national reports to human rights mechanisms and bodies.
3. Ensure a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders in law and practice, so that they can carry out their work free from harassment or reprisals.

I thank you. /END/