



National Human Rights Commission of Korea

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**22nd Regular Session of the UN Human Rights Council
Item 6: Consideration of UPR reports of Republic of Korea**

**Oral Statement Delivered by Ms. Younghye KIM on behalf of
National Human Rights Commission of Korea**

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(Check against delivery)

Mr. President.

It is an honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the A Status National Human Rights Commission of Republic of Korea (hereinafter NHRCK).

The NHRCK believes that the UPR process has made tremendous contributions to bolstering safeguards for human rights on the ground and increasing awareness of human rights at the government level and among the general public. For example, during the course of the second UPR process, the Ministry of Justice had a series of consultation meetings with relevant government bodies and civil society to track the improvement of the human rights nationwide. In particular, the second UPR process has generated heavy media coverage and sparked a number of academic conferences on the human rights records of the Republic of Korea.

The NHRCK welcomes the Korean government's move to accept 42 recommendations among a total of 70 made in the second review of the UPR. Regarding the remaining recommendations not accepted as of yet, the NHRCK will urge the government to sustain its interests to ultimately address the pending issues and monitor the progress continuously. However, it is important to note that in a decentralized and plural democratic

society like Korea, sometimes the administrative body alone cannot fully address the human rights violations without social consensus and bipartisan agreement in the National Assembly.

In the Korean society, rapid economic expansion and democratization and enhanced public awareness of equality have led to increased competition and tensions. Under these circumstances, diverse human rights issues emerged simultaneously and NGOs began to take on greater roles and exert more influence. In addition, human rights issues making domestic and international headlines did not always coincide with those issues that the public demand to be addressed urgently.

The NHRCK believes that it requires vigilant efforts for the members of Human Rights Council to have an accurate understanding of human rights issues of the reviewed states. Since human rights reports submitted by governments or civil societies do not always paint a full picture of the country's human rights situation, the NHRCK will fulfill its role to present its independent opinions in an objective and unbiased manner.

The NHRCK will continue its utmost efforts to implement international human rights standards nationwide. To this end, we promise to work closely with government bodies, civil society and international human rights organizations.

Thank you.