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DPRK



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**Statement by the Delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of  
Korea at the 13<sup>th</sup> Session of Human Rights Council under Item 4:  
Human Rights Situations that Require Council's Attention**

Mr. President,

Human Rights are inviolable rights inherent to every human being.

In the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, DPRK, human rights are protected and firmly guaranteed in every legal aspect and all people fully enjoy their rights and fundamental freedoms. The Government of the DPRK regards it as the supreme principle in its activities to steadily improve the people's living standard and it is making every possible effort to ensure human rights be provided for people on a higher level, in particular by making a turning point this year in the improvement of people's livelihood.

We are also committed to the implementation of our international obligations in good faith for protection and promotion of human rights with active participation in the UN human rights activities including those of the Human Rights Council. Our country took part in the review of the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child at the 50<sup>th</sup> session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in January 2009 and also participated in the review of its human rights situation at the 6<sup>th</sup> session of the UPR Working Group in last December.

Mr. President,

The DPRK delegation made careful observations into the following key issues in overcoming obstacles and challenges coming in the way of the global efforts for promotion and protection of human rights.

**One, the DPRK strongly maintains that human rights issues should be addressed, strictly based on the principle of respect for national sovereignty.**

In each and every country of the world, people are bound to and can enjoy genuine human rights and fundamental freedoms only in the territories where they are living. Therefore, it is imperative to have legal and institutional guarantees together with stable and peaceful environment pertaining to human rights. In the countries and regions where national sovereignty is trampled down or peaceful environment is not created, like in Iraq, like in Afghanistan, like in the occupied Palestine territories, etc. innocent people fall victims of the "war on terror" and their human rights and fundamental freedoms are violated or deprived of, with no exception at all.

The prevailing reality indicates that the question of the national sovereignty is one of the first and foremost human rights actors and any discussion with no such a consideration is nothing but an empty talk.

**Two, the principle of equality, impartiality and objectivity should be observed in addressing human rights issues.**

It is totally unacceptable to table and discuss so called "resolutions" that selectively name and attack individual countries. It is particularly more so today when the UPR is in full operation to deal with human rights situations of all countries on equal and regular basis. It clearly runs counter to the spirit and purposes of the UPR to make a selective approach as to specific countries, purely out of relations of alliance or ulterior political motives in ignorance of the diversity in history, in tradition, in culture and in custom of each different country and nation.

If this practice continues unabated, it will result in undermining of the UPR as was the case with the already defunct Commission on Human Rights.

**Three, the issue of human rights violations committed in the colonial countries in the past should be addressed in a righteous manner.**

During its military occupation of Korea, Japan forcibly abducted 8.4 million people with 1 million massacre in Korea alone and imposed sexual slavery on the 200,000 women from Korea and other Asian countries, as "comfort women".

Nevertheless, Japan has never ever recognized its own past crime against humanity and it is in continued violation of human rights against the Korean people.

One example is the position of the Japanese authorities who is insisting that the schools of Koreans in Japan should be excluded from the list of government support for high schools.

As an expression of xenophobia, such an attitude of the Japanese authorities is a grave violation of the international human rights convention which stipulates on the right of foreigners to equal education.

Japan who is not recognizing its past crimes and deadly bent on going towards militarism, is a fundamental source of destabilization in the region and a fundamental hot bed which can repeatedly commit aggression and expansion and bloody crime against humanity.

Japan should follow examples of other countries that have made sincere apology and compensation to the victims since the World War II. It should also bear in mind that its future relies on the clear liquidation of the past.

Thank you.