

**Statement by
H.E. Ambassador PARK In-kook
Deputy Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Korea**

on

Agenda Item 9

**Question of the violation of human rights and
fundamental freedoms in any part of the world**

**Before the 61st Session of the Commission on
Human Rights**

Geneva, 23 March 2005

Mr. Chairman,

In the last year we have witnessed the advancement of human rights in a number of countries in which increased citizen participation and the greater institutionalization of democracy have been evident. Regrettably, though, in some other parts of the globe, severe abuses of human rights and fundamental freedoms continue to be a source of serious concern.

In many parts of Africa, protracted conflicts threaten not only the right to freedom from arbitrary detention and torture but even the fundamental right to life. A lack of resources and capacities for the protection of human rights poses another challenge in the region. Despite positive steps towards political, legal and social reform in recent years across the Middle East, ongoing conflicts and continued violence in the region cast a dark cloud.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, while the region has the highest rate of ratification of international human rights treaties in the developing world, economic and social discrimination have been barriers to respect for human rights. In Asia, democratic systems of government are being put in place in an increasing number of nations. However, dictatorships persist in some countries, with continuing abuses of human rights. Moreover, there have also been some regressive developments in other parts of the world.

All these underscore the need for greater attention in monitoring human rights and involvement on our part in protecting victims of human rights violations. Even though despotic regimes are steadily decreasing in number throughout the world, too many

people are still living under a dark cloud under dictatorships in different corners of the earth. We urge those repressive regimes to pay heed to the outcries of those who have had their fundamental freedoms and human rights denied for too long. It is imperative that they take urgent steps to improve their human rights situations and translate the recommendations of the Commission into action.

The most severe and massive violations of human rights are committed in areas of conflict. The failure to protect civilians in crisis raises serious questions regarding the fundamental capacity of the international community to provide real solutions to contemporary challenges which give rise to these serious human rights violations. We concur with the view of the High Commissioner that our collective responsibilities are more pressing in crisis situations where the lives of many are in immediate peril and governments are unwilling or unable to protect persons within their jurisdiction or control. In this vein, we believe that the principle of "responsibility to protect", (as upheld by the High-level Panel and the Secretary-General of the UN,) is worthy of consideration.

Mr. Chairman,

Democracy is an essential element in the promotion and protection of the whole spectrum of human rights for all. In this sense, we attach great importance to the Community of Democracies (CD), the Third Ministerial Conference of which will be held in Santiago on 28-30 April this year. The Republic of Korea, as the host country of the Second Ministerial Conference, fully participates in and supports the activities of the CD. We have no doubt that this international process constitutes a significant contribution to the

promotion of democracy at the domestic, regional and global levels. The Government of the Republic of Korea has made it a priority to encourage and institutionalize the full participation of the people in the political process. With the increasing role of civil society in Korea, respect for human rights and other democratic values has assumed greater importance in every aspect of political life in Korea in recent times.

We are convinced that respect for freedom and human dignity is essential for bringing about full-fledged democracy and peaceful change. With this firm conviction, the Republic of Korea strongly upholds the universal values of freedom and human rights as the very cornerstone of its long-term foreign policy goals. We are as determined as ever to spare no efforts in raising human rights standards, taking further strides forward in putting them into practice.

Thank you



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**QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL
FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD**

**Letter dated 28 February 2005 from the Permanent Representative of the
Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations Office at
Geneva addressed to the High Commissioner for Human Rights**

I present my compliments to you and have the honour to state the position of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) regarding the technical cooperation for DPRK in the area of human rights, as contained in document E/CN.4/2005/32.

The technical cooperation as mentioned above has been referred to in Commission resolution 2004/13.

The DPRK has already repeatedly stated its resolute rejection of the resolution and still remains invariable in its position.

The resolution, as initiated by the European Union, is based on political motivations, taking sides with the United States policy of hostility against the DPRK and, therefore, has nothing to do with genuine promotion and protection of human rights.

The resolution is also in pursuit of confrontation and double standards in flagrant violation of internationally recognized principles including universal, non-selective and objective handling of human rights issues through dialogue and cooperation.

Consequently, the resolution in its entirety represents one of the major factors contributing to the serious undermining of the credibility of the Commission on Human Rights in whose activities the principle of non-politicization, objectivity and impartiality should be thoroughly observed.

The DPRK rejects and does not even recognize the resolution itself since it runs counter to the genuine promotion and protection of human rights in actual fact.

As for the technical cooperation for DPRK in the area of human rights, the DPRK attaches importance to such cooperation and is always prepared to make every effort for its realization.

However, under current circumstances in which the technical cooperation is being abused as a means of pressure to enforce the implementation of the resolution, the DPRK has been left with no option but to disagree to it.

The initiators of the resolution have driven DPRK into such circumstances.

For this reason, the technical cooperation for DPRK in the area of human rights would be inconceivable unless [this] fundamental obstacle to its realization is removed once and for all.

In the absence of any resolution against DPRK, the technical cooperation in the area of human rights would be realized spontaneously.

Reiterating the DPRK's rejection of the resolution, I wish to reaffirm our commitment to the noble work of putting an end to the politicization of human rights and realizing genuine technical cooperation in the area of human rights in an environment free from confrontation and coerciveness.

Finally, I would appreciate it very much if this letter could be circulated as an official document of the sixty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights under item 9.

(Signed): Ri TCHEUL
 Ambassador
 Permanent Representative
