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of Korea to the United Nations Office and Other
International Organizations in Geneva**

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**Statement by H.E. Mr. So Se Pyong, Head of the DPRK Delegation
during the adoption of the 2nd UPR Outcome at
the 27th session of the Human Rights Council
(Geneva, 19 September 2014)**

Mr. President,

The delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) is pleased to participate in this session for the adoption of the outcome of its 2nd cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

My delegation regards the UPR mechanism as the important and effective means in assessing human rights situations of all countries on the basis of impartiality and objectivity as well as encouraging the protection and promotion of human rights throughout the world. As the UPR provides equal treatment to all countries with different ideology and system, culture and tradition, it plays a positive role in removing the outdated practice of singling out specific countries and promoting genuine dialogue and cooperation among countries.

Out of its position to respect for UPR and its willingness to cooperate in the international field of human rights, the DPRK participated in its 2nd UPR during the 19th session of the Working Group on the UPR in last May and had an open and sincere interactive dialogue with many countries, through which it received encouraging comments, and gave responses and clarifications to questions, comments and recommendations presented during the session.

My delegation takes this opportunity to express deep gratitude towards those countries which encouraged the DPRK's stands and efforts for the protection and promotion of human rights and made numerous constructive recommendations during the review.

I would also like to extend appreciation to Troika members; Côte d'Ivoire, the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom as well as the secretariat for their contribution to drafting the report.

Mr. President,

Of 268 recommendations received during the review, the DPRK delegation rejected 83 recommendations on the ground as they seriously distorted the reality of and slandered the country driven by sinister political motivations. The DPRK delegation then stated that it would, in accordance with the UPR procedure, examine 185 remaining recommendations and give its view in due time.

The DPRK Government distributed the report concerning the 2nd cycle of the UPR to all the relevant national institutions and organizations participated in the preparation of the 2nd cycle national report and carefully reviewed the recommendations in broad consultations. The Government's position on the recommendations was submitted in writing to the HRC according to the procedure. As contained in document A/HRC/27/10/add.1, the DPRK decided, in overall, to accept most of recommendations out of 268. This is the result of serious and several consultations held with relevant national institutions and an expression of full commitment of the DPRK Government to respecting the other countries' opinions and making great efforts for the protection and promotion of human rights.

For better understanding, I will now brief on my Government's position in some categories.

First of all, several countries made recommendations for the DPRK to enact more domestic laws for the enjoyment of human rights and continuously improve the human rights mechanisms. Those recommendations encourage the Government's effort for the protection and promotion of human rights and also coincide with the State's policy of giving absolute priority to the people's convenience.

As well-known, the DPRK is people-centered socialist state which maintains as its supreme principle in state's activities to put the people at the center of all considerations and everything serves for the people.

The DPRK Government consistently maintains people-centered ideals and position on human rights which fully guarantee the dignity, equality and well-being of the people.

This year, main focus is given in the DPRK on economic development and improvement of people's living standards, and a number of measures have been taken for the full realization of political, economic and cultural rights of the people.

I am convinced that the recommendations will be fully implemented through further reinforcement of domestic legal framework for promoting human rights and dramatic turning point to be achieved in the national economy.

Practically, conditions and environment are already available in the country for the implementation of the accepted recommendations and some of the recommendations are either currently under implementation or will be implemented through concrete measures.

Next, I would like to refer to the recommendations on taking further detailed measures according to the existing domestic laws for the protection of the rights of vulnerable group including children and women.

Thanks to the DPRK's policy of "love for future generation" and sparing nothing for children who are regarded as king of the country, several measures are taken by the Government and a number of modern facilities have been built for the promotion of children's welfare.

Measures are also taken to make sure that women exercise their full rights in state and social affairs and play a positive role in social development by increasing the advancement of women in the governmental services.

In addition, the rights of children, aged people and persons with disabilities have further been promoted, thanks to the constructions of modern medical facilities, health-recovery center, orphanages, baby homes and old people's homes as well as health centre in recent years under the state's care.

The DPRK Government will continue to give top priority to the maximum promotion of the rights of special group including children,

women, the older persons and people with disabilities, and implement in detail the relevant laws and legislations already in place.

When we speed up the building of economic power, the day will come soon when the people's living standards are improved and their enjoyment of rights and welfare are further promoted.

The DPRK will also continue to study in detail about the recommendations that relate to the protection and promotion of people's human rights, and take legal, judicial and administrative measures to intensify education on human rights, raise the social awareness and establish the atmosphere of law observance. The Government will also continue to minimize the gap between the rural and urban areas, increase the food production with a view to fully ensuring the right to food and improve the quality of education and health services.

The Government will take into serious considerations and take active measures to implement those recommendations which refer to the DPRK's obligations under the international human rights instruments to which the DPRK is a state party, and accession to the instruments to which the DPRK is not a state party yet, and cooperate with human rights organizations.

Although conditions and circumstances are not provided in the current situation, the DPRK decided to take note of the 50 recommendations with the intention to seek ways for their implementation. Some recommendations contain elements that do not exist in the reality of the DPRK, however, it has decided to take note of them by paying due attention to and making continuous efforts for the prevention of such happening.

For example, the Recommendation No. 124.124 says that the DPRK should "ensure free movement of all citizens and refrain from punishing who return or are involuntarily returned to the DPRK from abroad". As we made clear in the 2nd cycle of the UPR, no such issues exist in the DPRK and relevant laws adequately ensure its citizens the freedom of movement.

Despite of this fact, the DPRK decided to take note of the recommendations, which are attributable to the lack of understanding of the DPRK, having respect for the views of the recommending countries and with hope that such misunderstanding may be cleared away if mutual understandings are deepening.

Mr. President,

The DPRK decided not to accept 10 among those recommendations which were left for later clarification. Because those recommendations go against the principled position of the DPRK on opposing the politicization of the human rights, and contradict to the legal system of the country.

To make clear, most of the recommendations, which are unacceptable by us, have been based on distorted information provided by the hostile forces in order to defame the image of the DPRK and ultimately dismantle its social system.

In recent years, hostile forces with inveterate negation of the DPRK have deliberately neglected the reality about the enjoyment of genuine human rights by the Korean people and cling to the anti-DPRK campaign with distorted information; a few number of so-called "defectors to south", being afraid of legal punishment for the crimes they committed, fled to other countries and cooked up fictitious information to earn expenses.

This can only be seen as the extremely dangerous political maneuver to tarnish the dignified image of the DPRK by abusing the inviolable human rights and dismantle its system. Therefore, the DPRK remains unchanged in its position to reject such recommendations.

The Recommendation No. 124.123 says that the DPRK's penal code prohibits people from leaving their country freely. It completely distorted the reality of the DPRK and it is the result of the lack of knowledge.

Therefore, it is obvious that such recommendations based on fabrications and aligned with political plot of the hostile forces cannot be accepted.

Likewise is the recommendation concerning the cooperation with the "special rapporteur" on the situation of the human rights in the DPRK.

It is the consistent position of the DPRK to maintain genuine dialogue and cooperation on the principle of respect for sovereignty and equality, opposing the politicization, selectivity and double-standards in the field of human rights.

The DPRK rejects the forcible adoption of anti-DPRK "resolutions" every year and the "special rapporteur" on the situation of human rights in the DPRK as they are the outcomes of politicization, selectivity and double

standards of the human rights. In any circumstances, confrontation cannot be compatible with the dialogue and cooperation.

Mr. President,

Regarding the cooperation and technical assistance by the international human rights organs, the Government deems such cooperation and assistance are useful and we willing to accept them. However, they should not be abused as a means to interfere in the internal affairs and pressure other countries.

Concerning the cooperation with the international human rights bodies, it is the consistent position of the DPRK that their missions for the protection and promotion of human rights should be respected and the principles of impartiality and objectivity should thoroughly be observed.

As mentioned in the 2nd cycle of the UPR, the DPRK has made strenuous efforts and paid much attention to the realization of international cooperation in the human rights field. The Government made efforts in the past to maintain the cooperation and dialogue with human rights organs such as OHCHR and treaty bodies. Following its 1st cycle of the UPR, DPRK participated in the 2nd cycle this year. This is the reflection of its willingness for dialogue and cooperation. In coming years, we will try to fulfill our obligations in the human rights sectors including through the presentation on due time of national reports on implementation of relevant human rights instruments to which the DPRK is a state party.

Finally, I would like to mention about the recommendations related with the DPRK's accession to the international human rights instruments.

The DPRK is consistent in its position to respect and sincerely implement the international human rights instruments.

The DPRK acceded to the major international human rights instruments including the CRC, ICESCR and CEDAW, and has discharged its obligations as a state party to such instruments.

The preparation is under way for the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) since we signed the Convention last year and currently we look at the possibilities to sign or accede to other conventions to which we are not a party. I am pleased to

inform that, on 9 September 2014, the DPRK has signed the Optional Protocol on Child Sale, Prostitution and Pornography to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

This is one of the reasons why we have decided to accept a few recommendations partly. For example, the DPRK decided to accept some parts of the recommendation No. 124.7 in order to show its respect for the views of the recommending country and hoping that once the country gets correct understanding of the DPRK, any mistaken view may be cleared.

Mr. President,

As we mentioned in the 2nd cycle of the UPR, the DPRK's efforts for the protection and promotion of the human rights are faced with many obstacles and challenges.

It is the entire Korean people who suffered the untold pains and misfortunes from the nearly 70-year long history of the national division forced upon by the outside forces. Since the foundation of the DPRK, different sorts of unjustifiable and persistent sanctions and military threats imposed upon the DPRK have caused great hindrance to the economic development of the country and people's lives and given negative impact on the human rights and right to existence of the Korean people.

Whatever challenges and obstacles are before us, we will accomplish ultimate victory and enhance the functions of the human rights mechanisms of our own style which meet the demand of the reality and people.

The Government will also strengthen the cooperation and dialogue among countries and fulfill its obligations in the field of human rights, thereby making responsible contribution to the international efforts for the protection and promotion of human rights.

Thank you, Mr. President.

