

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

GENEVA

The 14th Session of the Human Rights Council <*Check against delivery*>

Advisory Committee

Discussion on Local Government and Human Rights

Geneva, 25 February 2015

**Statement of the Republic of Korea**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

It is my honor to deliver this statement in front of the esteemed members of the Advisory Committee on behalf of the core group including Chile, Egypt, Romania and the Republic of Korea. At the outset, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the members of the drafting group on local government and human rights for sparing no effort to advance the research on the issue in conformity with the Council resolutions 24/2 and 27/4.

As you may recall, these resolutions initiated by the core group enjoyed the strong support of Member States as they benefited from many co-sponsors and were adopted by consensus. Considering that they were the first initiatives in the field, it can be safely stated that such strong support reflects States’ high level of interest in exploring the role of local governments in the promotion and protection of human rights.

Meanwhile, it is equally important to note that, as evidenced by the draft version of final report, the Advisory Committee has successfully discharged its mandate set forward by the resolutions to prepare for a research-based report on the issue. In particular, I would like to commend the committee on the progress that it has made in the further elaboration of key elements, including the definition of local government, the concept of a human rights city, the main challenges facing local governments as well as best practices for ensuring local implementation of human rights.

In addition, as the room for local governments to contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights broadens, it is becoming evident that ensuring better implementation of local governments’ activities requires more support as well as the active participation of civil society actors. In this regard, we would like to take note with appreciation that the current draft identifies the role of civil society in assisting local governments with adopting a human rights-based approach as well as monitoring and assessing their work.

Mr. Chairperson and distinguished members,

It is our sincere hope that the drafting group will continue to build on the draft final report which has been presented and successfully finalize its research and study on the issue by submitting a final report to the 30th session of Human Rights Council.

We firmly believe that your efforts will lay a good foundation for future debate on the role of local government in the promotion and protection of human rights.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. /End/