**25th Session of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee**

 **“New and emerging digital technologies (Item 3(g))”**

**17 February 2021**

**Core Group (41/11) Joint Statement**

I would like to thank the Advisory Committee for giving me the opportunity to deliver this statement on behalf of the core group of resolution 41/11 on “New and emerging digital technologies and human rights,” namely, Austria, Brazil, Denmark, Morocco, Singapore, and my own country, the Republic of Korea. Taking this opportunity, I would like to thank the drafting group of the Committee for their continuous efforts to finalize the draft report.

While digital transformation has brought about profound changes to the lives of individuals and the fabric of society, its opportunities and challenges concerning the promotion, protection, and enjoyment of human rights are not yet fully understood. In this regard, the core group led the adoption of resolution 41/11 in 2019 as a way to raise the Council’s awareness of the need to take a holistic and balanced approach towards digital transformation and human rights. It is very meaningful to see the final draft report mandated by the resolution presented to the Committee today, especially at an opportune time considering the Covid-19 situation.

We appreciate that the report analyzed the broad spectrum of human rights implications of new technologies in a comprehensive manner, hence enhancing our understanding of the impacts and interrelatedness of digital technologies throughout the whole “datafication cycle.” We acknowledge that the report highlighted not only the challenges, risks, and potential bias built into digital technologies but also opportunities such as the empowerment of vulnerable populations in accordance with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. It is also appreciated that the report reflected the core group’s request to map out the United Nation’s existing efforts by including Secretary-General’s high-level Panel on Digital Cooperation and OHCHR’s B-Tech Project, while rightly pointing out the gaps and concerns in the current human rights framework.

In particular, we note with appreciation the report’s concrete recommendations for human rights mechanisms in accommodating new technological changes. The core group will continue its discussions on how these suggestions can be accommodated.

The Committee’s report presented today will be an invaluable source and guidance for the core group in seeking the way forward, including a follow-up resolution. The core group also looks forward to the active engagement and ideas of diverse stakeholders to further the comprehensiveness of this initiative.

I thank you. /END/