

THE REPUBLIC OF

**KOREA**

**PERMANENT MISSION**

1 Avenue de l'Ariana, 1202 Genève

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**Statement by**

**H.E. Ambassador PARK In-kook**

**of the Republic of Korea**

**on**

**Agenda Item 6**

**Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and  
All Forms of Discrimination**

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

**Geneva, March 2005**

Mr. Chairman,

Four years have passed since the Third World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance adopted a Declaration and Programme of Action. Next year, the international community will hold the five-year review of the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

As is well known to us, the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action not only records a solemn commitment by States to work together but also offers a functional common agenda. Hence, renewed efforts, both at the international and national levels, are necessary to fight bias and unequal treatment. Although the primary responsibility for combating racism and racial discrimination lies with states, the international community must engage in more concrete and measurable efforts to eliminate racial discrimination.

In this vein, we welcome the convening of the third session of the working group on the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, which was held in October 2004. We hope that the momentum initiated by the working group will enhance the progress of and contribute to the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

Mr. Chairman,

As the Working Group pointed out when it discussed “racism and the internet”, education and a raising of public awareness, especially of today’s youth, are essential tools for fighting against racism. In this context, we envisage close cooperation between the OHCHR and UNESCO in the implementation of UNESCO’s strategy related to the right to education, human rights education and cultural diversity. We additionally welcome the launching of the World Programme for Human Rights Education in January of this year. With this in

mind, my Government has taken various measures, including publishing relevant human rights education guide books, releasing human rights CDs, and producing human rights movies and animated films which help young people appreciate that all human beings are equal and that differences among human beings enrich our life and civilization.

In addition to promoting education and public awareness, enhancing the judicial system and administrative measures, including the provision of remedies and recourse at the national level, should be introduced and strengthened. Since its establishment in November 2001, the Korean National Human Rights Commission has been in the process of drafting the 'Discrimination Prohibition Act'. In the Act, racial discrimination, hate crimes and related intolerance will be explicitly prohibited. Furthermore, the National Commission is developing the framework for a National Action Plan for Human Rights. According to the Plan, protection of equal rights will be fully guaranteed regardless of one's race, nationality, ethnicity and social status.

A recent example of our efforts in this regard can be found in the Employment Permit System which the Korean government introduced in August 2004. With the implementation of the Employment Permit System, foreign workers are now entitled to enjoy the same legal status stipulated in the related laws for Korean workers. We expect the Employment Permit System to contribute to protecting foreign workers more effectively from discrimination.

Finally Mr. Chairman, once again, my delegation wishes to pay tribute to all those who have worked so hard to eliminate all forms of discrimination around the globe over the past year and to reaffirm the steadfast commitment of my government to this crucial struggle. Thank you.