

THE REPUBLIC OF

KOREA

PERMANENT MISSION

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**Statement by
H.E. CHOI Hyuck
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Korea**

on behalf of the Asian Group

**on Agenda Item 3 – Organization of the Work of the Session
at the 61st Session of the
Commission on Human Rights**

**Geneva
14 March 2005**

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Asian Group under agenda item 3 - Organization of the work of the session.

It is a great privilege and honour for the Asian Group to see you, a fellow Asian, as the Chairperson of the 61st session of the Commission on Human Rights. The member states of the Asian Group assure you of their full support in advancing the work of this session in a most efficient manner. Let me also express the Group's deep appreciation to Ambassador Mike Smith, Chairperson of the 60th session, who demonstrated such outstanding leadership in guiding our work last year.

have full confidence in you and

Mr. Chairman,

The Asian Group is of the view that enhancing the effectiveness of the work of the Commission should be treated as an ongoing process that requires persistent efforts, and, within the broader context of reform initiated by the Secretary General of the UN, the Asian Group hopes that further progress can be made in this session as well. In this regard, I wish to express appreciation for responses of various Groups to the Asian Group's initial discussion paper on enhancing the effectiveness of the special mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights. Our Group looks forward to further constructive discussions of this matter.

Mr. Chairman,

The Asian Group emphasizes the importance of dialogue, consultation and consensus-building as a means of enhancing the effectiveness of the Commission and avoiding counter-productive politicization of its work, especially with respect to agenda item 9. By pursuing consensus, we can expect greater compliance and cooperation on the part of member states and thereby better promote and protect human rights.

In the same vein, the Asian Group reiterates its call for more organized, transparent and wider consultations on all draft resolutions before their introduction. Given the constraints faced by smaller delegations, parallel consultations should be kept to a

minimum and the time slots for informal consultations should be notified sufficiently in advance to ensure as broad participation as possible. The importance of timely distribution of documents in accordance with the relevant ECOSOC resolutions needs to be stressed.

In order to enable us to complete the deliberations on all the agenda items within our allotted time, all participants in the work of the Commission need to cooperate in ensuring effective time management, so that appropriate amount of time can be allocated to each agenda item, including agenda items 5 and 8.

The Asian Group welcomes the participation of NGOs in the Commission's work. The Asian Group believes that maintaining a good atmosphere of dialogue and cooperation between member states and NGOs is essential in ensuring effective participation of NGOs in the work of the Commission. The Asian Group reiterates that the NGOs participating in the Commission should respect the relevant rules and guidelines of the ECOSOC and the Commission, as enunciated by ECOSOC resolution 1996/31 and document E/CN.4/2002/153.

Mr. Chairman,

The member states of the Asian Group are ready to offer you and the other Bureau members their full support in organizing the work of the Commission and are looking forward to cooperating closely with all groups and delegations for a successful conclusion of this session of the Commission.