

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

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The 15th Session of the Human Rights Council <*Check against delivery*>

Advisory Committee

Discussion on Local Government and Human Rights

Geneva, 11 August 2015

**Statement of the Republic of Korea**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

At the outset, my delegation warmly welcomes the final report presented by the distinguished rapporteur Ms. Hoda Elsadda. We would also like to take this opportunity to extend our sincere appreciation to all the members of the drafting group on local government and human rights for sparing no effort to finalize the research on the issue in line with the Council resolutions 24/2 and 27/4.

As Ms. Katharina Pabel, chairperson of the drafting group, already pointed out, we would like to report that Gwangju as a human rights city has been playing an important role in the promotion and protection of human rights at the local level.

Mr. Chairperson,

We commend the Advisory Committee on the progress that it has made since the last session in the further elaboration of key elements and recommendations of the report. In particular, we concur with the Committee’s view that the role and responsibility of central government are critical to enabling local government to implement human rights obligations at both the national and international levels.

Also, as the final report rightly points out, it cannot be overemphasized that civil society has a crucial role to play in promoting and protecting human rights at the local level, especially in close coordination with local government.

Along these lines, we support the Committee’s recommendation that it is necessary to develop guiding principles for local government and human rights, with a view to further clarifying the role of various actors and institutions as well as ensuring better implementation of their human rights activities.

Mr. Chairperson and distinguished members,

It is our sincere hope that the Council and the Committee will continue to build on this final report. Developing the above-mentioned guiding principles will serve as clear example of this. We firmly believe that this report 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/