

THE REPUBLIC OF

KOREA

PERMANENT MISSION

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Statement

by

**H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Republic of Korea**

at

**High-Level Segment
the 1st Session of the Human Rights Council**

**Geneva
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Mr. President, Madam High Commissioner, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

It gives me great honor and pleasure to join you in this historic gathering. I would like to begin by offering you, Mr. President, my sincerest congratulations on your election as President of this, the first Session of the Human Rights Council. I wish you and the members of the Bureau every success as you steer the Council in the founding year.

Mr. President,

With the launching of the Human Rights Council today, human rights has found its proper place as one of the three pillars of the UN's work. The enhanced prominence is the result of the universal acknowledgement that peace and development cannot be fully enjoyed or realized without respect for human rights.

The experience of the Republic of Korea demonstrates that the three pillars of the United Nations, namely, peace and stability, development, and the promotion of human rights and democracy are all mutually reinforcing and interdependent.

We have every expectation that this new body will prove to be stronger, more effective and efficient than its predecessor. In many ways, the work we do this year will be pivotal to the evolution of the Council, and more importantly to the protection of human rights for many generations to come. The significance of our work cannot be understated.

Mr. President,

The Commission on Human Rights left behind a rich legacy that we must build upon. Notwithstanding the criticism that had been levied at the Commission in recent years, its commendable record warrants our deep respect.

For sixty years, the Commission has served to advance human rights around the world by establishing global norms, setting the agenda, identifying challenges, promoting dialogue, assisting in capacity-building, and protecting vulnerable groups against serious human rights violations.

Indeed, for decades since giving humanity the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, the Commission was the home of human rights, and the beacon of hope around the world for greater human dignity and freedom. Undoubtedly, it became fatigued and unable to deliver towards its