

Statement by the Republic of Korea at the Special Event on the
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Thank you, Mr. President

It is indeed our honor and pleasure to join this historically meaningful event here. My delegation specially appreciates Ambassador Don Makay, the Chairperson and Rapporteur of the Ad Hoc Committee and all the participants in the process for their crucial role in contributing to the adoption of the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. With the adoption of the Convention, we believe that the current human rights treaty system will be equipped with a valuable treaty that fills the protection gap in human rights of vulnerable persons in any society and further makes the system complete.

Particularly, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to those in the Committee who supported the inclusion of a separate article on women with disabilities in the Convention, which will make real progress in improving the situation of women with disabilities. My delegation believes that the Korean government has made great contribution to the inclusion of the article through incessant discussions and exchanges of views and comments with other nations in the Committee.

While celebrating the adoption and upcoming signing ceremony of the Convention on March 30 this year, we should not be complacent. Strong enthusiasm shown by all member countries of the United Nations in the discussions of the Ad Hoc Committee must continue if we are to transform the spirit and ideals of the Convention into a reality on the ground.

The Korean Government will sign the Convention in New York on March

30 this year and do its best for facilitating its domestic procedure necessary to ratify the Convention, just as it has striven so earnestly in the drafting and adopting process.

In this vein, the Republic of Korea will host the 7th Disabled Peoples' International World Assembly in September 2007. We hope that many nations will take interest in the meaningful event.

Thank you, Mr. President. End.