



Democratic People's Republic of Korea

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Press Release

Statement by the Delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on Item 56 "Advancement of women"

To the Third Committee of the 63rd session of the UN General Assembly

New York, 14 October, 2008

Mr. Chairperson,

At the outset, the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea would like to congratulate you on your election as Chairperson of this august Committee as well as the members of the Bureau.

I am confident that, under your able stewardship, the Committee will successfully deliberate all issues on its agenda.

My delegation associates itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Antigua and Barbuda, on behalf of the G-77 and China.

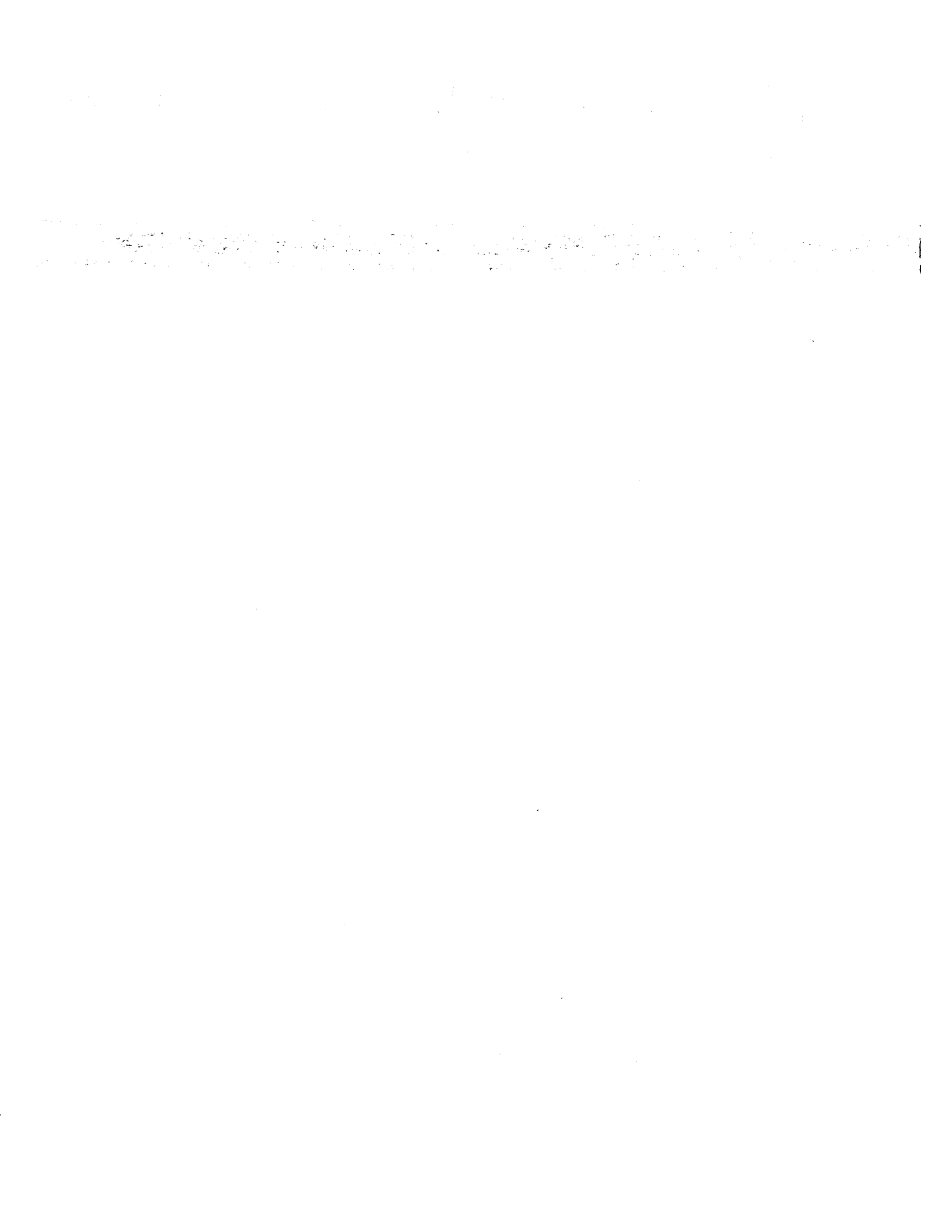
Mr. Chairperson,

In the light of the position and role of women in development of society and history, the intensification of global efforts for eliminating all forms of discrimination against women and achieving their advancement emerges as one of the most pressing and crucial issues to be addressed.

At present, issues related to women's rights, such as elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and realizing gender equality are being debated in the international forum, including the United Nations.

We take it as a positive step forward in the international endeavors to protect and promote genuine human rights.

In that connection, my delegation would like to commend that the documents submitted to the Committee under the agenda item 56 made a relatively clear mention about global efforts and challenges, and recommendations on measures to tackle with the current situation.



The Government of the DPRK stands unshakable in implementing its policies to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and realize gender equality, upholding man-centered Juche ideas, as its guiding principles.

In the DPRK, thanks to the historical Law on Gender Equality promulgated in 1946, women are guaranteed with the same rights as men to participate in all areas of social lives, such as political, economic and cultural.

The Government of the DPRK has constantly reinforced its legal and practical measures to realize gender equality and women's advancement, along with the social development. Today, women in the DPRK fully manifest their rights in all fields of state and social activities, on an equal footing with men.

At the same time, the Government of the DPRK faithfully honored its obligations, as a state party to CEDAW and CRC.

The Government has taken measures to further improve and enhance the function and role of the respective National Coordinating Committees for CEDAW and CRC, thus substantially contributed to the protection and promotion of rights of women and girls.

The Government of the DPRK will further intensify its endeavors for the achievement of women's advancement and improvement of their well-being.

Mr. Chairperson,

In spite of the intensified efforts of the international community for the protection and promotion of women's rights, through the elimination of discrimination and end of violence against women, and providing the opportunities for gender equality, many difficulties and challenges still persist.

In order to overcome these deep-rooted difficulties and challenges and achieve the advancement of women, my delegation asserts that the issues of the past crimes behind the black curtain should be completely resolved. Without clear liquidation of past crimes, the gross violations of women's rights could never be eliminated at present and in the future.

My delegation would like to take this opportunity to mention the issue of "comfort women" for the Japanese imperial army that has been the international focus, as it constitutes the most flagrant contemporary forms of violations against women.

The enforcement of the "comfort women" system by Japan, which drafted 200,000 Korean women to sexual slavery during its occupation of Korea is a crime against humanity and at the same time the most tremendous issue that is to be settled at once and for all.

In the world history, no one can find a record of an army dragging teenage girls to battle

fields, forcing them to sexual slavery.

However, the Japanese authorities not only denied the state responsibility for its crimes, but also refused to make sincere apology and reparation for the victims.

Negating an evident crime is a more serious crime and it is tantamount to an intention to commit the same crime again.

We would like to remind Japan of the fact that even the Parliaments of some western countries adopted resolutions demanding repentance of and apology for the crimes related to “comfort women”.

My delegation urges Japan to face up to the attitudes of other countries that are making sincere apology and reparation for their past crimes even today when half a century has passed since the end of the 2nd World War.

We urge Japan, once again, to settle the issue of “comfort women” without delay.

Thank you