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Universal Periodic Review

Joint written statement* submitted by Korea Center for United Nations Human Rights Policy, Human Rights Now, International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR), MINBYUN - Lawyers for a Democratic Society, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[25 August 2014]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).



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Statement of the Korea Center for United Nations Human Rights Policy (KOCUN)*

1. 2nd Civil Society Forum on Follow-up to the UPR Recommendations in Northeast Asia.

The Korea Center for United Nations Human Rights Policy (KOCUN) organized the 2nd Civil Society Forum on Follow-up to the UPR Recommendations in Northeast Asia on 31 July – 2 August 2014, with financial support from the Voluntary Fund for financial and technical assistance in the implementation of the Universal Periodic Review. Civil society organizations of China/Hong Kong, Japan, Mongolia, and the Republic of Korea gathered to share good practices in the implementation of UPR recommendations, discuss strategies to ensure the implementation of UPR recommendations, and regional cooperation network of civil society organizations.

2. Conclusion of the Forum: Challenges in UPR follow-up

The participant civil society organizations of the Forum jointly pointed out that one of the main reasons for non-implementation of UPR recommendations is the lack of initiative of governments.

We recall the objectives of the UPR as being the improvement of the human rights situation on the ground and the fulfillment of the State's human rights obligations and commitments and assessment of positive developments and challenges faced by the State, as set forth in paragraph 4 (a, b) of the Human Rights Council Resolution 5/1 (A/HRC/RES/5/1), adopted by the UN General Assembly on 22 December 2007 (A/RES/62/219).

We also further to section I of the Annex¹ to Resolution 65/281 on UPR as adopted by the General Assembly (A/RES/65/281) on 20 July 2011 and take note that outcomes of the reviews should be implemented primarily by the State concerned. (paragraph 17)

Governments thereby have obligations to implement UPR recommendations, establish plans for follow-up, and regularly review the status of implementation. In order to achieve this, governments should actively publicize and effectively disseminate UPR recommendations in their national languages, reflect UPR recommendations in the National Plans of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, and engage in substantive consultation with civil society and take their proposals into account when establishing the National Plans of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. However, these obligations have not been well fulfilled. Governments have not shown the initiative to submit mid-term reports to the Human Rights Council and there have not been adequate discussions for the effective national implementation of UPR recommendations. Furthermore, there are issues related to the insufficient financial and human resources to be allocated in concerned ministries for implementation of UPR recommendations.

3. Civil society recommendations for UPR follow-up

In order to ensure that all United Nations Member States are fully accountable for the implementation of UPR recommendations, including in Northeast Asia, we propose to the UN Human Rights Council to adopt a resolution for effective implementation of UPR recommendations, and give the following recommendations to the governments of the United Nations Member States.

3.1. Translate received UPR recommendations into the official language of the country and nationally publicize and disseminate UPR recommendations both at national and local levels through effective and progressive measures and provide support for civil society organizations in dissemination.

3.2. Engage in substantive consultation with civil society for UPR follow-up.

3.3. Ensure the participation of civil society in the process of implementation of UPR recommendations including monitoring.

¹ Annex - Outcome of the review of the work and functioning of the Human Rights Council

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- 3.4. Establish National Plans of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights with substantive consultation and engagement with civil society in the process of its drafting and implementation to ensure that proposals of civil society and UPR recommendations are fully incorporated.
 - 3.5. Submit mid-term evaluation reports on the implementation of UPR recommendations to the Human Rights Council.
 - 3.6. Secure financial and human resources to be allocated in concerned ministries for implementation of UPR recommendations
 - 3.7. Take steps to ensure that the legislative and judicial branches are fully involved in the process of follow-up to UPR recommendations.
 - 3.8. National human rights institutions (NHRIs) should nationally publicize and disseminate UPR recommendations. In addition, NHRIs should closely collaborate with civil society to urge the government to establish plans for the implementation of UPR recommendations, recommend strategies to the government to meet UPR recommendations, and independently monitor the status of implementation.
 - 3.9. Facilitate sharing and exchanges of experiences and best practices at regional and international levels in the follow-up of UPR recommendations.
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* Advocates for Public Interest Law (APIL), E-LOOM - Action for Anti-prostitution and Human Rights, Globe International Center, Joint Movement for NHRI and OP, Justice and Peace Commission of the Hong Kong Catholic Diocese, LGBT Centre of Mongolia, Open Society Forum, Society for Community Organization, Space Allies NGO(s) without consultative status, also share the views expressed in this statement.