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**First Working Session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing  
New York, 18-21 April 2011**

Mr. / Ms. Chair,

My delegation values this opportunity to discuss the ageing issue with the distinguished panelists here today as well as with other Member States. Countries across the world, including the Republic of Korea, face an ageing society as the rate of older people is growing rapidly. In this regard, my delegation welcomes the timeliness of the establishment of the Open Ended Working Group on Ageing, and hopes it will be a valuable opportunity to take stock of where we are, examining what progress has been made thus far, and exploring the ways forward as greater emphasis is placed on the human rights of the elderly.

Mr. / Ms. Chair,

My delegation stands firm in ensuring that the elderly are treated with dignity and respect and receive adequate social, economic, civil, and political protection. In this regard, the Korean Government has been faithfully following the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing of 2002, which calls for special attention to the human rights of the older population. It is vital that we examine the former and other past efforts to promote and protect the rights of older persons, including international and national initiatives, in order to identify the possible gaps and challenges, and recommend further instruments to shed light on this important issue.

We must also keep in mind that the older population is not a homogeneous group, and the experience of ageing and old age vary across many multidimensional factors, such as gender, age, ethnicity, poverty levels, literacy, health status, location, ~~sexual-orientation,~~ etc. Just as women, children, and the disabled have been recognized as distinct groups requiring special care and concern, proper systematic and comprehensive mechanisms should be examined and enhanced to protect the rights of older people.

Mr. / Ms. Chair,

The Republic of Korea is honored to participate in such a meaningful and timely

occasion and hopes that this will pave the way to raise awareness and narrow the existing gaps between the international framework and reality. With further interest to the changing concept and relational dynamics of family, the Korean Government seeks to protect and promote the rights of this rapidly increasing and vulnerable population. My Government will continue to participate in this discussion and related international cooperation, and actively engage in protecting and promoting the rights of older persons.

Thank you. /end/