



# THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Hee-kwon PARK  
Deputy Permanent Representative**

**61<sup>st</sup> Session of the General Assembly**

**EOV on the adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

**13 September 2007**

**New York**

<Check against Delivery>

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Madame President,

1. My government has voted in favour of today's proposed adoption of the "UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples" given our belief that this declaration will become an important milestone for the promotion, protection, and further enhancement of indigenous peoples' rights.
2. This declaration is the outcome of more than 20 years of work by indigenous peoples and member states, including the recent negotiations by the General Assembly at this 61<sup>st</sup> session to address the concerns of all parties.
3. Adoption of this Declaration constitutes a solemn pledge which sends a clear message to the international community for the survival and well-being of indigenous peoples, especially in support of their dwindling culture, language, and their rights to pursue their vision of economic, social and cultural development, among others.
4. Furthermore, the Government of the Republic of Korea hopes that adopting this declaration will contribute to further strengthening the international human rights system as a whole by achieving equality and non-discrimination for all, and especially for marginalized indigenous peoples.

Thank you.