



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA  
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*(check against delivery)*

Mr. President,

First of all, my delegation would like to show our appreciation on the report by the Assistant Secretary General for Human Rights, Mr. Andrew Gilmour.

Mr. President,

Human rights defenders and civil society are integral partners in building good governance, and promoting and protecting human rights. Our delegation expresses our concern that the space for human rights defenders and their activities are shrinking due to political uncertainty and public sentiment, through threats and reprisals.

Especially, for the work of this Council, and the UN, it is essential that witnesses and victims of human rights violations, as well as civil society, document and report on human rights issues. However, the scope and impact of reprisals described in the Secretary General's report seems quite wide and worrisome.

Nevertheless, the report does contain references and cases related to cooperation with a wide range of UN bodies; and an important aspect of the work of the Assistant Secretary General is to work with the UN system to address the issue of reprisals and intimidation against those who cooperate with the UN on human rights.

In this regard, our delegation would like to ask the following questions to Mr. Gilmour:

1. What do you think this Council can do to help you and the Secretary-General work more effectively with States, the UN system, and key stakeholders to address this?
2. What are the challenges and opportunities that you have encountered while working with the UN system on the issue of reprisals and intimidation? And what are your plans to ensure a positive and coherent response by the UN system to acts of intimidation and reprisals?

Thank you, Mr. President. /END/