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**INTEGRATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND THE GENDER
PERSPECTIVE: VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

**Letter dated 1 April 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the
Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations Office
at Geneva addressed to the Chairperson of the Commission
on Human Rights**

I have the honour to enclose herewith the comments* of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the alleged situation of women's rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea contained in the report of Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy, Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences (E/CN.4/2003/75/Add.1), and kindly request you to have them circulated as an official document of the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on Human Rights under agenda item 12 (a).

(Signed): Ri TCHEUL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* Reproduced as received, in the language of submission only.

Annex

Comments on the alleged situation of women's rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea contained in the report of Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy, Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences (E/CN.4/2003/75/Add.1)

The report (E/CN.4/2003/75/Add.1) of Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy, Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, in paragraphs 966 and 967, unfortunately refer to the situation of women's rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in a distorted way based on the unsubstantiated information submitted by an irresponsible non-governmental organization (NGO).

The Government of the DPRK has been systematically ensuring the promotion and protection of women's rights, both legally and practically, through the Constitution providing gender equality and other laws, as well as various measures of social benefits.

The root-cause of violence against women in the DPRK, as alleged by the Special Rapporteur, does not exist at all.

First of all, trafficking in women is prohibited by law and practice as well.

It is true that in mid-1990s there have been some incidents of certain number of our citizens including women and girls illegally transgressing the DPRK-China border to reach the north-eastern part of China in search of food, due to lack of food as a result of continued natural disasters and persistent economic embargo by hostile forces. However, most of those border-transgressors voluntarily return to their native places as the food situation gradually improves thanks to the active measures taken by the Government of the DPRK to increase agricultural production and generous assistance provided by the international humanitarian aid agencies.

The cause of concern in this regard is the fact that certain aliens have been deeply involved in seducing, kidnapping and finally trafficking the DPRK citizens including women and girls at the instigation and with financial support of the anti-DPRK plot organizations and institutions such as "Committee on human rights in North Korea" in the United States, "Fund for relief of North Korean refugees" in Japan, "Citizens alliance on human rights in North Korea" in south Korea and " Droits de l'Homme Sans frontieres" in Belgium etc.

The DPRK authorities concerned are closely cooperating with their counterparts in China to detect and bring to justice those responsible for seducing, kidnapping and trafficking our citizens.

Secondly, it is completely wrong to argue in the report that women in the DPRK are subjected to several methods of torture and forcible abortion in prison or during interrogations.

The information contained in the report can be construed as nothing but fabrications uttered, under forced scenario, by a handful of traitors who the forces hostile to the DPRK have tempted and brainwashed underground into betraying their motherland.

"Christian Solidarity Worldwide", an NGO cited by Special Rapporteur as a source of information, is one of those bogus and plot organizations that have been recruited for unjustifiable purpose of defaming and stifling the DPRK.

For all reasons mentioned above, the Government of the DPRK expresses its deep concern over and resolute rejection to paragraphs 966 and 967 of the report taking up issues, which have been neither confirmed by the Special Rapporteur nor exist in reality.

We reiterate that the vital principles of objectivity and impartiality should be strictly observed in the preparation of reports by Special Rapporteurs.
