

Statement by the Head of DPRK Delegation

Bangkok, 28-30 November 2018

Thank you,

Excellences, distinguished delegates,

At the outset, on behalf of the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, I would like to congratulate you on your election as the Chairman of this session. I am convinced that this meeting will be fruitful under your seasoned chairmanship.

Mr. Chair,

My delegation would like to share some measures that have been taken by the Government for strengthening social protection in the implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

The DPRK Government, guided by the Juche idea centred upon the people, set up a goal to further improve the well-being of the people and strives to ensure that the people fulfill their role as independent and creative human beings.

The laws and policies of DPRK stipulate that the state takes full responsibility of taking care of its people's life and health.

"Five-year Strategic Plan for Health Sector Development, DPRK" 2016-2020 is implemented to achieve the goals set by the National Five-year Strategy for Economic Development.

The 3rd Plenary Meeting of the 7th Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea set forth tasks to build a Country of Education and a Country of Talents, we endeavor to achieve SDG 4.4 (By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship) through modernization of education facilities and improvement of quality of education.

The DPRK executes a policy of ending all forms of discrimination against women and provides legal guarantee for equal rights and freedom. We presented to UN the implementation report

of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women(CEDAW) in 2016, which was reviewed in November 2017. Relevant government agencies are now having consultations on recommendations.

The free compulsory education is provided for all adolescents and young people in the country. The social atmosphere is conducive to the protection of young people and the Foundation Day of Children's Union and Youth Day are celebrated. Educational facilities and public organizations at all levels have a youth league and a women's union which strengthen moral education. In addition, violence against or abuse of children, adolescents and young people is illegal, and considered a crime.

Legal guarantee for the social protection of the elderly is ensured by adoption of the DPRK Law on the Care of the Aged in 2007. The Central Committee of the Korean Federation for the Care of the Aged(KFCA) was formed as a standing mechanism. For the implementation of the Strategic plan 2015-2018, diverse activities are conducted for improved mental and physical health and happier life of the elderly through providing social insurance, medical care service, assistance to elderly homes and elderly people without primary caregivers.

KFCA is planning to develop new strategic plan 2019-2025 on the basis of the assessment of the current strategy implementation, especially to achieve the goals of A Decade of Healthy Ageing 2020-2030 proposed by WHO that seeks to provide mental, social and physical wellbeing in close cooperation with the Ministry of Public Health and other institutions of care for the elderly.

In conclusion, Mr. Chair, the Government and the people of the DPRK are committed to achieving the goal of national Five-year Strategy for Economic Development just to ensure the strengthening of social protection in the implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

Thank you for your attention.