

15 February 1994

Statement by the Delegation of the Republic of Korea
on Item 17

Mr. Chairman,

We attach great importance to the work of the Sub-Commission as the main subsidiary body of the Commission on Human Rights. We appreciate highly what they have achieved for the protection of minorities.

At its forty-fifth session last August, the Sub-Commission focused its attention on the rights of vulnerable groups, such as women, children and indigenous peoples, and adopted various resolutions reflecting these concerns. We certainly welcome the Sub-Commission's initiatives on these issues which are today's priority agenda items for UN human rights activities.

In resolution 1993/24, the Sub-Commission decided to entrust an Expert Member from the US, Mrs. Linda Chavez, as Special Rapporteur, with the task of undertaking an in-depth study on the situation of systematic rape, sexual slavery and slavery like practices during wartime.

My delegation supports this resolution which is now subject to the Commissions endorsement as Draft Decision B.2 entitled "Slavery and Slavery Like Practices During Wartime". It is, we believe, appropriate for the Commission to devote special attention to this matter in light of the repeated violence against women during wartime. This subject has become one of the most serious concerns of the international community.

We take due note of the section of the preparatory document concerning the background for the study submitted by the Special Rapporteur, which is contained in Sub-Commission document E/CN.4/Sub.2/1993/44. In particular we note the reference to the continued deleterious effects suffered by Chinese, Dutch, Filipino, Indonesian and Korean women who were forced into sexual slavery during the Second World War.

My government is prepared to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur in carrying out her mandate in this regard.

Thank you.