Statement by Ambassador Chull-joo Park

Deputy Permanent Representative of Republic of Korea to the United Nations

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Thank you, Mr. President,

My delegation welcomes Mr. Gopinathan Achamkulangare and thanks him for the comprehensive presentation today. His findings and recommendations provide important insights and reference points for efforts that are being undertaken with the aim to improve accessibility at the United Nations. For our part, his report served as very useful basis when developing recommendations of the Steering Committee on Accessibility, which was presented last June.

Mr. President,

I cannot stress enough the importance of accessibility as it is a key precondition for the enjoyment of rights of persons with disabilities, including rights to health, education, and participation in political, public, and cultural life on an equal basis of others. In this sense, the United Nations must lead by example by ensuring accessibility to its premises, conference and meetings, as well as information and communications. Steering Committee on Accessibility, which I have had the honor to serve as Co-chair with Ambassador Webson of Antigua and Barbuda, presented 14 concrete recommendations to enhance accessibility, and is working towards implementing them.

As one of key recommendations, the Committee worked with other Member States

to introduce accessible seating for delegates with disabilities at UN meetings through the resolution 73/341 on the revitalization of GA, and it is being implemented from the 74th Session of GA. We are also working to explore "wayfinding" technology to provide step-by-step direction at the UNHQ and introducing accessibility clause in the registration form. I believe these measures are very much in line with recommendations suggested by Mr. Achamkulangare.

Mr. President, I would like to close my remarks with a question to Mr. Achamkulangare: what would be the most important factor to consider in order to make your recommendations into reality? I thank you.   /END/