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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
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**IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 60/251
OF 15 MARCH 2006 ENTITLED “HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL”**

**Letter dated 8 June 2007 addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council by the
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea
to United Nations Office in Geneva**

I present my compliments to you and, with regard to the planned discussion of country-specific mandates as part of institution-building at the fifth session of the Human Rights Council, 11-18 June, I have the honour to refer to the principled position of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea on the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

As clearly stated several times, we resolutely and categorically reject the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and, in this light, draw your attention once again to the following well-known facts.

First, the “resolution” on the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, which is a source of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, represents an extreme manifestation of politicization, selectivity and double standards.

The “resolution” is nothing but a product of conspiracy by the United States of America, Japan and European Union member States aimed at eliminating the State and social system of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

It is not a secret that human rights had always served as one of the major tools in the implementation of these countries’ strategies against the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

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In 2003 alone, when the “resolution” on the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea was first adopted, the United States of America and its allies put all sorts of pressure upon our country in January as the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea withdrew from the Non-Proliferation Treaty to safeguard itself against ever-increasing threats of aggression by the United States. And as an extension of this, these States went so far as to initiate and force the adoption of the “resolution” on the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea at the fifty-ninth session of the former Commission on Human Rights, in March and April 2003.

At that time, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and the European Union had been engaged since June 2001 in an excellent process of bilateral dialogue and cooperation in the area of human rights, and full preparations were under way for consideration of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea’s reports on its implementation of international human rights instruments.

Ultimately, the “resolution” was motivated by impure political and strategic objectives.

Second, adoption of this “resolution” was enforced through a plot.

The draft “resolution” was treated as top-secret at all stages, from its initiation to drafting. It was tabled in the form of a surprise raid shortly before voting, in complete disregard of such traditional international practices as prior notice to and consultation with the State party concerned.

The sponsors of the “resolution” themselves acknowledged this.

With voting just ahead, the United States, Japan and European Union member States constantly resorted to lobbies in order to coerce individual countries into supporting the draft “resolution”, pressing, threatening and blackmailing them.

If the sponsors of the draft “resolution” did not pursue ulterior political purposes at all, why did they rely on such a despicable and tricky back-door approach?

Since the point of departure of the draft “resolution” was wrong, it was inevitable that the whole process of its adoption was accompanied by plots, tricks and high-handedness.

Third, it is preposterous and unjust to insist on maintaining the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea simply because he had to present a report to the sixty-second session of the General Assembly.

Pursuant to the General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, all mandates of Special Rapporteurs, including the one on the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, must be reviewed with a view to determining whether to maintain or terminate them, and this review is still going on, even at this moment.

However, the adoption of the draft “resolution” was forced through the General Assembly in December 2006, asking the Special Rapporteur on the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea to submit a report to the Assembly this year, while deliberately ignoring the reality of the ongoing review of mandates in the Human Rights Council.

In this, the “resolution” made a mistake by imprudently prejudging the outcome of the review, which has not yet been completed in the Human Rights Council, thus resulting in a wanton breach of the established systems and regulations.

Consequently, and more seriously, only the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea has been forcibly singled out in a selective manner to remain as a target.

Generated by political prejudice, this constitutes a practice of politicization, selectivity and double standards, infringing upon the sovereignty of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea in violation of the internationally recognized principles of impartiality and universality.

Any decision in the Human Rights Council based on this illegitimate “resolution” will also remain illegitimate and unjust as well.

Herein lies one of the reasons why we reject the “arguments” insisted upon by those in favour of maintaining the mandate on the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

If not blocked, this situation will cause further complications, which will eventually lead to confrontation.

We do not want confrontation but, if imposed, will resolutely face it.

It is at present a unanimous desire of the international community to oppose the politicization of human rights.

In conformity with this, action-oriented measures should be taken at the fifth session of the Human Rights Council to terminate politicized country-specific mandates, including the one on the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

I would be grateful if you could circulate this letter as an official document of the fifth session of the Human Rights Council under agenda item 2.

Signed: **RI TCHEUL**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
