



**Address to the 135th Assembly of the IPU
by Mr. Ri Jong Hyok, Head of the Delegation
of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea**

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to congratulate you on the assumption of the chair of the 135th Assembly of the IPU and I am looking forward to your leadership which would bring about a successful outcome of this Assembly.

Protection of human rights is one of the most sensitive and important issues for each and every country and a number of resolutions have been adopted on this issue at the international forums including the UN and the IPU.

Nevertheless, despite sincere efforts made by the international community, violation of human rights and human rights disasters are ceaselessly taking place and they result in aggravation of confrontation and disputes among nations and civilizations, and the world peace and security and the peoples' right to existence are being gravely threatened.

There is a serious lesson we learn from severe human rights situations in many of the developing countries whose sovereignty was infringed upon by the aggression, interference and unilateral sanctions by imperialist powers including the United States; that is, human rights are inseparable from the state sovereignty.

I avail myself of this sacred stage of the IPU to mention that the unprecedented

political and economic sanctions imposed on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) by the United States are equivalent to a mass murder crime whose aim is to deny and obliterate the rights to existence of the Korean nation as a whole.

The DPRK is a people-centered socialist state guided by the Juche Idea that considers man as the most valuable being, where the entire population enjoys human rights to the fullest in all fields of politics, economy and culture.

Thanks to the policy of priority, respect and love for the people pursued by the respected Comrade **Kim Jong Un**, chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK, the Korean people are living in the real paradise of human rights unimaginable in any other part of the world.

Even at this very moment when the U.S. is deploying colossal military forces in the Korean peninsula targeting at the DPRK, the soldiers of the Korean People's Army are waging a war against the Nature for the people's happiness in the northern areas of the country seriously hit by natural disasters.

The hostile forces like the U.S. whose national policy is hostility towards the DPRK are now clinging to vicious sanctions and despicable "human rights" rackets because they know that it is by no means possible to collapse my country by military forces.

Taking issue with the DPRK's self-defensive measures and its peaceful launch of artificial satellite, the U.S. fabricated so called "resolutions" which are not within the capacity of the UNSC in an attempt to escalate sanctions against the DPRK while blackmailing other countries to cut off their regular political and economic exchange with the DPRK.

They are even blocking the import of sports-related facilities into the DPRK which have nothing to do with military purpose and refusing to render the inter-bank payment service for the DPRK's membership contribution to the IPU.

However, no sanction, no blockade or no foul plot can frighten the Korean people or tarnish the image of the DPRK consistently progressing for the promotion of

genuine human rights.

Taking this opportunity to strongly condemn in the name of my delegation the harsh sanctions imposed upon other members of the IPU including Cuba, Iran, Syria, Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo by the United States, I would like to make statements concerning the human rights issue.

In order to correctly address human rights issue in line with international justice and present reality, it is particularly important to firmly maintain the principles of respect for state sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs in the international relations.

The U.S. and other hegemonic powers' maneuvers such as violation of sovereignty, regime change and interference in internal affairs are being conducted in various parts of the world under the signboard of human rights protection, but they only serve to jeopardize the global peace and security and make human rights issue even more complicated.

Independent rights of the popular masses as social beings can be guaranteed only by the sovereign state power and nothing in the world can justify the infringement upon the state sovereignty in any case.

It is also necessary to resolutely reject politicization, double standard and selectivity in addressing human rights issue.

Silence is being kept about the terrible human rights situation in the U.S. where murder of black people takes place in succession as well as the high-handedness of the big powers that spawned the tragic refugee issue, while the independent states are groundlessly being demonized as human rights violators only because they stand against the arbitrary practices of the U.S. are being demonized as human rights abusers and criminals. This reality provokes serious concerns among the international community.

The 17th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement held in Venezuela in September adopted the final document reflecting the unanimous

desire of the 120 member states, in which special stress was given on the principle of opposing and rejecting politicization, double standard and selectivity in addressing human rights issue.

Peoples of all countries that defend independence and love justice and peace should adhere to the principles of self-reliance and self-development to build up their own strength for guaranteeing their sovereignty while strengthening unity and solidarity among nations to make a joint counterattack upon the hegemonic powers' moves to abuse human rights issue for their wicked political purpose.

The DPRK will defend its people-centered socialist paradise which is the life and soul of the Korean people at all cost under the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea guided by respected Comrade **Kim Jong Un** and make substantial contribution to the struggle of the progressive mankind for world peace and security and human rights, thereby fulfilling its international mission and responsibility.

Thank you.