The Government of the Republic of Korea's Response for Information on Open-ended intergovernmental working group on an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

1. [Public Early childhood Care and Education]

Before entering the elementary school, infants and young child are provided with public child care services and early childhood education in the daycare centers and kindergartens.

- For children aged 0 to 2, child care is provided free of charge.

  ※ Relevant Law: *Child Care Act*, Article 34 (Child Care without Compensation)

  (1) The State and local governments shall provide child care without compensation, on condition that the details and scope thereof prescribed by Presidential Decree.

- For children aged 3 to 5, a national-level common curriculum (Nuri curriculum) is provided, and in accordance with the *Early Childhood Education Act*, three years of early childhood education prior to entering elementary school is provided free of charge within its budgetary limits.

  ※ Relevant Law: *Early Childhood Education Act*, Article 24(Free Education)

  (1) Early childhood education for three years immediately before the enrollment to an elementary school shall be provided free of charge; and the details and scope of free education shall be prescribed by Presidential Decree.

2. [Recognition of the Right of Free Elementary Education and Secondary Education]

Under the *Constitution* and the *Framework Act on Education*, six years of elementary education and three years of lower secondary education are designated as free and compulsory education.

- In addition, expenses necessary for the education at general high schools and technical high schools, such as tuition, class fees, school operation support fees, and textbook purchase costs, are also provided free of charge.

  ※ Relevant Law: *Constitution*, Article 31

  (2) All citizens who have children to support shall be responsible at least for their elementary education and other education as provided by Act.

  (3) Compulsory education shall be free of charge.

  ※ Relevant Law: *Framework Act on Education*, Article 8(Compulsory Education)

  (1) Compulsory education shall be elementary education for six years and secondary education for three years.

  (2) Every citizen shall have a right to receive the compulsory education referred in paragraph (1).

※ Relevant Law: *Elementary and Secondary Education Act,* Article 10-2(Free High School Education)

(1) The following expenses necessary for education at high schools and high technical schools under subparagraph 3 of Article 2 and all types of schools equivalent thereto shall be covered free of charge:

1. Admission fees;
2. Tuition fees;
3. School operation support funds;
4. Expenses for purchasing textbooks;

(2) These costs shall be borne by the State and local governments, and the founder and manager of a school shall not collect the expenses from the students and their guardians. /End/