The UN Special Rapporteur (UNSR) on the situation of Human Rights Defenders, Ms. Margaret Sekaggya presented her report on her recent mission to the Republic of Korea. In the report, the UNSR praised the Republic of Korea's laudable progress in establishing a robust, consolidated democracy while echoing a number of concerns raised by civil society about ongoing, unwarranted restrictions on the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, etc.

The event will provide a unique opportunity for a dialogue with human rights defenders in Asia with different country settings to discuss innovative means to create a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders. Underscoring the situation in the Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka, the event will also offer a key occasion to discuss viable opportunities to ensure effective implementation at the national level of the last year's landmark Human Rights Council resolution, “Protecting Human Rights Defenders” (A/HRC/RES/22/6).

Ms. Margaret Sekaggya
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders

Mr. Youngsoug Chang
Chairperson, International Solidarity Committee, Minbyun-Lawyers for a Democratic Society

Ms. Nimalka Fernando
President, International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR)

Chaired by Ms. Renate Bloem
UN Representative of CIVICUS-World Alliance for Citizen Participation