



THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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United Nations 63rd General Assembly

Agenda Item: Advancement of Women

October 14, 2008

New York

<Check against Delivery>

Mr. Chairman,

“Who answers to women: gender and accountability,” is the title of the recent publication by UNIFEM. It rightly emphasizes accountability of the state and society for transforming gender equality and empowerment of women into real actions. First and foremost, states should take all necessary measures to carry out their accountability by expanding women’s participation in the decision-making process and carefully considering gender-sensitive budgets and policies.

My delegation fully agrees with the key message of the Report, that gender equality and empowerment of women constitute the central elements for promoting and protecting the universal value of human rights, achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals, and ultimately guaranteeing international peace and security.

Against this backdrop, the Government of the Republic of Korea fully supports the establishment of a new gender architecture in line with the UN reform of “system-wide coherence.” My government has high

expectations for the upcoming UN Secretary-General's detailed report on "Composite Entity" with well-substantiated suggestions. We look forward to a new UN entity to be led by the Under-Secretary-General, which will play a strong role with authority in integrating gender perspectives into all UN agendas, as well as increasing the effectiveness of gender-related policy implementation in the UN system in a more comprehensive and strategic way. The new entity should be adequately equipped with human as well as financial resources.

Mr. Chairman,

We must also exert every effort to address emerging challenges such as the migrant women workforce, female refugees, and other groups of women that remain under the poverty line. Violence against women is another pressing global issue that must be tackled globally. In this vein, my delegation highly values the strong leadership and initiative of the Secretary General in launching the Global Campaign to end violence against women this February. We look forward to a comprehensive action plan to implement the campaign. My delegation also fully supports the activities of the Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women and UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict, respectively. The Republic of Korea welcomes the adoption of Security Council landmark resolution 1820 which calls for the immediate and complete halt of sexual violence in conflict zones. We also recognize the progress of the "Say No to Violence Campaign" conducted by UNIFEM and encourage all Member States and civil society to join the "Say No" campaign.

In the course of open debate in the Security Council and the General Assembly regarding sexual violence against women, my delegation consistently expressed its concern at the alarming intensity and severity of sexual violence in armed conflict, which, under certain circumstances, has been exercised in the form of systematic rape and sexual slavery. My delegation continues to condemn the appalling acts of such crimes.

These crimes constitute the most brutal violations of dignity and the universal value of human rights. States must do their utmost to end such crimes against humanity, not only by taking all measures to protect women and girls in armed conflict, but also by prohibiting impunity, thereby bringing those offenders to justice and eliminating continuous violence against women.

Mr. Chairman,

In accordance with the Agreed Conclusion on Financing for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women at the Fifty-second Session of the Commission on the Status of Women in 2008, the Government of the Republic of Korea has taken prompt actions to formulate a gender-sensitive budget policy in 2010 at the national level. At the international level, my government has gradually increased financial contributions to the UNIFEM and other relevant Funds fighting violence against women.

In addition to the full consideration given to gender perspective in domestic laws, institutions and practices, the Republic of Korea has been strongly committed to mainstream gender equality through redressing an imbalance in household responsibilities that women and men assume. As a part of these efforts, the Korean government has conducted an analysis from a "Time-Use Survey," which tracks the number of hours spent in unpaid domestic work. Based on the survey, various policy actions have been taken to foster equal sharing of domestic responsibilities between women and men.

Mr. Chairman,

Finally my delegation expresses its commitment to full cooperation with the United Nations and its member states in the efforts to realize the full-fledged status of gender equality around the world. Thank you.