

The Second National Action Plan of the Republic of Korea for the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security

I. Introduction

The international community recognized an urgent need to address violence against women in armed conflict, having witnessed systematic rape committed on a massive scale in conflict zones in the 1990s. Recognizing that systematic violence against women during armed conflict constitutes a major threat to the peace and security of the international community, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (UNSCR 1325) in 2000.

UNSCR 1325 and its subsequent, related resolutions* call for member states to do the followings: integrate a gender perspective into conflict prevention and post-conflict peacebuilding activities; increase participation of women in the decision-making process of conflict resolution; protect women from sexual violence in conflict-affected areas; and provide special training to peacekeepers serving overseas regarding the protection of women and girls.

* UNSCRs: Resolution 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013), 2122 (2013), 2242 (2015)

The Republic of Korea (ROK) remains the only divided nation in the world under the Armistice Agreement since the Korean War, and is an active contributor to both development cooperation and peacekeeping operations. Given such national context, establishment of a national action plan on UNSCR1325 – designed to protect women during armed conflict and define their substantial and active roles in peace and security – bears significant relevance and symbolic importance for the ROK.

The ROK aspires to achieve sustainable development in which it seeks to promote the agenda on women, peace and security. Acknowledging the importance of women's roles and participation therein, the ROK is bolstering gender mainstreaming policies to ensure equal participation and full involvement by women and men in key national policy areas including national defense, peace, unification and foreign affairs. Korea also experienced violence against women and infringement of human rights during World War II as illustrated by the sufferings of the so-called "comfort women" caused by the Japanese Imperial Army. Against this backdrop, the ROK reiterates its commitment to strengthening prevention of sexual violence against women during armed conflict and protection of victims by raising awareness and profile of issues at home and abroad, concerning sexual violence in times of conflict.

II. National Action Plan of the Republic of Korea

Under the National Action Plan (NAP), the ROK government seeks to put forth a comprehensive framework for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and its subsequent related resolutions. The NAP, through the establishment of integrated policies, aims to widen the participation and roles of women in the course of prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, and to more effectively safeguard the human rights of women during armed conflict. Moreover, the NAP provides pre-deployment training for the personnel taking part in the UN Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) to enhance their understanding of gender equality, local culture and religions, and to eradicate violence against women.

1. Establishment and Implementation Progress

In 2012, the ROK government embarked on the formulation of a pan-governmental national action plan by means of a resolution adopted by the National Assembly (February 2012), which called for the establishment of a national action plan on

UNSCR 1325. The Government then finalized the first NAP (2014-2017) in May 2014.

This was the first action plan prepared by the ROK on the resolution by the UN Security Council, which improved gender perspectives in the area of peace and security while reaffirming the essential role of women in the process of conflict prevention and peacebuilding. It also marked the beginning of government-wide policies for realizing gender mainstreaming.

Nevertheless, opportunities for improvement were identified with regard to expanding the scope of areas relating to women, peace and security, and the awareness thereof, as well as strengthening participation from civil society and the foundation for implementation. In response, the Government sought to bring diverse views into the second NAP by reflecting the feedback provided by civic groups during the implementation of the first NAP, gathering opinions from relevant government ministries, civil society and academia in the course of drafting the second NAP whilst organizing a public hearing. Moreover, the Government believed that a more systematic and strategic national action plan on UNSCR1325 was called for in the second cycle, and thus, added an area for Implementation and Monitoring to reinforce the foundation for implementation.

The Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (MOGEF), as a main implementation agency for the first NAP, led a government-wide effort to draft the second NAP in close cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Ministry of Justice (MOJ), Ministry of National Defense (MND), Ministry of Unification (MOU), Ministry of the Interior and Safety (MOIS), Ministry of Education (MOE), the Korean National Police Agency (KNPA) and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

2. Objectives and Strategies

The second NAP of the ROK comprises twelve objectives and subsequent strategies in five areas: Prevention, Participation, Protection, Relief and Recovery, and Implementation and Monitoring.

3. Implementation and Monitoring

The Second National Action Plan of the ROK defines twelve objectives with strategies followed by concrete actions of the relevant ministries/agencies. To ensure effective implementation and monitoring of the NAP, inter-agency meetings will be held twice a year in which all relevant ministries and agencies participate with civil experts present.

In the course of implementing the NAP, the Government will step up direct engagement with civil society and promote public-private governance. Furthermore, the Government remains committed to refining the overall objectives, strategies and action items of the NAP in consultation with civil society three years after its launch.

Prevention

1. Raise awareness of women, peace and security and enhance capacity for personnel working in the areas of conflict prevention and peacebuilding

Strategy	1.1. Build capacity in areas of women, peace and security for peacekeeping operation (PKO) personnel	Implementing Ministry/Agency
Action	1) Operate education programs on gender equality and sexual violence prevention, and integrative training on women, peace and security for all PKO personnel prior to deployment	MND
	2) Offer education programs on gender equality and sexual violence prevention and integrative training on women, peace and security on a regular basis in the ROK contingent	
	3) Strengthen the reporting of human rights violation cases in the ROK contingent	
	4) Increase the ratio of female personnel in UN PKO	
	5) Increase the share of female police officers in UN PKO	KNPA
Strategy	1.2. Enhance capacity of personnel dispatched for development cooperation	Implementing Ministry/Agency
Action	1) Conduct pre-departure training for World Friends Korea (WFK) participants on gender responsiveness and sexual violence prevention	KOICA
	2) Broaden the perspectives of women, peace and security in the gender-based integrated training materials for the WFK participants	
	3) Implement education programs on gender sensitivity and sexual violence prevention for the employees at KOICA overseas offices	
Strategy	1.3. Strengthen conflict-prevention capabilities through education	Implementing Ministry/Agency
Action	1) Incorporate women, peace and security issues into sexual violence prevention education for all soldiers, military personnel and civil servants	MND
	2) Develop and implement standard education materials on women, peace and security	
Strategy	1.4. Improve effectiveness of sexual violence prevention system in military units	Implementing Ministry/Agency
Action	1) Establish a comprehensive plan to prevent sexual violence in military units and monitor its implementation	MND
	2) Carry out periodic, on-site inspection of sexual violence prevention measures in military units	
	3) Build job competencies of the dedicated personnel for sexual violence prevention	

Prevention 2. Expand the scope of a gender responsive approach in the areas of national defense, security, peace, unification and disaster/crisis prevention

Strategy	2.1. Bolster gender education for personnel in the areas of national defense, security, peace, unification and disaster prevention	Implementing Ministry/Agency
Action	1) Incorporate women, peace and security issues into personnel training programs for ministries related to national defense, security, peace and unification and disaster prevention	MND MOU MOFA MOIS
	2) Develop and distribute UNSCR 1325 content for gender education	MOGEF
Strategy	2.2. Reinforce implementation of gender impact assessment and gender-responsive budgeting in the areas of national defense, foreign affairs, peace and unification	Implementing Ministry/Agency
Action	1) Implement gender impact assessment and gender-responsive budgeting that are aligned with ministry-specific goals	MND MOFA MOU MOGEF
	2) Strengthen linkage between the outcomes of gender impact assessments and gender-responsive budget projects in the areas of national defense, security, peace and unification	
Strategy	2.3. Integrate gender perspectives in unification and foreign policies	Implementing Ministry/Agency
Action	1) Expand gender perspectives in the establishment and improvement of major basic plans such as the Basic Plan for the Development of Inter-Korean Relations	MOFA MOU MOGEF
	2) Ensure gender perspectives in the formulation of the implementation plan of the Basic Plan for International Development Cooperation and in the identification of related projects	
Strategy	2.4. Broaden gender perspectives in national emergency preparedness planning	Implementing Ministry/Agency
Action	1) Provide wider coverage of content relating to the protection of women during wartime in the National Emergency Preparedness Plan	MOGEF MOIS
	2) Consult with relevant agencies and officials on policies related to the protection of women to maintain ministerial links at all levels regarding the National Emergency Preparedness Plan	MOIS MOGEF
	3) Reflect a guideline in sub-operational plans for the protection of and damage relief for women during wartime	MOGEF

Prevention 3. Scale up activities for women, peace and security through international cooperation

Strategy	3.1. Build a prevention system at the international organization level	Implementing Ministry/Agency
Action	1) Actively engage in meetings on women’s rights, make supportive remarks on women, peace and security issues and cooperate with related UN Human Rights Mechanism	MOFA
	2) As a member of the UN Human Rights Council (2016-2018), support resolutions related to women, peace and security and cooperate with the Special Procedures of the HRC with regard to the implementation of their mandates related to gender equality and the prevention of sexual violence	
	3) Make remarks on women, peace and security issues and carry out cooperative activities in international conferences related to trafficking in persons, including the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)	MOJ
	4) Implement actively the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime	
	5) Support activities on women, peace and security led by domestic and international NGOs in international conferences	MOFA MOGEF
Strategy	3.2. Intensify regional cooperation for conflict prevention	Implementing Ministry/Agency
Action	1) Deliver remarks on women, peace and security and conduct cooperative activities at a regional level, including the ASEAN Committee on Women +3	MOGEF
Strategy	3.3. Support UN programs for gender-responsive peacebuilding	Implementing Ministry/Agency
Action	1) Support UNSCR 1325 and its subsequent resolutions and share experience of devising the NAP	MOFA
	2) Support and participate in UN's efforts to protect women during armed conflict and to secure women’s participation in the peace process	
	3) Consider assigning a portion of the ROK’s financial contributions to the UN to women, peace and security programs	MOGEF

Prevention 4. Raise public awareness of women, peace and security

Strategy	4.1. Raise and promote public awareness of women, peace and security	Implementing Ministry/Agency
Action	1) Support education programs of primary and secondary schools to ensure that interdisciplinary learning for women, peace and security is deployed across overall school activities	MOE
	2) Launch a nationwide campaign to raise awareness of women, peace and security	MOGEF
	3) Conduct intensive campaigns on women, peace and security in conjunction with Gender Equality Week and Violence Against Women Prevention Week	
	4) Support national and international civic organizations for their campaigns on women, peace and security	

Participation 5. Ensure broader participation by women in the areas of national defense, security, peace and unification

Strategy	5.1. Increase women's representation in the decision-making process for key policies	Implementing Ministry/Agency
Action	1) Achieve 40 percent quota of female members in government committees related to national defense, unification and foreign affairs	MND MOU MOFA
	2) Increase the ratio of female senior officials in the areas of national defense, unification and foreign affairs	
	3) Empower women in the areas of national defense, unification and foreign affairs	
	4) Identify and enhance representation of women in the areas of national defense, unification and foreign affairs	
Strategy	5.2. Promote women's participation and foster female specialists for peaceful unification	Implementing Ministry/Agency
Action	1) Enhance women's representation in government delegations to inter-Korean negotiations and six-party talks, etc. and cultivate female specialists for working-level processes	MOU
	2) Identify joint agendas regarding inter-Korean women exchanges in the private sector and support women's participation in exchange and cooperation	
	3) Operate programs for women's participation at the Center for Unified Korean Future	
Strategy	5.3. Promote women's participation to foster international peace	Implementing Ministry/Agency
Action	1) Render support for Korean women's advancement into international organizations related to women, peace and security	MOFA

Participation 6. Promote public-private governance in the areas of national defense, security, peace and unification

Strategy	6.1. Strengthen cooperation with civil society organizations in the areas of national defense, security, peace and unification	Implementing Ministry/Agency
Action	1) Build and operate a consultative mechanism with civic groups for policy-making in the areas of national defense and unification	MND MOU
	2) Scale up cooperation with civic groups with regard to women, peace and security policies in the areas of national defense, unification and foreign affairs	MND MOU MOFA

Protection 7. Provide support for victims of sexual violence in conflict

Strategy	7.1. Facilitate assistance and commemoration projects for the victims, so-called “comfort women”, during Japan’s Imperial Occupation of Korea	Implementing Ministry/Agency
Action	1) Provide continuous support for the stabilization of the victims’ livelihood	MOGEF
	2) Designate a commemorative day for the victims and carry out projects to remember them	
	3) Widen the scope of commemoration projects to restore the honor and human dignity of the victims	

Strategy	7.2. Continue international efforts to restore the honor and human dignity of the “comfort women”	Implementing Ministry/Agency
Action	1) Provide support for NGOs’ international activities concerning the victims	MOGEF
	2) Strengthen support for the victims in the international context	MOFA

Strategy	7.3. Provide support for foreign women victimized by forced prostitution	Implementing Ministry/Agency
Action	1) Conduct joint inspections by ministries, municipalities and agencies on human rights violations and provide remedy for female Hotel and Adult Entertainment (E-6-2) visa holders working in foreigners entertainment facilities	MOGEF

Protection 8. Extend support for sexual violence victims in the military

Strategy	8.1. Strengthen support for sexual violence victims in the military	Implementing Ministry/Agency
Action	1) Install a unit dedicated to addressing sexual violence cases 2) Bolster the independence and expertise of counselors (external experts) for sexual violence issues	MND
Strategy	8.2. Impose stricter punishment on sexual violence cases in the military	Implementing Ministry/Agency
Action	1) Revise sentencing guidelines and relevant laws for a stricter punishment of sex offenders 2) Rigorously enforce punishment standards on sex offenders based on the zero tolerance policy	MND

Protection 9. Deliver support for DPRK women defectors and refugees

Strategy	9.1. Provide support for DPRK women defectors and refugees	Implementing Ministry/Agency
Action	1) Offer counseling programs, medical and legal support, etc. to DPRK women defectors who have fallen victim to human trafficking, forced prostitution, sexual violence and domestic violence 2) Support the employment and self-reliance of DPRK women defectors	MOGEF MOU
Strategy	9.2. Improve treatment of refugees in the ROK	Implementing Ministry/Agency
Action	1) Increase support for the employment and self-reliance of refugees, such as vocational training and Korean language lessons 2) Consider establishing measures for supporting female refugees within the working-level consultative body for resettlement under the Refugee Treatment Consultation Committee	MOJ

Relief and Recovery 10. Lay the foundation for development cooperation from the perspective of women, peace and security

Strategy	10.1. Expand gender perspectives in development cooperation policies and projects	Implementing Ministry/Agency
Action	1) Provide guidelines for integrating gender perspectives in development cooperation projects led by local governments and central ministries/agencies	KOICA
	2) Actively leverage the OECD/DAC gender marker	
	3) Employ consulting services to reflect gender perspectives in the process of project planning, selection and implementation	
	4) Ensure incorporating gender perspectives in the project assessment and evaluation categories	
	5) Include gender education in the curricula of international development cooperation and link it to KOICA ODA certificate examinations	
Strategy	10.2. Reflect elements of women, peace and security in ODA projects	Implementing Ministry/Agency
Action	1) Expand the focus of women and peace in humanitarian assistance	MOFA KOICA
	2) Integrate the perspectives of women and peace into humanitarian aid (Increase support for conflict areas, focus on refugees and girls)	

Relief and Recovery 11. Reinforce women's participation and protective support in development cooperation in conflict areas

Strategy	11.1. Scale up assistance for women's economic and social participation through development cooperation	Implementing Ministry/Agency
Action	1) Operate capacity development programs to boost women's economic and social participation, and expand programs that reflect the perspectives of women, peace and security in post-conflict reconstruction states	KOICA
	2) Increase the quota for women participants in KOICA fellowship programs	
	3) Strengthen lectures on gender and development for KOICA fellowship programs	
	4) Include more post-conflict reconstruction states in KOICA fellowship programs	

Strategy	11.2. Promote the empowerment of women in conflict-affected/fragile areas	Implementing Ministry/Agency
Action	1) Render support to boost participation of local women when implementing projects in fragile areas	KOICA
	2) Carry out projects in fragile areas to prevent violence against women, such as forced prostitution, and to enhance the empowerment of women	
	3) Continue supporting development cooperation projects and capacity building by civic organizations related to gender equality and gender responsiveness in conflict areas	
	4) Extend support to increase social participation of women in conflict areas or in countries in the process of democratic transition	MOGEF KOICA
Strategy	11.3. Link government's peace initiatives with development cooperation	Implementing Ministry/Agency
Action	1) Offer technical assistance for the monitoring of electoral management capacity and the establishment of legal and administrative systems, etc. during the transitional period of government establishment	KOICA

Implementation and Monitoring

12. Solidify the foundation for implementation

Strategy	12.1. Strengthen the policy implementation capacity of government officials in the areas of women, peace and security	Implementing Ministry/Agency
Action	1) Boost the implementation capacity of civil servants in charge of women, peace and security	All
	2) Bolster the policy implementation capacity of senior officials in the areas of women, peace and security	All excluding KOICA
Strategy	12.2. Build the foundation for stronger implementation in the areas of women, peace and security	Implementing Ministry/Agency
Action	1) Provide legal frameworks for more effective policy implementation in the areas of women, peace and security	MOGEF
	2) Hold civic advisory committee meetings to review the implementation of policies for women, peace and security at a regular interval	

Strategy	12.3. Reinforce the implementation capacity of the National Action Plan	Implementing Ministry/Agency
Action	1) Lay the basis for empirical research and analysis concerning women, peace and security	MOGEF
	2) Publish an annual implementation report	All
	3) Accumulate data relating to women, peace and security	MOGEF
	4) Establish links with CEDAW and other international monitoring systems	