

A. Introduction

The international community recognized the urgent need to pay special attention to violence against women during armed conflict after its experience of mass systematic rape in conflict areas in the 1990s. It has made efforts to address such violence against women by establishing a series of international norms including the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (1993), the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995), and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (1998).

In 2000, with the recognition that systematic violence against women in armed conflict poses a major threat to international peace and security, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (UNSCR1325) to protect women and girls from violence during armed conflict and promote women's participation in conflict resolution and the peacebuilding process.

UNSCR 1325 calls for Member States to integrate gender perspectives into conflict prevention and the peacebuilding process; increase participation of women at all levels of decision-making in the conflict resolution process; protect women from sexual violence during armed conflict; and provide special training to peacekeepers regarding the protection of women and girls.

UNSCR 1325 reflects an evolution of the concept of "security" in the international community. While in the past, primary focus had been on national security, the scope of security concerns has now been expanded to include those of individuals. Such broadening of the concept of security has contributed to the inclusion of women and gender equality issues in the security agenda.

With the establishment of the National Action Plan, the Government of the Republic of Korea (ROK) aims to provide a comprehensive framework for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and its subsequent, related resolutions. The Action Plan represents the ROK's government-wide efforts to institutionalize and coordinate policies in order to promote women's participation and expand their roles in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding, as well as to better protect the human rights of women during armed conflict.

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

B. National Action Plan of the Republic of Korea

(1) Purpose

As a member of Friends of 1325, the ROK has been a staunch supporter of UNSCR 1325 and its subsequent, related resolutions in the international arena. The relevant Ministries of the ROK Government have been closely cooperating in implementing the resolution.

The ROK has remained committed to strengthening gender mainstreaming policies, incorporating gender perspectives in policies and ensuring increased participation of women in the decision-making process for policies in key national policy areas including peace, unification, and foreign affairs.

Meanwhile, the ROK has continued to make efforts to strengthen its pre-deployment training on human rights for ROK personnel taking part in peacekeeping operations. This training focuses particularly on gender equality and the elimination of sexual violence in order to prevent gender-based violence as well as to deepen understanding of local culture and religions.

There have been requests in the ROK for the Government to establish the National Action Plan, including the resolution adopted by the National Assembly in February 2012 calling for a more systematic and strategic implementation of UNSCR 1325. Based on consensus for the establishment of the National Action Plan, the Government began the process of drafting it in 2012.

Korea remains the only divided nation in the world under an armistice agreement resulting from the Korean War. At the same time, the ROK is an active contributor to development cooperation and peacekeeping operations. Against this backdrop, the establishment of the National Action Plan, designed to protect women during armed conflict and to strengthen their roles in the areas of peace and security, has special importance for the ROK.

During WWII, the ROK suffered from grave violations of women's rights, namely, forced military sexual slavery (typically referred to in this specific context as "comfort women") by the Japanese Imperial Army. Upon the establishment of the National Action Plan, the ROK Government reaffirms its commitment to raising the awareness of the international community on issues of sexual violence during armed conflict, and to further contributing to the prevention of such violence and protection of the victims.

The establishment of the National Action Plan also reflects the ROK's firm commitment to the issues of women, peace and security as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the 2013-2014 term.

(2) Developing the National Action Plan

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has led a government-wide effort to draft the National Action Plan in close cooperation with the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of National Defense, the Ministry of Unification, the Ministry of Security and Public Administration, and the Ministry of Education, as well as the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

The Government completed the National Action Plan in close cooperation with civil society through a public-private consultative body, made up of representatives from government agencies, civil society, and academia.

(3) Objectives and Strategies

With reference to UNSCR 1325 and the Report of the Secretary-General on Women, Peace and Security (S/2010/173, S/2010/498), the National Action Plan is composed of ten objectives and subsequent strategies in four areas: Prevention, Participation, Protection and Relief and Recovery.

(A) Prevention

1. Raise awareness of all persons related to conflict prevention and the peace process

- 1.1 Strengthen education on the prevention of sexual harassment, sexual assault, commercial sexual exploitation, and on gender perspectives for all soldiers, military personnel and public officials
- 1.2 Provide pre-deployment training for all persons dispatched to peacekeeping operations
- 1.3 Secure preventive measures against sexual harassment and sexual assault in military units
- 1.4 Educate KOICA volunteers on gender equality and prevention of gender-based violence
- 1.5 Raise awareness on issues of women, peace and security and provide education on human rights

2. Incorporate gender perspectives into the activities and policies on conflict prevention and the peace process

- 2.1 Introduce policies for the protection of women and incorporate gender perspectives into the National Contingency Plan
- 2.2 Strengthen the Gender Impact Assessment in policy-making in the areas of national defense, unification and foreign affairs
- 2.3 Expand and strengthen gender-responsive budgeting in national defense, unification and foreign affairs

3. Develop a prevention system through international cooperation

- 3.1 Strengthen cooperation with international organizations and NGOs to prevent sexual violence, commercial sexual exploitation, and human trafficking
- 3.2 Continue efforts to strengthen UN mechanisms to protect women and girls during armed conflict and to secure participation of women in the peace process
- 3.3 Promote education on gender equality for participants in the KOICA training programs
- 3.4 Ratify and implement the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

(B) Participation

4. Ensure greater participation of women in conflict prevention and the peace process

- 4.1 Increase the number of women participating in international meetings and the process on conflict prevention and resolution

5. Promote gender equality and equal participation of men and women in the decision-making process on peace and security issues

- 5.1 Promote women's participation in the decision-making process in the areas of national defense, unification and foreign affairs
- 5.2 Solicit input from civil society on women's policy in national defense, unification and foreign affairs

6. Advocate women's greater social participation in fragile and conflict/conflict-affected areas

- 6.1 Encourage increased participation of women in social structures within conflict areas and countries in democratic transition
- 6.2 Encourage more active participation of civil society in Official Development Assistance (ODA) projects promoting gender equality
- 6.3 Increase the number of female participants in KOICA training and scholarship programs

(C) Protection

7. Provide support for victims of sexual violence in conflict

- 7.1 Strengthen and provide more support for the programs recognizing the so-called "comfort women" victims who were forced into sexual slavery by the Japanese Imperial Army

8. Introduce policies sensitive to women, children, and youth

- 8.1 Establish Sex Offender Sentencing Guidelines for military personnel
- 8.2 Develop gender-sensitive policies to support North Korean refugees settled in the ROK
- 8.3 Improve treatment of female refugees and asylum seekers in the ROK

9. Ensure the punishment of sex offenders and protection of victims in fragile and conflict/conflict-affected areas

- 9.1 Enforce strict application of relevant national laws on kidnapping, inducement, and sexual abuse
- 9.2 Implement programs to protect and support victims of sexual violence

(D) Relief and Recovery

10. Support for self-reliance of female victims in conflict areas through ODA projects

- 10.1 Integrate gender perspectives in ODA policies and programs
- 10.2 Provide education on gender equality to ODA project managers
- 10.3 Implement ODA projects promoting gender equality and empowerment of women in fragile and conflict/conflict-affected areas
- 10.4 Continue to support gender-sensitive peacebuilding projects conducted by international organizations

(4) Implementation and Monitoring

The National Action Plan of the ROK for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 is comprised of ten core objectives, each including strategies followed by concrete actions as well as the implementing ministries/agency. To monitor effective implementation of the Plan, inter-agency meetings will be held twice a year in which all relevant ministries will participate and civilian experts will be invited.

The Government will fully support the active participation of civil society in the implementation of the National Action Plan.

The ROK Government will review the objectives, strategies, and action items of the Plan three years after its launch, in consultation with civil society.

C. The National Action Plan Framework

(A) Prevention

Objective	Strategy	Action	Implementing Ministry or Agency
1. Raise awareness of all persons related to conflict prevention and the peace process	1.1 Strengthen education on the prevention of sexual harassment, sexual assault, commercial sexual exploitation, and on gender perspectives for all soldiers, military personnel and public officials	Ensure all soldiers, military personnel and public officials receive specific training on the prevention of sexual harassment, sexual assault, commercial sexual exploitation as well as on gender perspectives	Ministry of National Defense (MND)
		Employ internal & external educational services to promote training on gender perspectives	
		Develop and utilize standard training materials for the prevention of sexual harassment, sexual assault, commercial sexual exploitation and gender perspectives	
		Train specialized instructors with regard to the sexual abuse prevention program in the military	
	1.2 Provide pre-deployment training for all persons dispatched to peacekeeping operations	Require the Director of the Peacekeeping Operations Center and the Commander of the ROK contingent to provide systematic pre-deployment training on the prevention of sexual violence and commercial sexual exploitation, gender equality, local culture and religions before sending troops (Units Ashena, Akh, Dong-Myung in Lebanon, South Sudan, etc.) and military personnel (ceasefire surveillance, coalition force officer, etc.)	MND
		Require the Commander of the International Peace Support Standby force (IPSS) to raise awareness of human rights through periodic education on prevention of sexual violence and gender equality	
		Continue to report on violations of human rights after the deployment of troops	
	1.3 Secure preventive measures against sexual harassment and sexual assault in military units	Supervise and monitor subordinate units/offices to ensure full implementation of the “Comprehensive Plan for Preventing Sexual Misconduct in the Military” and provide annual action plans	MND
		Establish comprehensive measures for the prevention of sexual harassment, sexual assault and commercial sexual exploitation	

		Identify outcomes and challenges in prevention training through a quarterly progress assessment meeting and implement additional measures accordingly, revising relevant directives and guidelines	
		Utilize Military Social Welfare Counselors based in each military unit to provide counseling and take appropriate measures once sexual harassment/assault cases are reported, while maintaining cooperation with military counselors specialized in gender issues	
	1.4 Educate KOICA volunteers on gender equality and prevention of gender-based violence	Offer training on gender issues such as gender equality, prevention of sexual harassment/sexual assault/commercial sexual exploitation as well as education on gender and development as regular pre-deployment courses for KOICA overseas volunteers	Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)
		Improve educational content to provide education for gender-equitable development cooperation as well as general gender education for on-site volunteers	
	1.5 Raise awareness on issues of women, peace and security and provide education on human rights	Strengthen education on human rights to achieve gender equality and to eliminate violence against women	Ministry of Gender Equality & Family (MOGEF) Ministry of Education (MOE)
		Provide education on UNSCR 1325 to the public and support relevant organizations	
		Include human rights law and humanitarian law topics in elementary, middle/high school curriculums	
		Include the issue of sexual violence during armed conflict in elementary, middle/high school curriculums	
2. Incorporate gender perspectives into the activities and policies on conflict prevention and the peace process	2.1 Introduce policies for the protection of women and incorporate gender perspectives into the National Contingency Plan	Introduce a policy for the protection of women in armed conflict in the National Contingency Plan	Ministry of Security & Public Administration (MOSPA) MOGEF
		Consult with relevant organizations on policies related to the protection of women	
		Include in the implementation plan details on the protection of women during armed conflict and provision of relief and recovery	

	2.2 Strengthen the Gender Impact Assessment in policy-making in the areas of national defense, unification and foreign affairs	Establish and publish implementation plans of each ministry in line with MOGEF guidelines on the Gender Impact Assessment when developing key policies in national defense, unification and foreign affairs to promote gender equality	MND Ministry of Unification (MOU) Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) MOGEF
		Conduct the Gender Impact Assessment on major policies linked to the national agenda, annual work plan report to the President and government guidelines to enhance policy effectiveness	
		Train and inform officials in charge of the Gender Impact Assessment and maintain close cooperation with MOGEF to ensure effective guidance and efficient implementation of the Gender Impact Assessment	
		Assess and analyze results of the operation of the “Regional Adaptation Centers for North Korean Refugees(Hana Center)” (the Gender Impact Assessment task assigned to the MOU) and continue to identify applicable projects for conducting Gender Impact Assessment	
	2.3 Expand and strengthen gender-responsive budgeting in national defense, unification and foreign affairs	Increase the number of budget items subject to gender-responsive budgeting	MND MOU MOFA
		Incorporate opinions from civil society organizations into gender-responsive budgeting processes	
3. Develop a prevention system through international cooperation	3.1 Strengthen cooperation with international organizations and NGOs to prevent sexual violence, commercial sexual exploitation, and human trafficking	Strengthen cooperation with the international community for the elimination of violence against women through active participation in international conferences on women's rights organized by the Commission on the Status of Women, UN Women, UN Human Rights Council, the 3 rd Committee of the UN General Assembly	MOFA Ministry of Justice (MOJ) MOGEF
		As a member of the UN Human Rights Council (2013-2015), actively support the mandate of the UN special procedures on gender equality and the prevention of sexual violence such as the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, its Causes and Consequences, the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children, and the UN Working Group on the Issue of Discrimination against women in Law and in Practice and continue to support and contribute to related UN resolutions	

		Join international efforts to combat and prevent trafficking in persons by actively participating in relevant international conferences including the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons, and related Transnational Crimes, and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) Raise public awareness on the importance of the elimination of violence against women by supporting related activities including seminars and campaigns of NGOs	
	3.2 Continue efforts to strengthen UN mechanisms to protect women and girls during armed conflict and to secure participation of women in the peace process	Provide political support for UNSCR 1325 and its subsequent resolutions as a member of Friends of 1325, and share experience of developing the National Action Plan Actively participate in the open debate on "Women, Peace and Security" and provide leadership in relevant discussions as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council (2013-2014) Support the mandate of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict	MOFA
	3.3 Promote education on gender equality for participants in the KOICA training programs	Provide lectures on gender and development in orientation sessions as well as in policy development and administration programs for policy decision-makers Tailor the content of the lecture on gender and development to the specific subject of training, while expanding lecture hours	MOFA KOICA
	3.4 Ratify and implement Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime	Ratify and implement the Protocol after revising domestic legislation	MOJ

(B) Participation

Objective	Strategy	Action	Implementing Ministry or Agency
4. Ensure greater participation of women in the conflict prevention and peace process	4.1 Increase the number of women participating in international meetings and the conflict prevention and resolution process	Increase the number of female representatives in government delegations to international conferences and negotiations on conflict resolution and peacekeeping such as Inter-Korean dialogues, the Six-Party Talks	MOFA MOU MOGEF
		Train and support female experts in negotiation and unification education	

5. Promote gender equality and equal participation of men and women in the decision-making process on peace and security issues	5.1 Promote women's participation in the decision-making process in the areas of national defense, unification and foreign affairs	Increase the number of women participating in the formulation and implementation of policies in the areas of unification and foreign affairs	MOU MOFA
		Continue to promote women's participation in line with government policies: set annual target quotas of female members in government committees, run related task forces	MND
		Identify female experts in the areas of national defense, unification and foreign affairs and effectively exploit the national database of experts	
	5.2 Solicit input from civil society on women's policy in national defense, unification and foreign affairs	Establish a regular cooperation mechanism with relevant organizations from the private sector to promote women's policies in national defense	MND
		Strengthen cooperation with civil society in development and implementation of women's policies in national defense, unification, and foreign affairs	MOU MOFA MOGEF
		Hold annual consultations with civil groups for Inter-Korean women exchanges	MOU
		Strengthen support for the development of a joint agenda regarding the Inter-Korean women's exchange	MOU
6. Advocate women's greater social participation in fragile and conflict/conflict-affected areas	6.1 Encourage increased participation of women in social structures within conflict areas and countries in democratic transition	Provide various training programs to encourage the social and economic participation of women	MOGEF MOSPA KOICA
	6.2 Encourage more active participation of civil society in Official Development Assistance (ODA) projects promoting gender equality	Support and empower civil society involved in ODA projects promoting gender equality such as maternal and child healthcare, education for women, elimination of violence against women, prevention of forced prostitution	MOFA KOICA
	6.3 Increase the number of female participants in KOICA training and scholarship programs	Introduce a "Recommended quota for female trainees" to enhance women's participation in KOICA training programs	MOFA KOICA
		Give priority to female candidates, with gender balance under consideration, in selecting participants for programs with a low participation rate of women	

(C) Protection

Objective	Strategy	Action	Implementing Ministry or Agency
7. Provide support for victims of sexual violence in conflict	7.1 Strengthen and provide more support for the programs recognizing the so-called "comfort women" victims who	Continue to support so-called "comfort women" victims: livelihood support, nursing care, medical treatment for their mental health	MOGEF

	were forced into sexual slavery by the Japanese Imperial Army	Continue to make efforts to restore the honor of victims, clarify historical facts on the issue of so-called "comfort women", and establish the correct view of history through various recognition activities such as the investigation of historical records, establishment of a cyber museum of history, and publication of educational materials	
		Strengthen international cooperation to identify the historical truth about the so-called "comfort women"	MOFA MOGEF
8. Introduce policies sensitive to women, children, and youth	8.1 Establish Sex Offender Sentencing Guidelines for military personnel	Revise Military Court Act to provide sentencing guidelines on sexual crimes in the military court	MND
		Revise disciplinary action guidelines to impose heavier punishment on sexual misconduct	
	8.2 Develop gender-sensitive policies to support North Korean refugees settled in the ROK	Provide counseling and rehabilitation programs to North Korean female refugees who have fallen victim to trafficking in persons, forced prostitution, and sexual exploitation	MOU
		Provide shelters for North Korean female refugees who have fallen victim to domestic violence to ensure their mental stability	
		Develop and disseminate programs on the prevention of violence against women to North Korean female refugees and strengthen relevant follow-up measures	
		Improve the effectiveness of short-term training courses to support the employment of North Korean female refugees and provide job training to secure their employment	
	8.3 Improve treatment of female refugees and asylum seekers in the ROK	Provide social security, including basic livelihood support, social adaptation training, vocational training support, and education for those granted refugee status pursuant to the Refugee Act in effect since July 2013	MOJ
		Support for the settlement of female refugees by helping them to complete the 'Korea Immigration and Integration Program(KIIP)' including education on Korean language and society	
		Provide tailored vocational training for female refugees to support their stable employment	

9. Ensure the punishment of sex offenders and protection of victims in fragile and conflict/conflict-affected areas	9.1 Enforce strict application of relevant national laws on kidnapping, inducement, and sexual abuse	Revise related laws to impose heavier sentences on sex offenders	MOJ
		Toughen sentencing guidelines on sex offenders	
	9.2 Implement programs to protect and support victims of sexual violence	Cooperate with relevant governments and local civil organizations, especially women's groups, to protect and support victims of sexual violence	MOGEF MOFA

(D) Relief and Recovery

Objective	Strategy	Action	Implementing Ministry or Agency
10. Support for self-reliance of female victims in conflict areas through ODA projects	10.1 Integrate gender perspectives in ODA project policies and programs	Lay a foundation for gender mainstreaming in ODA policies and programs through the implementation of gender mainstreaming guidelines, establishment of strategies on gender-equitable development cooperation and formulation of principles on the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women regarding KOICA projects	MOFA KOICA
		Employ consulting services to incorporate gender perspectives in each project so that gender mainstreaming will deliver feasible outcomes	
		Provide additional points for projects that include gender perspectives when assessing and evaluating them	
	10.2 Provide education on gender equality to ODA project managers	Provide specifically tailored training on the prevention of sexual violence and gender awareness to staff from KOICA, and ODA implementation organizations, and dispatched experts	MOFA KOICA
	10.3 Implement ODA projects promoting gender equality and empowerment of women in fragile and conflict/conflict-affected areas	Carry out projects related to maternal and child healthcare, women's education and empowerment, and elimination of violence against women in fragile and conflict-affected areas	MOFA MOGEF KOICA
		Develop and implement ODA projects to share Korea's experience in developing women's policies in order to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women	
		Analyze outcomes of ODA projects in conflict areas and areas in post-conflict reconstruction with gender perspectives for necessary improvement	
	10.4 Continue to support	Continue to support activities of	MOFA

	gender-sensitive peacebuilding projects conducted by international organizations	international organizations including UN Women, and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights promoting gender equality and empowerment of women	MOGEF
		Continue to contribute to peacebuilding efforts of international organizations	