**ROK’s input to the OHCHR questionnaire on implementation of GA resolution 68/268**

**a) Comments by States on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 68/268, including those provisions addressed to States**

1. **Adoption of the simplified reporting procedure**

The Republic of Korea (ROK) has adopted to undertake the simplified reporting procedurefor the preparation of the ROK’s report on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), and Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities (CRPD). The Republic of Korea has completed the review of the third, fourth and fifth periodic report on the CAT under the simplified reporting procedure and submitted its second and third report on the CRPD in March 2019. Furthermore, the List of Issues prior to report (LoIPR) for the next report on the implementation of the ICCPR is scheduled to be adopted by the Human Rights Committee in July 2019. The Republic of Korea believes the simplified reporting procedure has eased the burden of preparing reports by States to some extent, thus contributing to greater compliance with reporting obligations by States.

1. **Common Core Document**

The Republic of Korea submitted its common core document in 2009 and updated it accordingly in February 2016, following Article 3 of the GA resolution 68/268. The common core document includes comprehensive information on geography, population, general political structure and framework for the protection and promotion of human rights.

1. **Nomination of Qualified Experts**

Regarding the Article 10 of the GA resolution 68/268, the ROK government has made efforts to help competent experts with high moral standing and much experience be nominated in treaty bodies, including Ms. Miyeon Kim in the Committee on Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Ms. Heisoo Shin in the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Ms. Chinsung Chung in the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. They are all experienced experts in their field and are actively participating in the treaty bodies’ work for protecting and promoting human rights around the world.

1. **Cooperation with Civil Society**

The Republic of Korea has held several public hearings in preparation for the reports on the implementation of human rights treaties including CRC, CEDAW, ICESCR, ICCPR, CRPD and even for the LoIPR procedure. The Republic of Korea and the Korea Disabled People’s Development Institute (Koddi) co-hosted an open forum in which NGOs, academy and law experts participated in preparation of the report on the implementation of the CRPD, of which submission was due March 2019. The Republic of Korea also co-hosted a round-table conference with the National Human Rights Commission of Korea (NHRCK) for the first time in April 2019 to closely consult with civil society in preparation for the LoIPR procedure on the implementation of ICCPR. NGOs took advantage of these opportunities to freely discuss with relevant government officials ways to fully and effectively implement other human rights treaties as well as ICCPR.

**b) Comments by States on the state of the human rights treaty body system in view of the upcoming review by 9 April 2020, of the effectiveness of the measures taken in order to ensure their sustainability, and, on any further action to strengthen and enhance the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system.**

Although some progress has been achieved since the adoption of the GA 68/268, there remain some challenges. The review of reports and individual communications still take much time and are delayed in many cases. Meanwhile, the number of reports and individual communications continue to increase. In addition, the treaty bodies are short of resources, particularly the supporting staff, to cover the increasing workload.

In this regard, the Republic of Korea would like to suggest the following for the short term:

1. Expand the application of the simplified report procedure to other treaties to reinforce focused reports and discussions;
2. Strengthen the participation of civil society and National Human Rights Institutions in drafting the List of Issues prior to Report; and
3. Hold regular meetings among chairs of the committees that focus on sharing experiences and opinions on strengthening the effectiveness and coherence of report reviews and individual communications.

The Republic of Korea suggests the following for the long term:

1. Combine several reports and carry out clustered reviews;
2. Expand the application of the follow-up review mechanism (report on follow-up to the concluding observations of the committee and committee’s evaluation) in order to assist States fulfil their obligations under treaties as well as their reporting obligations.

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