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

1. **Comments by States on the implementation of GA resolution 68/268, including those provisions addressed to States**
2. **Status of Ratification**

In January 2023, the Government of the Republic of Korea acceded to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, which is one of the core UN human rights treaties.

1. **Adoption of the Simplified Reporting Procedure**

The Republic of Korea (ROK) has decided to adopt the simplified reporting procedure in preparing its 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), the Convention on the Rights of Persons with disabilities (CRPD), and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

The ROK completed its review of the second and third periodic report on the CRPD in August 2022 and the fifth periodic report on the ICCPR in October 2023 using the simplified reporting procedure. The sixth report on CAT was submitted in July 2021 and its review is scheduled for July 2024. The seventh report on the CRC was originally due by December 2024, but due to changes in the simplified reporting procedure, a new deadline will be announced by the CRC Committee.

The ROK believes the simplified reporting procedure has eased States’ burden of preparing reports to some extent, thus contributing to increasing States’ compliance with reporting obligations.

1. **Common Core Document**

The ROK submitted its common core document in 2009 and updated it accordingly in February 2022, pursuant to Article 3 of GA resolution 68/268. The common core document provides comprehensive information on geography, population, general political structure, and framework for the protection and promotion of human rights.

1. **Nomination of Qualified Experts**

Regarding Article 10 of GA resolution 68/268, the ROK government has made efforts to help competent experts with high moral standing and much experience to be nominated in treaty bodies, including Mr. Changrok Soh in the Human Rights Committee, Ms. Miyeon Kim in the Committee on Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Ms. Joo-Young Lee 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 ROK has held several public hearings in preparation for the reports on the implementation of human rights treaties. In 2018, the ROK government conducted a briefing session for organizations of persons with disabilities regarding the submission of the State Party’s Report to the CRPD. The government shared a List of Issues and gathered opinions on alterations in disability policies. Additionally, prior to submitting its State Party Report to the CRPD, the ROK government sought to reflect the opinions of civil society, academia, and other stakeholders by holding a public forum.

In 2019, the government prepared a set of questions and answers through a research project for review of the State Party Report on the CRPD (2nd and 3rd concluding observations.)

In 2022, the ROK government conducted research on the implementation of the state party reporting procedure by human rights treaty bodies, which includes interviews with relevant experts, activists, and officials in the field of human rights. In 2023, the government also hosted a workshop to raise the awareness of government officials from relevant ministries and agencies on the UN human rights mechanism, including the state reporting procedures of human rights treaty bodies. The ROK government plans to hold such workshops annually to provide a platform for civic groups, academics, experts, and government officials to share experiences and discuss ways to fully and effectively implement UN human rights treaties.

**b) Comments by States on the effectiveness of the measures to ensure the sustainability of the human rights treaty system and on any further action to strengthen and enhance the effective functioning of the system**

Although some progress has been achieved since the adoption of GA 68/268, there remain some challenges. Reviewing reports and individual communications takes a lot of time, causing a delay 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 ROK would like to suggest the following for the short term:

1. Expanding the application of the simplified reporting procedure to other treaties to reinforce focused reports and discussions;
2. Strengthening the participation of civil society and national human rights institutions in drafting the List of Issues prior to submitting Report; and
3. Holding regular meetings among chairs of the committees with a focus on sharing experiences and opinions on strengthening the effectiveness and coherence of report reviews and individual communications.

The ROK suggests the following for the long term:

1. Combining several reports and carrying out clustered reviews and
2. Expanding the application of the follow-up review mechanism (report on follow-ups to the concluding observations of the committee and committee’s evaluation) in order to help States fulfil their obligations under treaties as well as their reporting obligations.

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