

# The Third 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 massive, organized and systematic sexual violence that occurred in conflict zones since the 1990s served as a wake-up call for the international community to focus on the issue of violence against women in armed conflict. The United Nations Security Council, recognizing that violence against women during armed conflict poses a grave threat to international peace and security, unanimously adopted Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security (UNSCR 1325) in 2000.

UNSCR 1325 and its subsequent follow-up resolutions\*, urged the Member States to include gender perspectives in conflict prevention and post-conflict peacebuilding activities; expand women's participation in peace negotiations and peacebuilding processes; eradicate violence against women during conflict and protect victims and survivors thereof; bring the perpetrators to justice; and advance gender equality and political and economic empowerment of women.

### **[Follow-up resolutions of UNSCR 1325]**

<b>Resolution No.</b>	<b>Year of adoption</b>	<b>Overview</b>
1820	2008	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Underscores the importance of ensuring women's participation in addressing the issue of sexual violence and in peace negotiations</li><li>- Strengthens the missions of UN peacekeeping operations and punishment of sexual violence</li></ul>
1888	2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Appoints the Secretary-General's Special Representative on sexual violence in conflict and deploys experts to the field</li><li>- Enforces zero tolerance for sexual violence</li></ul>
1889	2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Develops indicators to evaluate international implementation</li><li>- Calls for national measures for the implementation of UNSCR 1325</li></ul>
1960	2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Stresses the need to punish perpetrators of sexual violence in armed conflict</li><li>- Urges all parties to armed conflict to forge commitments to combat sexual violence in situations of armed conflict</li></ul>

2106	2013	- Emphasizes voluntary efforts and systematic, specific and proactive measures by each country
2122	2013	- Increases the proportion of women in the armed and police forces - Increases women's participation and leadership in conflict mediation and the peacebuilding process
2242	2015	- Demands that the elements of women, peace, and security are fully integrated across the United Nations and Security Council agendas - Establishes the Informal Experts Group and implementing bodies for the WPS agenda
2467	2019	- Intensifies Security Council sanctions against perpetrators - Strengthens a survivor-centered approach and reparations and livelihood support for survivors
2493	2019	- Calls for the full implementation of all previous resolutions on WPS - Expands women's participation in the WPS agenda and advances all social and economic rights of women

UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security aims to protect women from violence, promote women's participation in conflict resolution and peacebuilding processes, and realize gender mainstreaming. The notion of security in the resolution is not limited to the traditional national security. It encompasses the wider realms of individuals, including threats to safety caused by recent climate crises, disasters, and diseases such as COVID-19. The resolution, founded on this comprehensive concept of security, stipulates that the issue of peace and security is directly linked to gender equality.

A National Action Plan (NAP) on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 is the instrument each Member State establishes to ensure successful implementation of the Resolution. Each Member State sets forth the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda, taking into account its specific circumstances relating to peace and security. By formulating NAPs, individual countries not only seek to guarantee the safety of women from violence in conflict and increase women's participation in the peacebuilding processes, but also contribute to peace and security around the world, and engage in the WPS agenda at the international and regional levels.

The Republic of Korea (ROK) has experienced wartime sexual violence and human rights violations from the 1930s till the end of World War II, as evidenced by the so-called "comfort women" who were victimized by the Japanese Imperial Army. The Korean Peninsular remains divided into North and South since the Korean War. At the same time, however, the Republic of Korea is a contributor to both development assistance and peacekeeping operations. The ROK aspires to broaden the WPS agenda in peacebuilding

and sustainable development on the Korean Peninsula, while advocating gender mainstreaming in major national policy areas such as national defense, peace, unification and foreign affairs, among others. The Republic of Korea also seeks to support the participation and empowerment of women in peace processes so that women can position themselves as active agents for peacebuilding. The establishment of the National Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 thus embodies the full commitment and practices of the Korean government towards realizing gender equality through engaging in international discourses on the WPS agenda.

## **II. National Action Plan of the Republic of Korea for the Implementation of UNSCR 1325**

The National Action Plan of the Republic of Korea provides a comprehensive framework for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security and the subsequent nine follow-up resolutions. The purpose of the NAP is, among others: to shape gender-sensitive policies for national defense, peace, unification, foreign affairs and international development cooperation; to enhance women's participation and roles in conflict prevention and resolution as well as peacebuilding on the Korean Peninsula; to combat violence against women during armed conflict and advance women's empowerment. Moreover, by translating this global agenda for women, peace, and security into national and local actions, the NAP further contributes to the broader dissemination of the WPS agenda.

### **1. Progress in Formulation and Implementation**

The Republic of Korea embarked on drafting a government-wide National Action Plan in 2012 through a resolution adopted by the National Assembly (Feb. 2012) that called for the establishment of the NAP for the implementation of UNSCR 1325. The first NAP (2014-2017) was finalized in May 2014.

The first NAP was the ROK's initial plan of action as a follow-up to the

United Nations Security Council Resolution to improve gender perspectives in the area of peace and security. The NAP carried significance as it reiterated the importance of women's participation in conflict prevention and peacebuilding processes whilst embracing a whole-of-government approach in policies geared towards gender mainstreaming in peace, security, conflict prevention and development assistance.

The second NAP (2018-2020) was subsequently established in 2018, building on the outcomes of the first one. The second NAP expanded the scope of women, peace, and security and enhanced cooperation between domestic and international activities in the area of women, peace, and security. Moreover, to establish and implement the NAP more systematically and strategically, a monitoring and evaluation system was newly added as a basis for implementation. For the second NAP, together with the eight government ministries and agencies which had participated in the first cycle - the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family (MOGEF) leading the process, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education (MOE), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Ministry of Unification (MOU), Ministry of Justice (MOJ), Ministry of National Defense (MND), Ministry of the Interior and Safety (MOIS) and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) - the Korean National Police Agency (KNPA) joined anew.

The third NAP aims to integrate gender perspectives in conflict prevention, peace, and unification, including in the peacebuilding on the Korean Peninsula, and international development cooperation, as well as to increase and strengthen women's participation and international cooperation. Furthermore, it underscores the practical efforts needed to disseminate the global WPS agenda at the national and local levels, and envisages a structured mechanism for monitoring so as to ensure a more robust basis for implementation. For the third cycle, the National Unification Advisory Council (NUAC), a presidential consultative body, participated. Led and coordinated by MOGEF as the main ministry in charge, the third NAP (2021-2023) was drawn up through close collaboration among ten government ministries and agencies, including the MOE, MOFA, MOU, MOJ, MND, MOIS, KNPA, KOICA and NUAC. The third NAP of the ROK was developed through cooperation with and

consultations among the government ministries, civil society, and academia. The MOGEF conducted research for establishing the NAP, gathered inputs from other ministries, civic advisory panel, civil society, and academia in the implementation and drafting process, and collected and incorporated feedback from public hearings.

## **2. Objectives and Strategies**

The ROK's third NAP comprises of 11 objectives and 24 strategies in five areas: Prevention, Participation, Protection, Relief and Recovery, and Implementation Monitoring.

## **3. Implementation Monitoring**

In order to ensure effective implementation of the third NAP, the Republic of Korea established a mechanism to monitor the implementation, and set up a civic advisory panel to promote broader public-private governance cooperation, involving relevant civil society organizations, academia, and experts. To be more specific, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family convenes an Implementation Monitoring meeting annually, with the participation of each implementing ministry and agency and the civic advisors, the results of which is reported to the Gender Equality Committee established in accordance with the Framework Act on Gender Equality. Taking a step further, each implementing ministry and agency is expected to conduct its own Implementation Monitoring meeting once a year in the presence of external experts to ensure more in-depth stocktaking. This is intended for the ministries and agencies to devise their own practical measures for implementation and improvement aligned with the attributes and expertise specific to their work. Also, each implementing body establishes its own Implementation Monitoring system, taking into account its distinctive characteristics.

The ROK's third NAP, after three years from its launch, will be re-examined and revised in terms of its overall objectives, strategies, and action plans through consultations among government ministries, relevant stakeholders and civil society.

### III. Contents of the Third National Action Plan on the Implementation of UNSCR 1325

#### □ Prevention

Strategy	Action Plan	Implementing Body
<b>(Objective 1) Improve the capacity for women, peace and security among people working in areas such as conflict prevention, peace, unification, and international development cooperation</b>		
1.1. Strengthen the capacity for gender responsiveness of public officials, international peacekeeping operations (PKO) and development cooperation personnel	Implement gender-sensitive education for ministries dealing with national defense, foreign affairs, security, peace, unification, public safety and disasters.	MOFA MOU MND MOIS KNPA NUAC
	Conduct education for UN PKO personnel, KOICA employees and those to be dispatched abroad	MND KNPA KOICA
	Include women, peace, and security issues in gender-sensitive education programs and distribute relevant educational materials	MOGEF
1.2. Strengthen the capacity of the military for gender responsiveness	Establish and regularly review the military's sexual violence prevention plans and conduct gender-sensitive education for military personnel	MND
<b>(Objective 2) Strengthen gender mainstreaming into the policies on national defense, foreign affairs, security, peace, unification, and public safety</b>		
2.1. Incorporate gender perspectives in the policies on national defense, foreign affairs, peace, unification and public safety	Expand gender impact assessment and gender-responsive budgeting for national defense, foreign affairs, peace, unification, and public safety policies	MOFA MOU MND MOGEF KNPA
	Reflect gender perspectives in the establishment and improvement of basic plans concerning unification and development cooperation, e.g., Basic Plan for the Development of Inter-Korean Relations and Basic Plan for International Development Cooperation	MOFA MOU

Strategy	Action Plan	Implementing Body
2.2. Integrate gender perspectives in emergency preparedness and disaster management policies	Carry out specific gender impact assessment on disaster management policies (e.g., COVID-19)	MOGEF
	Include contents related to policies for the protection of women during conflict in the National Emergency Preparedness Plan	MOIS MOGEF
<b>(Objective 3) Strengthen international and inter-Korean cooperation in the area of women, peace, and security</b>		
3.1. Contribute to the global dissemination of the WPS agenda	Actively participate in the global discussions on WPS and promote cooperation	MOFA MOGEF
	Broaden public diplomacy including through organizing international conferences on gender equality and WPS agenda	MOFA MOGEF
	Promote enactment of a comprehensive anti-trafficking law and strengthen global cooperation for prevention of trafficking in persons	MOJ MOGEF
	Enhance international cooperation in the Asian region to expand WPS agenda	MOFA MOGEF
3.2. Intensify cooperation with the United Nations and support gender-sensitive peacebuilding activities	Actively participate in the UN-level discussions on WPS, including WPS Focal Points Network	MOFA MOGEF
	Provide financial assistance for the United Nation's WPS initiatives	MOGEF
3.3. Strengthen inter-Korean cooperation in the area of women, peace, and security	Seek avenues for fostering inter-Korean cooperation on WPS and promote exchanges	MOU MOGEF
<b>(Objective 4) Raise public awareness and build consensus on women, peace, and security</b>		
4.1. Strengthen school education on women, peace, and security	Provide operational support for WPS education in primary and secondary curriculum and teacher training programs	MOE

Strategy	Action Plan	Implementing Body
4.2. Build a national consensus on WPS	Launch a nationwide awareness campaign	MOGEF
	Manage documents and create an archive for WPS	MOFA MOU MOGEF
	Initiate social dialogues on WPS and peaceful unification	MOU NUAC

## Participation

Strategy	Action Plan	Implementing Body
<b>(Objective 5) Expand women's participation in the areas of national defense, foreign affairs, security, peace, unification, and public safety</b>		
5.1. Increase women's representation in the policy-making in the areas of national defense, foreign affairs, security, peace, unification, and public safety	Increase the proportion of women in high-ranking positions and committees related to national defense, foreign affairs, security, peace, unification, and public safety	MOFA MOU MND MOGEF KNPA NUAC
	Increase the proportion of women in the military and police	MND KNPA
	Improve women's representation in government delegations, including to inter-Korean negotiations	MOU
	Provide assistance to diplomatic activities for women, peace, security, including for the Ambassador for Gender Equality	MOFA MOGEF
5.2. Expand women's participation in the process of promoting world peace, development cooperation and peaceful unification	Increase women's involvement in PKO and international development cooperation initiatives	MND KNPA KOICA
	Ensure increased participation of women in programs on diplomacy, inter-Korean exchange and unification, and cultivate experts	MOFA MOU
	Promote women's advancement into international organizations	MOFA

<b>(Objective 6) Build good governance regarding the women, peace, and security agenda</b>		
6.1. Facilitate governance with civil society	Develop and maintain a consultation mechanism with civil society in the course of formulating and implementing policies for national defense, foreign affairs, unification, and public safety	MOFA MOU MND KNPA NUAC
	Engage with and provide support for the private sector in their WPS-related activities at the national and international levels	MOFA MOU MND MOGEF NUAC
6.2. Pursue local dissemination of the WPS agenda	Enable further expansion of the WPS agenda to the local governments and communities	MOGEF NUAC

## Protection

<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Action Plan</b>	<b>Implementing Body</b>
<b>(Objective 7) Ensure effective remedies for victims and survivors of sexual violence by the military and in conflict zones, and strengthen penalties on the offenders</b>		
7.1. Reinforce institutional arrangements for the prevention of sexual violence in the military and remedies for the victims and survivors	Expand dedicated organizations, human resources and expertise to prevent sexual violence in the military and support the victims and survivors	MND
	Improve the system with strengthened protection for victims and survivors of sexual violence by the military and tightening the punishment for offenders	MND
7.2. Protect the human rights of women in conflict-affected and high-risk areas	Provide assistance to victims and survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) in conflict-affected and high-risk regions	MOFA KOICA
7.3. Provide remedies to foreign female victims and survivors of sex trafficking	Conduct inspections on possible human rights violations of women working at entertainment facilities exclusively for non-nationals near military base and offer remedies for the victims and survivors	MOGEF

<b>(Objective 8) Provide support for female defectors from North Korea and refugee women</b>		
8.1. Strengthen the protection of human rights and support for women defectors from North Korea	Prevent violence against North Korean women defectors and provide assistance	MOGEF MOU
	Provide support to North Korean women defectors for their self-reliance	MOU
	Take measures to safeguard the human rights of North Korean women defectors	KNPA
8.2. Strengthen support for refugee women	Prevent violence against refugee women and extend assistance	MOJ
	Provide support to refugee women for their self-reliance	MOJ

## Relief and Recovery

<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Action Plan</b>	<b>Implementing Body</b>
<b>(Objective 9) Provide support for the restoration of victims and survivors of conflict</b>		
9.1. Extend assistance to the "comfort women" victims and survivors	Continue to provide support for the secure livelihood of the "comfort women" victims and survivors	MOGEF
9.2. Restore the honor of the "comfort women" victims and survivors	Expand commemorative projects to restore the honor of the "comfort women" survivors and for future generations	MOGEF
	Step up international cooperation to restore the honor of the "comfort women" victims and survivors	MOFA MOGEF
<b>(Objective 10) Strengthen international development cooperation in the areas of women, peace, and security</b>		
10.1. Integrate gender perspectives in international development cooperation policies and create a governance structure	Incorporate gender perspectives throughout all phases of international development cooperation from project planning, implementation and evaluation	MOFA KOICA
	Closely engage with and intensify support for civil society at home and abroad in the implementation of international development cooperation projects related to gender issues	MOFA MOGEF KOICA

10.2. Scale up international development cooperation projects related to women, peace, and security	Further expand international development cooperation projects designed to strengthen the empowerment of women and protect their human rights	MOFA MOGEF KOICA
	Develop international development cooperation projects aimed at promoting relief and recovery in conflict-affected and high-risk regions	MOFA KOICA
	Increase women's participation in training programs, including invitational trainings, etc.	MOFA MOGEF KOICA

## Monitoring of Implementation

Strategy	Action Plan	Implementing Body
<b>(Objective 11) Establish a monitoring system and build foundation for effective implementation of the NAP</b>		
11.1. Conduct Monitoring on implementation on a regular basis and build public-private governance	Hold annual monitoring meetings, at both inter-ministerial and each implementing body levels, jointly with the representative members of the civil society	All
	Operate a civic advisory panel and guarantee their participation in implementation monitoring	MOGEF
11.2. Solidify the foundation for effective implementation	Report the results of implementation and monitoring of NAP to the Gender Equality Committee on	MOGEF
	Make efforts to secure a budget for implementation of NAP	All