



United Nations

**Convention on the Elimination  
of All Forms of Discrimination  
against Women**

**CEDAW**<sub>/C/KOR/CO/7</sub>

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**Committee on the Elimination of  
Discrimination against Women**

**Forty-ninth session**

11 – 29 July 2011

**Concluding observations of the Committee on the  
Elimination of Discrimination against Women**

**Republic of Korea**

1. The Committee considered the seventh periodic report of the Republic of Korea (CEDAW/C/KOR/7) at its 987th and 988th meetings, on 19 July 2011 (see CEDAW/C/SR.987 and 988). The Committee's list of issues and questions is contained in CEDAW/C/KOR/Q/7 and the responses contained in CEDAW/C/KOR/Q/7/Add.1.

**Introduction**

2. The Committee expresses its appreciation to the State party for its seventh periodic report, which generally followed the Committee's guidelines for the preparation of reports, and included a section with information on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Committee's previous concluding observations (CEDAW/C/KOR/CO/6). The Committee also expresses its appreciation to the State party for its oral presentation, the written replies to the list of issues and questions raised by its pre-session working group and the clarifications to the questions posed orally by the Committee, even though responses to some of the questions were not adequate.

3. The Committee commends the State party for its high-level delegation, headed by the Minister of Gender Equality and Family, which included representatives from various ministries and departments, as well as, women representatives from the National Assembly. The Committee appreciates the constructive dialogue that took place between the delegation and the members of the Committee.

**Positive aspects**

4. The Committee notes with appreciation that, since the consideration of its sixth periodic report (CEDAW/C/KOR/6) in 2007, the State party has enacted and revised numerous laws and legal provisions aimed at eliminating discrimination

against women and promoting gender equality in order to achieve compliance with the State party's obligations under the Convention. In particular, it welcomes the adoption of the amendment of:

- a) The Civil Act (December 2007) setting the minimum age of marriage at 18 years for both men and women;
  - b) The Act on Protection of Children and Youths from Sexual Violence (April 2010) establishing ex officio prosecution for sexual violence offences against children; and
  - c) The Life Ethics and Safety Act (2008) establishing the requirement of informed and written consent in cases of donations or harvest of eggs for reproductive purposes and limiting the frequency and number of donation per woman.
5. The Committee welcomes the launch of a comprehensive Plan to prevent domestic violence (2011), which focuses on strengthening the initial action against cases of domestic violence and on better protection for victims.
6. The Committee appreciates the State party's efforts to integrate a gender dimension into its development cooperation programmes and to promote women's human rights within that framework.
7. The Committee commends the State party's ratification of the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 11 December 2008.

#### **Principle areas of concern and recommendations**

**8. The Committee recalls the State party's obligation to systematically and continuously implement all the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and views, the concerns and recommendations identified in the present concluding observations as requiring the State party's priority attention between now and the submission of the next periodic report. Consequently, the Committee urges the State party to focus on those areas in its implementation activities and to report on the action taken and the results achieved in its next periodic report. The Committee calls upon the State party to submit the present concluding observations to all relevant ministries, to the National Assembly and to the judiciary, so as to ensure their full implementation.**

#### **National Assembly**

**9. While reaffirming that the Government has the primary responsibility and is particularly accountable for the full implementation of the State party's obligations under the Convention, the Committee stresses that the Convention is binding on all branches of Government and invites the State party to encourage its National Assembly, in line with its procedures and where appropriate, to take the necessary steps with regard to the implementation of the present concluding observations and the Government's next reporting process under the Convention.**

#### **Reservations**

10. While the Committee acknowledges the information provided regarding the State party's on-going consultations on the withdrawal of its reservation to article 16, paragraph 1 (g) of the Convention on the same personal rights as husband and wife, including the right to choose a family name, a profession and an occupation,

it expresses its concern at the lack of a clear time frame to end those consultations and by consequence to withdraw the reservation.

**11. The Committee reiterates its previous recommendation (CEDAW/C/KOR/CO/6) and urges the State party, in its consideration, to separate issues related to Article 16, paragraph 1 (g) from those related to paragraph 1 (d) and so expedite its efforts towards the withdrawal, within a concrete time frame, of its reservation to article 16, paragraph 1 (g) of the Convention.**

#### **Visibility of the Convention and the Optional Protocol**

12. The Committee takes note of the information provided during the dialogue regarding the large-scale meetings to share the Committee's previous concluding observations amongst government offices, judicial authorities, NGOs and the Korean Women's Development Institute. It also notes the State party's efforts to disseminate the Convention and its Optional Protocol amongst the National Assembly, media organizations and legal professionals. However, the Committee is concerned that these initiatives have not targeted judiciary and law enforcement officials. It is particularly concerned that women themselves are not aware of their rights under the Convention or of the complaints procedure under the Optional Protocol, and thus lack the capacity to claim the full promotion, protection and fulfilment of their rights on an equal basis with men.

**13. The Committee encourages the State party to continue creating awareness of and adequately disseminating the Convention, its Optional Protocol and views under the Protocol and the Committee's general recommendations among all stakeholders, including Government ministries, parliamentarians, the judiciary and law enforcement officers, so as to create awareness of women's human rights. The Committee urges the State party to undertake educational and awareness-raising campaigns targeted at women and the judiciary to enhance women's awareness of provisions to protect their human rights and so ensure that women can avail themselves of procedures and remedies under the Optional Protocol for violations of their rights under the Convention.**

#### **Discriminatory Laws**

14. While the Committee notes that the consultations on the adoption of the Anti-Discrimination Bill and on the effectiveness of some 90 pre-existing laws on discrimination, carried out by the Subcommittee on Anti-Discrimination Laws concluded by the end of 2010, it regrets the lack of information on the results of such consultations and the slow pace of progress in the adoption of the Anti-Discrimination Bill in the State party, on hold since May 2008.

**15. The Committee calls on the State party to take urgent steps towards the adoption of a comprehensive Anti-Discrimination Act, in line with articles 1 and 2 of the Convention and General Recommendation 28 (2010), which includes a clear prohibition of all forms of discrimination, covering both direct and indirect discrimination, and also taking into account article 2 (4) of the National Human Rights Commission Act (Korea 2005), which prohibits discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation.**

#### **National machinery for the advancement of women**

16. The Committee takes note of the increase in the human and financial resources allocated to the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family since the reinstatement of the Ministry's mandate, in March 2010, as the government body

responsible to oversee all policies related to women, youth and family. However, the Committee is concerned that merging family affairs and gender equality in a single mandate may directly or indirectly reinforce traditional patriarchal norms and be detrimental to the achievement of gender equality. Furthermore, while the Committee notes that gender mainstreaming is guaranteed through gender-impact assessments, carried out by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family, of public policies and programmes in place across all levels of government, it is concerned that gender-impact assessments are used as a *post facto* rather than an *a priori* tool so that the extent of influence the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family has in the actual formulation, design and implementation of such public policies and programmes is therefore low. Further to this, the Committee notes the absence of a clearly defined coordinating mechanism to ensure horizontal and vertical coherence in the implementation of gender equality programmes. The Committee is also concerned that despite the mandatory character of gender-responsive budgeting for government bodies, as indicated in the National Fiscal Act, the amount of financial resources allocated to women's empowerment from the overall public budget is very limited.

**17. The Committee recalling its general recommendations No. 6 and the guidance provided in the Beijing Platform for Action, in particular regarding the necessary conditions for the effective functioning of national mechanisms, recommends that the State party:**

**a) Clearly define the mandate, responsibilities and allocation of human and financial resources of the three portfolios (gender, youth and family) of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family, as well as institute a clear coordination mechanism for ensuring horizontal and vertical coherence in the work of the Ministry; and**

**b) Strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family to use gender-impact assessments to inform the formulation and implementation of legislation and policy measures in the field of gender equality, as well as to inform gender-responsive budgeting at all levels of government, and provide advice on, coordinate and monitor such measures.**

18. The Committee takes note of the adoption of the Third Basic Plan for Women's Policies (2008-2012), which, *inter alia*, contains two policy objectives, women's active participation in the management of the nation and the improvement of women's economic capacity. However, it is concerned about the negative impact that the removal of women's policy units and gender equality officers from some ministries and government bodies may have on the overall implementation of the Plan.

**19. The Committee recommends that the State party take necessary measures to ensure the full implementation of the Third Basic Plan For Women's Policies (2008-2012), including by reinstating the women's units and gender equality officers.**

#### **Violence against women**

20. While taking note of the various measures in place to protect victims of sexual violence and domestic violence, such as the launch of an emergency hotline and the existence of state run counselling centres and shelters for victims of violence, including specific centres for foreign wives who are victims of domestic violence, the Committee is concerned that the low rate of reported cases does not correspond with the actual number of cases of domestic violence occurring in the State party, despite the obligation for education and health care professionals, as

well as for social workers to report such cases, in conformity with article 4 of the Special Procedure Act on the Punishment of Domestic Violence. It is also concerned at the Criminal Code provision requiring adult victims of sexual violence to file a complaint in order to prosecute their cases and the consequent low level of victims who present charges, the low rates of prosecutions and convictions. The Committee also expresses its concern at the limited number of women police officers available to deal with cases of sexual and domestic violence. It reiterates its regret over the fact that marital rape is not criminalized in the State party's legislation but only in case law.

**21. The Committee calls upon the State party to:**

- a) Take the necessary measures to encourage the reporting of domestic and sexual violence cases, including by ensuring that education professionals, health care providers and social workers, are fully familiar with relevant legal provisions and are sensitized to all forms of violence against women and are capable of complying with their obligation to report cases;**
- b) Review and amend the Criminal Code and other relevant legislation to remove provisions which require adult victims of sexual violence to file a complaint in order to have their cases prosecuted;**
- c) Take measures to increase the number of women police officers and steps to enhance their capacity to deal with cases of violence against women in a gender sensitive manner;**
- d) Conduct awareness raising campaigns for women, including foreign women to make them aware of their rights and avenues of redress, including measures available for protection and prevention against domestic violence;**
- e) Take all legislative measures necessary to criminalize marital rape, defined on the basis of lack of consent of the wife;**
- f) Collect data and conduct research on the prevalence, causes and consequences of all forms of violence against women, including violence in the domestic sphere, in line with the Committee's general recommendation No. 19 (1992), and use such data as the basis for further comprehensive measures and targeted interventions. It invites the State party to include statistical data and the results of measures taken in its next periodic report.**

**Trafficking and exploitation of prostitution**

22. The Committee is concerned that the State party lacks a comprehensive statute dealing with trafficking of human beings and reiterates its concern about the persistence of trafficking and exploitation of prostitution and the lack of data about these phenomena. It is particularly concerned about women migrant workers, who enter the country under an E-6 entertainment work visa, and foreign wives, who enter the country through international marriage brokerage agencies, as information received indicates that many of these women fall victims to trafficking and exploitation of prostitution. The Committee is also concerned that even though women engaged in prostitution in the State party may have access to counselling centres; these women must prove their status as victims in order not to be prosecuted for the offence of prostitution. Further, the Committee is concerned that the State party has only signed but has not ratified the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.

23. The Committee reiterating its recommendation (CEDAW/C/KOR/CO/6) to fully implement article 6 of the Convention, urges the State party to:

- a) Adopt a comprehensive law on trafficking in human beings and amend relevant legislation, such as the Criminal Code, to include trafficking as an offence;
- b) Take measures to enhance its current initial screening procedure of entertainment companies who recruit foreign women and to establish an effective *in situ* monitoring mechanism of the establishments where women under an E-6 visa work to ensure that they are not being subjected to exploitation of prostitution;
- c) Take legislative and other measures to ensure effective implementation of the Marriage Brokerage Control Act, in order to protect foreign women from exploitation and abuse by marriage brokers and traffickers and by their spouses;
- d) Review its prostitution policy and relevant legislation, including the Criminal Code, with a view to decriminalizing women's involvement in prostitution and ensuring that women involved in the sex trade are not punished;
- e) Take further measures to protect and support women and girls who are victims of trafficking and to address the root cause of trafficking;
- f) Take appropriate measures to suppress the exploitation of prostitution of women, including by discouraging the demand for prostitution and provide rehabilitation and economic empowerment programmes for women and girls exploited in prostitution and so facilitate their reintegration into society; and
- g) Ratify the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

#### **Participation in political and public life**

24. The Committee expresses its concern at the slow pace of progress in increasing women's participation in political and public life, in particular in decision-making positions in the government, in parliament, the judiciary, the diplomatic service, the private sector, and in academia as principals of high schools and professors in universities, despite measures in place to increase the number of women in these spheres, such as the Employment of Female Manager Level Public Officers Initiative.

25. The Committee urges the State party to strengthen its efforts to increase the representation of women in political and public life, through, *inter alia*, the implementation of special measures in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention, and with the Committee's general recommendation No. 25 (2004), in order to accelerate the realization of women's substantive equality with men. It calls upon the State party to consider using a range of possible measures, such as quotas, benchmarks, targets and incentives, in particular with regard to the accelerated implementation of articles 7, 8, 10, 11, 12 and 14 of the Convention. The Committee requests the State party to provide data and information on the representation of women, in political and public life, in the private sector, in academia and in the diplomatic service, in its next periodic report.

#### **Nationality**

26. The Committee acknowledges the written and oral information provided on the requirements to be eligible to acquire Korean nationality. However, it is concerned at the difficulties foreign women married to Korean men may face to be granted Korean nationality, if they do not comply with the prerequisite of being supported by their husbands to file a naturalization application and if they do not have children.

**27. The Committee recommends that the State party revise its legislation governing nationality with a view to remove all discriminatory provisions relating to the requirements to acquire Korean nationality, in accordance with article 9 of the Convention.**

### **Education**

28. While taking note of measures that have long been in place such as the Act on Supporting Women and Science Technology to encourage women's participation in non-female traditional fields such as science and technology, the Committee is concerned at the persistence of segregation of fields of study in higher education and vocational training, which ultimately results in sex segregation of the labour market. It is particularly concerned that this segregation is due to the persistence of patriarchal attitudes and stereotypes regarding the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in the society. The Committee is also concerned at the limited information provided during the dialogue regarding the degree of compliance by academic institutions with the 10 hours compulsory course on sexual education for students at schools.

**29. The Committee recommends that the State party enhance its compliance with article 10 and raise awareness on the importance of education for the empowerment of women. It encourages the State party to institute measures to revise textbooks used at all levels to eliminate gender stereotypes and introduce mandatory gender training for teachers in an effort to overcome patriarchal attitudes and gender role stereotypes which create discriminatory barriers to girls' and women's education. The Committee further recommends that girls and women continue to be actively encouraged to choose non-traditional fields of study and professions. It also recommends that the State party establishes an effective monitoring mechanism to ensure that students are provided with the 10 hours compulsory course on sexual education and to consider introducing a more comprehensive, age-appropriate programme on sexual and reproductive health and rights for both girls and boys as a regular part of the curriculum at the basic and secondary levels of the education system.**

### **Employment**

30. The Committee is concerned about the lack of adequate disaggregated data on which to determine the precise positioning of women in the formal and informal labour market. It is further concerned with the disadvantages women face in the employment sector, including the concentration of women in certain low-wage sectors, the related lack of job security and benefits, particularly for non-regular workers (part-time and short-term), as well as the significant wage gap between men and women. The Committee remains concerned about the lack of effective monitoring mechanisms and complaints procedures for women to claim their rights and at the consequent possible reluctance of women to seek remedies for cases of sexual harassment at the workplace.

**31. The Committee urges the State party, in its next periodic report to present disaggregated data on labour market indicators. The State party is also urged to diligently monitor the situation of women in the labour market and to increase the number of women in regular work by ensuring that enterprises provide more opportunities for women to gain access to full-time and regular employment and to protect those in non-regular work by extending benefits, including paid maternity leave, to part-time and short-time workers, the majority of whom are women. The Committee calls upon the State party to enforce the provisions of the Equal Employment Act in regard to equal pay for work of equal value. The Committee also calls upon the State party to ensure that effective monitoring mechanisms are in place to achieve compliance with existing legislation, and that there are procedures in place for women to file complaints of violations of their labour rights, particularly in cases of sexual harassment.**

32. While noting the State party's legislative and policy efforts such as the Act on Gender Equality in Employment and Support for Work-Family Reconciliation and the Basic Plan on Gender Equality in Employment and Work-Family Reconciliation (2008), as well as other measures to improve the reconciliation of family and work life, the Committee is concerned that domestic and family responsibilities are still primarily borne by women, as reflected in one of the expected outcomes of the Basic Plan, which is the acceleration of the low fertility rate and the consequent interruption of women's careers or their engagement in part-time jobs to meet family responsibilities. It is also concerned at the limited number of men taking parental leave. The Committee is also concerned with the negative impact, in terms of social security benefits, resulting from the increased and on-going conversion of women's contracts from regular workers to non-regular, part-time and/or short-term workers. It is further concerned at the limited number of state-run child care centres, the trend to privatize such facilities and the high fees charged by private child care centres, which make them inaccessible to many working women, particularly those in low income, female-headed households.

**33. The Committee encourages the State party to promote co-responsibility in the domestic sphere and step up its efforts to assist women and men to strike a balance between family and employment responsibilities, *inter alia*, through further awareness-raising and education initiatives for both women and men on the equal sharing of care of children and domestic tasks, as well as by ensuring that part-time employment is not taken up almost exclusively by women. The Committee urges the State party to strengthen its efforts to improve the provision and affordability of childcare facilities for children of different age groups, particularly those in female headed households, and encourage more men to avail themselves of parental leave.**

#### **Health**

34. The Committee is concerned at the lack of detailed information on measures in place to address the deteriorating mental health situation of women, including depression. It is particularly concerned at the increasing suicide rates among women, which is the second cause of women's death in the State party. It is also concerned at the higher morbidity rates and poorer health status among women with lower income levels when compared to the morbidity rates and health status among women with higher income levels, even though there is universal coverage of health insurance. The Committee also expresses its concern over the fact that

even though abortion is allowed under certain circumstances, including rape and incest, in accordance with articles 14 and 15 of the Mother and Fatherless Child Care Act, abortion is still a punishable offence, in conformity with articles 269 and 270 of the Criminal Code of the State party.

**35. The Committee urges the State party to take necessary measures to address the deteriorating mental health situation, in particular depression. It also encourages the State party to fully implement its Suicide prevention policies (2009-2013) and to provide information in its next periodic report on the policies and on results achieved. The Committee recommends that the State party pay special attention to the situation of older women with low income levels, to ensure that they have full access to health and social services. It also urges the State party to consider reviewing the law relating to abortion, in particular the Criminal Code, with a view to removing the punitive provisions imposed on women who undergo an abortion, and to provide them with access to quality services for the management of complications arising from unsafe abortion, in accordance with the Committee's general recommendation No. 24 (1999).**

#### **Rural women**

36. The Committee notes that women represent 53.3% of the agricultural workers in the State party and also that there are measures in place aiming at achieving rural women's substantive equality with men, such as the Second 5-year Plan Fostering Women Farmers. It also takes note of the policy in place by which a 20% quota for women has been set up at the Young Farmers Initiative Program. However, the Committee is concerned that while 70.3% of the family farms are owned by men, only 26.3% are owned by elderly widows, which shows women's difficulties to own land and property. It is also concerned that the government's agricultural financial support and assistance is provided to heads of households, which are mostly men, and therefore women are dependent on their husbands or other family members to have access to such assistance.

**37. The Committee recommends that the State party continue efforts to improve the situation of rural women, through both legislative and practical measures, and to ensure that all policies and programmes aimed at promoting gender equality reach the rural areas and are fully implemented, including to facilitate women's access to own land and property, as well as to provide financial support and assistance. The Committee also recommends that the State party implement gender-sensitive rural development strategies and programmes, as well as accelerate its measures to promote farming among young women, ensuring the full participation of rural women in their formulation and implementation.**

#### **Marriage and family relations**

38. While the Committee acknowledges the amendment to the Civil Code (December 2007) which seeks to protect the rights of the spouse to have the marital property restored in cases where the other spouse has disposed of the property, before a court has taken a decision on its distribution, it is concerned that in the State party the equal sharing of marital property upon divorce relates only to tangible property (movable and immovable) and does not include intangible property such as pension and savings funds and that the equal sharing of tangible property is based on court precedent and is not legally binding. The Committee is further concerned that 'fault' of either party to the marriage may be taken as a factor in determining the economic consequences of divorce.

39. The Committee recommends that the State party take the necessary legislative measures, on dissolution of marriage, to recognize both tangible and intangible property, such as pension and savings funds, as part of marital property, and to incorporate a rule of equal distribution of marital property upon divorce in the legislation, in line with article 16 of the Convention and with the Committee's general recommendation No. 21 (1994) on equality in marriage and family relations. The Committee further recommends that legislative measures be taken to eliminate consideration of 'fault' in the determination of the economic consequences of divorce.

#### **National Human Rights Institution**

40. While appreciating the contribution of the National Human Rights Commission of Korea to the reporting process and the data on the number of human rights violations and discrimination petitions filed before the Commission per year, the Committee shares the concern of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural rights (E/C.12/KOR/CO/3) regarding the downsizing of the Commission by 21%, whereas for all other ministries the cuts were of 2% at the most and regarding the severe pressure the Commission is facing to maintain its independence.

41. **The Committee reminds the State party of its responsibility to ensure that the National Human Rights Commission of Korea remains compliant with the Paris Principles, in particular its independence. It urges the State party to allocate to the Commission adequate human and financial resources, including human rights experts, in accordance with the National Human Rights Commission of Korea Act and to strengthen its monitoring functions, including in the area of gender and women's rights, with a view to regaining credibility, public confidence and legitimacy.**

#### **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action**

42. **The Committee urges the State party, in the implementation of its obligations under the Convention, to fully utilize the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which reinforce the provisions of the Convention, and requests the State party to include information thereon in its next periodic report.**

#### **Millennium Development Goals**

43. **The Committee emphasizes that full and effective implementation of the Convention is indispensable for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. It calls for the integration of a gender perspective and explicit reflection of the provisions of the Convention in all efforts aimed at the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and requests the State party to include information thereon in its next periodic report.**

#### **Dissemination**

44. **The Committee requests the wide dissemination in the Republic of Korea of the present concluding observations in order to make the people, government officials, politicians, parliamentarians and women's and human rights organizations, aware of the steps that have been taken to ensure formal and substantive equality of women, as well as the further steps that are required in that regard. The Committee recommends that the dissemination should include the local community level. The State party is encouraged to organize a series of**

meetings to discuss progress achieved in the implementation of these observations. The Committee requests the State party to continue to disseminate widely, in particular to women's and human rights organizations, the Committee's general recommendations, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly on the theme "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century".

#### **Ratification of other treaties**

45. The Committee notes that the adherence of the State party to the nine major international human rights instruments<sup>1</sup> would enhance the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms in all aspects of life. The Committee therefore encourages the Government of the Republic of Korea to consider ratifying the treaties to which it is not yet a party, that is, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

#### **Follow-up to concluding observations**

46. The Committee requests the State party to provide, within two years, written information on the steps undertaken to implement the recommendations contained in paragraphs 15 and 21 above.

#### **Preparation of next report**

47. The Committee requests the State party to ensure the wide participation of all ministries and public bodies in the preparation of its next report, as well as to consult a variety of women's and human rights organizations during that phase.

48. The Committee requests the State party to respond to the concerns expressed in the present concluding observations in its next periodic report under article 18 of the Convention. The Committee invites the State party to submit its eighth periodic report in July 2015.

49. The Committee invites the State party to follow the harmonized guidelines on reporting under the international human rights treaties, including guidelines on a common core document and treaty-specific documents, approved at the fifth inter-committee meeting of the human rights treaty bodies, in June 2006 (HRI/MC/2006/3 and Corr.1). The treaty-specific reporting guidelines adopted by the Committee at its fortieth session, in January 2008, must be applied in conjunction with the harmonized reporting guidelines on a common core document. Together, they constitute the harmonized guidelines on reporting under the Convention on the

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<sup>1</sup> The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman, Degrading Treatment or Punishment; the Convention on the Rights of the Child; the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

**Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The treaty-specific document should be limited to 40 pages, while the updated common core document should not exceed 80 pages.**

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