



REPUBLIC OF KOREA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Statement by H.E. Ms. BYUN Do Yoon

Minister for Gender Equality

53rd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

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Mr. Chair,
Distinguished delegates,

1. It is my pleasure to address the 53rd Session of the Commission on the Status of Women on behalf of the Republic of Korea.

4. I believe that true gender equality can only be achieved through a harmonious partnership between women and men. In this regard, I believe it is appropriate that the CSW has chosen 'The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care-giving in the context of HIV/AIDS' as the priority theme for the 53rd Session.
5. It is my sincere wish that our discussions and the efforts made here today will shed light on how women and men can equally share the burden of achieving gender equality. I hope that our efforts will ultimately contribute to the realization of our goal of gender equality, development, and peace.
6. Over the years, the status of women has undergone many changes. These changes have ensured that women enjoy greater participation in all spheres of life. However, women still take on a predominant role in household responsibilities and care-giving. This has been largely influenced by traditional stereotypes

that attribute responsibility for care-giving mainly to women.

7. The government of the Republic of Korea has exerted multifaceted efforts to induce social and cultural changes against such gender stereotypes. Needless to say, promoting a culture of gender equality is a prerequisite in overcoming prejudice against gender roles. In this light, my government has focused on expanding the culture of gender equality nationwide by introducing gender equal education programs to central and local government officials, lecturers, women's organizations, military officials, and faculty members.

8. As indicated in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by the United Nations, education is a

Mr. Chair,

11. "Green growth and sustainable development" is the keyword for the 21st century in searching for new growth engines as a response to climate change issues that threaten humankind. Taking this into consideration, the Lee Myung Bak government has adopted the "Low carbon and green growth" as the national agenda. In this regard, the Ministry of Gender Equality is enforcing the integration of gender-sensitive perspectives into green growth and sustainable development and the cultivation of professional women.

12. In 2008, the economic participation rate of women in Korea stood at 54.7 percent. We are also seeing a steady increase in women's social participation. However, according to the Nationwide Survey on

Families conducted by the Ministry of Gender Equality, the participation of men in unpaid daily household work is extremely low, amounting to merely one sixteenth of that of women.

13. Cognizant of the state's responsibility for creating a social environment where women and men equally share the burden of care-giving, including housework, my government remains committed to refurbishing related laws and expanding the social infrastructure.

14. For instance, in June 2008, my government amended the existing 'Equal Employment Act' to the 'Act on

18. In the Republic of Korea, many women with the will and ability to work continue to give up the opportunity to use their skills and participate in society due to the heavy burden of pregnancy, childbirth, and childcare. Taking this into account, my government enacted the 'Act on Promoting Economic Activities of Women with Career Interruptions' in June 2008 to alleviate this problem and to help women become more economically independent.

19. In tandem with the full-fledged enforcement of the Act, the Ministry of Gender Equality and the Ministry

of Labor and Employment have made commitments to open 50 new job centers for women in order to

... We plan to increase the number of these

Mr. Chair,

24. The government of the Republic of Korea firmly believes in creating women equal opportunity in the

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