



THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

335 East 45th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017
Tel (212) 439-4000, Fax (212) 986-1083

Statement by Ms. Hong Wook-jin, 3rd Secretary

Third Committee

64th Session of the UN General Assembly

October 12, 2009

New York

This reflection process, including today's discussion under agenda item 62, is expected to serve as a guiding point to navigate a future direction where we no longer need to discuss gender equality, discrimination, or violence against women.

Mr. Chairman,

Taking this opportunity, the Republic of Korea would like to share its views on dealing with the challenges ahead of us, among them being women exposed to vulnerable situations. As the Secretary-General's reports on rural women and women migrant workers express, we must take more vigorous initiatives to meet the needs of women in specific situations who are influenced by the recent increases in urbanization and migration. It requires governments to pay particular attention to newly emerging challenges that women face.

Let me introduce my government's efforts in this area. I will first discuss the situation in

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Mr. Chairman,

My delegation believes our country is in a very difficult position.

Mr. Chairman, honorable delegates, distinguished fellow youth delegates, ladies and gentlemen, it is one of the most humbling moments for me to be present here as a female youth delegate of my country to the UN General Assembly, and I feel a solemn sense of responsibility and honor to represent over 10 million youths of the Republic of Korea.

Mr. Chairman, we live in the world confronted with unprecedented challenges, which threaten the security and wellbeing of the most vulnerable within society, the women. I'd like to suggest some solutions

environment, employment, and the empowerment of girls and women.

However, more needs to be done in order to help the estimated 10 to 22 million women on the brink of unemployment by the end of 2009. We must prevent the crisis from evolving into a more serious one causing the rising number of women to engage in either unpaid or unstable jobs and to have

their already low wages cut even more.

Mr. Chairman, the challenges that lie ahead of us today seem rather imposing and insurmountable. However, history tells us that human development lies in not remembering the past mistakes, but taking the responsibility for our future generations. In due respect to this solemn fact, I