



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

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**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination
against Women**
Forty-ninth session

Summary record of the 987th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 19 July 2011, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Ms. Pimentel

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The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under article 18 of the Convention *(continued)*

Seventh periodic report of the Republic of Korea (CEDAW/C/KOR/7, CEDAW/S/KOR/Q/7 and Add.1)

1. *At the invitation of the Chair, the members of the delegation of the Republic of Korea took places at the Committee table.*

2. **Ms. Paik** Hee Young (Republic of Korea), introducing the seventh periodic report of the Republic of Korea, said that since ratifying the Convention in 1984, and particularly since submitting its fifth and sixth periodic reports in 2007, the Republic of Korea had achieved steady progress in eliminating gender-based discrimination and improving the status of women. The Ministry of Gender Equality had been expanded into the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family and its role had been enhanced as the central government policy body for women, youth and family issues. With a substantially larger budget and more than double the original staff, it was able to play a more effective part in promoting women's rights. Gender mainstreaming was a key feature of all government policies, reflected in gender-sensitive budgeting under the revised National Finance Act; in the same spirit, steps were under way to revise the Local Finance Act. The Government had also drawn up a revised version of the Women's Development Act, currently being considered by the National Assembly. The revised Act established a Committee on the Status of Women and included provisions for a gender-equality index and women-friendly cities.

3. The Government was committed to expanding the participation of women in public and political life and had accordingly put in place two five-year plans to increase the number of women in high-ranking public positions. It was true, however, that while the status of women had improved, some still suffered from the most extreme form of oppression: they were victims of a violence whose roots lay in gendered power relations. A joint public/private task force had therefore been set up to map out a comprehensive plan to prevent domestic violence, while a revised Act on the Prevention of Violence and Protection of Victims had recently been passed by the Assembly, which enabled the judicial police to take temporary emergency

measures, supplemented by a system of court-ordered victim protection. The Act on the Punishment of Sexual Violence Crimes and Protection of Victims had likewise been revised to give greater protection to women victims of sexual violence, including through the public identification of child and youth sex offenders and harsher punishment for offenders. Action to combat trafficking in persons had likewise been strengthened, through a revised version of the Act on the Regulation of Marriage Brokerage Agencies, which required couples to exchange personal information prior to marriage in order to prevent fraud. Moreover, in view of the rising number of international marriages, which had significantly affected Korean family structure, the Government had adopted a Basic Policy Plan to Support Multicultural Families (2010-2012), with a particular focus on the prevention and resolution of family conflicts.

4. The Government was concerned not only about the gender gap but also about the gaps between women, and particularly the social discrimination suffered by women with disabilities, single mothers and rural women. Networking Centres for Women with Disabilities had accordingly been set up in 2010, to provide such women with one-stop welfare services. As for single mothers, they were given special financial assistance, while rural women benefited from policies designed to protect their rights, enhance their professional status and improve their quality of life.

5. A major effort had also been made to combat gender inequality in employment, notably through the development of affirmative action for recruitment. One signal advance was the establishment of Women's Re-employment Support Centres to help women to resume interrupted careers through pilot programmes, including an award-winning career coaching programme. Childcare and maternal protection were other areas of active Government interest and, while further improvements were still required, they had benefited from supporting measures, such as a more advantageous system of paid maternity leave, subsidies for private sector childcare and the introduction of flexible time arrangements for working women.

6. The Republic of Korea was also involved in international gender equality initiatives and had incorporated gender-sensitive perspectives into its official development assistance programmes. The Government was, moreover, a strong supporter of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and

Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and was planning to join with it in developing projects to support women in partner countries. Her country was the first member country of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development to have gone from being a recipient to becoming a donor of official development assistance and, in that capacity, was seeking to promote gender mainstreaming. It was a leading actor in international initiatives to ensure greater economic opportunities and empowerment for women in the developing world.

7. In the previous four years the Government had been aided extensively by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in its efforts to improve its policies for women and had been largely inspired by the Committee's recommendations in 2007. In preparing the current report, it had benefited in particular from the collaboration of the Korea Centre for United Nations Human Rights Policy.

Articles 1 to 6

8. **Ms. Šimonović**, while welcoming the progress made by the State party, noted that it had still not withdrawn its reservation to article 16, paragraph 1 (g), of the Convention. She requested information about the present situation concerning the retention of a wife's family name and the expected time frame for possible withdrawal of the reservation. Referring to the NGO report prepared for the present meeting, she wondered, in view of the problems of cooperation it revealed between the governmental and non-governmental sectors, whether there had been any court cases challenging aspects of the Government's policies. It would be interesting to know how the Special Subcommittee on Anti-Discrimination Laws, mentioned in the response to question 2 in the responses to the list of issues and questions (CEDAW/C/KOR/7/Add.1), would proceed with its work.

9. **Ms. Açar** said that, despite its impressive array of legislation, the Republic of Korea seemed to have difficulty in achieving gender equality. She wondered whether that was because of its patriarchal culture or for lack of political will. What was the Government doing to implement and improve its laws? While welcoming the Government's cooperation with NGOs, she recommended more extensive consultation with more than just a select few. She asked whether the Committee's concluding observations would be

submitted to Parliament, whether the Special Subcommittee would act as an advocate of women's rights before Parliament and whether it was routinely responsible for checking that the country's laws were in line with the Convention.

10. **Ms. Ameline** asked about the prospects for ratification of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Protocol). It would also be useful to know whether the Republic of Korea was intending to strengthen its human rights institutions, particularly in the light of the Paris Principles. She wondered whether the incorporation of family issues into the Ministry of Gender Equality reflected a strengthening or a reorientation of its mandate. The Committee would welcome a clear expression of the State party's commitment to equality and freedom of choice for women, notably with regard to abortion. She asked whether there were any exchanges with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on women's issues, noting that a women's delegation had previously been sent there in the context of reconciliation efforts.

11. **Ms. Popescu**, noting that new anti-discrimination legislation in addition to the National Human Rights Commission Act had been rejected by the National Assembly, asked why the proposed legislation was rejected, how it differed from existing legislation and whether it would be reintroduced at a later date.

12. With regard to the proposed Women's Development Act, she wished to know whether it specifically focused on women's employment or also addressed the issues of women's empowerment and non-discrimination. A definition of discrimination against women that covered both direct and indirect discrimination in accordance with article 1 of the Convention should be incorporated into the Act.

13. Lastly, she wished to know whether the Republic of Korea envisaged including technical assistance for the implementation of the Committee's concluding observations in the official development assistance it provided.

14. **Ms. Neubauer** said that she would appreciate a description of the coordinating role played by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family in the formulation and implementation of gender mainstreaming policies at all levels of Government. A coordination

mechanism at the highest possible level of Government that involved the representatives of all relevant ministries was required for gender mainstreaming to be effective. Further, given the widely-recognized role of civil society in promoting gender equality, she was interested to know what channels of participation were in place to enable women's rights and human rights organizations to contribute to the promotion of a gender equality policy.

15. While gender impact assessment was the main tool used for implementing gender mainstreaming, it was being used only to evaluate existing projects, not proposed legislation and programmes. She would appreciate learning what percentage of the public budget had been allocated for the empowerment of women and for the achievement of gender equality objectives.

16. **Ms. Zou** Xiaoqiao said that one of the three goals of the Third Basic Plan for Women's Policies was "respect for diversity and differences", but the exact definition of those terms was unclear. She would also appreciate an explanation for the decrease in the number of women's policy units that existed within Government ministries. Lastly, it would be useful to learn whether an inter-ministerial mechanism for implementing the Plan had been established and how many NGOs took part in its formulation.

17. Noting that the slogan of the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family — "A Society Where All the Family Members Are Happy — An Equal Society Sharing Together" — appeared to give more attention to family than to gender equality, she would welcome an explanation of the slogan and the objectives of that public awareness campaign. Lastly, she asked the delegation to specify the number of staff and the financial resources available to the Ministry for the promotion of gender equality.

18. **Ms. Hwang** Eun Young (Republic of Korea) said that the anti-discrimination bill had not been adopted because the National Assembly had reached the end of its term. A special subcommittee established to examine overseas cases and conduct a case study had been active until December 2010. The Ministry of Justice was currently consulting public opinion before taking further steps.

19. Although the Government was maintaining its reservation to article 16, paragraph 1 (g), of the Convention, the Civil Code had been amended to allow

a couple to agree on their child's surname. International norms and public opinion would be consulted before any further legislative changes could be pursued.

20. **Ms. Paik** Hee Young (Republic of Korea) said that the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family had always acknowledged the important role of NGOs and had cooperated with them in the preparation of the report. The Ministry made it a priority to increase the amount of financial support provided to such organizations even though it was small relative to the number of projects they wanted to undertake. The Ministry had taken a balanced approach to accepting NGO input on its policies.

21. Regarding the Ministry's focus on family, she said that including family within the scope of its activities had enabled the Ministry to look into certain areas where family, youth and women's issues overlapped. The Ministry was working towards building a society where women could lead a balanced life and pursue both family and career objectives.

22. While abortion was prohibited by the Constitution, some exceptions existed, such as when the mother's life was at risk. There was strong disagreement in society over how strictly the prohibition should be applied and whether abortion should be permitted. One key aspect of the issue was finding a way to prevent unwanted pregnancies among young women. It was critical to handle the issue in a way that valued life.

23. Regarding the role of women in diplomatic relations with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, she said that following a 2008 incident in which a woman from the Republic of Korea had been killed, the Government had changed its diplomatic policies and the Ministry aligned itself with the new stance.

24. The Ministry provided language and culture orientation programmes for migrant women in the belief that the ability to understand the local language and customs was important for their success and happiness in the Republic of Korea and would be useful if they planned to raise their children there. Migrant women were also encouraged to share their cultural values and contribute to building a truly multicultural society.

25. The purpose of the revised Women's Development Act being considered by the National

Assembly was to apply the gender equality policy on a broader level and reflect changes in society. The wording and scope of the definition of gender discrimination would be considered in that context and would need to fit in with the overall legal framework.

26. The Ministry had initiated a women's policy coordination conference and had created a committee on the status of women as defined in the Women's Development Act. The Prime Minister was the proposed co-chair of that committee, which would enable the coordination of women's policies at the highest level. The Ministry also solicited input from Government agencies through the State Council and consulted with provincial and municipal administrations through a consultative body. In an effort to promote women's empowerment, women-friendly city policies were being designed to suit local needs.

27. Gender impact analysis had been carried out for seven years and tended to focus on programmes implemented based on prior findings. Ongoing programmes would be reviewed in 2011 with regard to how well they had achieved the effectiveness and consistency goals that had been set based on a comprehensive review of the results of the previous five years. While gender budgeting was indeed a small portion of the overall budget, it was more important to consider whether gender-responsive budgeting was being implemented in critical areas. The improvement of gender impact analysis was expected to lead to better gender budgeting.

28. The Government planned to expand its official development assistance programmes particularly with respect to career development for women. She agreed that a gender perspective needed to be incorporated into all development programmes and pledged that the Government would increase efforts in that regard.

29. **Ms. Neubauer** said that Government measures to expand the number of women in high-ranking positions had achieved very limited progress, and it was apparent that general recommendation No. 25 was not being utilised effectively. She asked for concrete data on the policies in question and a description of any plans to speed the pace of change. In particular, it appeared that owing to the low number of seats in the legislature elected through proportional representation, measures introduced to increase the number of women in elected office had been ineffective.

30. **Ms. Gabr** said that more information was needed regarding policies aimed at preventing domestic violence against migrant women. While there had been an effort to improve the reporting of domestic violence, she was concerned that impunity was widespread; more information was needed on what happened after a report was filed.

31. With regard to human trafficking, she wished to know whether the Republic of Korea intended to adopt a law that would protect the rights of trafficking victims in line with international law and the Palermo Protocol. She was also interested to hear whether it intended to adhere to the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Migrant Workers Convention) and whether a plan of action to combat trafficking in women would be developed.

32. Lastly, she suggested that a review of the official development assistance programme was needed to ensure that funds were being spent on concrete projects focused on the rights of women.

33. **The Chair**, speaking in her capacity as an expert, said that she would appreciate additional information regarding measures being taken to support the victims of prostitution and to punish those who encouraged prostitution. Statistical data related to those measures should be provided.

34. Noting that the Government had taken a number of measures with regard to the protection of women victims of violence, she wished to know whether any monetary assistance was provided to victims and whether there was a monitoring system in place to protect victims from repeat offenders. It would be useful to learn whether the measures to strengthen cooperation between the national and local governments with regard to that issue had been effective. Did the data reflect a decrease in the number of domestic violence cases and were there differences between big and small cities?

35. **Ms. Popescu**, noting a growing incidence of violence, particularly sexual violence, in the Republic of Korea, asked what preventive steps were being taken in schools and what was being done to create a culture of non-violence. The Committee would be interested to learn what measures were being taken to give greater visibility to the three laws against violence referred to in the periodic report (paragraphs 20, 21 and 24), what related training was given to magistrates

and law-enforcement officers and what monitoring mechanisms were in place. It would also be useful to know whether there was any likelihood of amending the current legislation to allow women to bring specific criminal charges for marital rape.

36. **Ms. Awori** inquired what steps were being taken or envisaged to enact a single comprehensive law on trafficking and to collect and classify statistics on the phenomenon, which were said in the responses to the list of issues and questions (CEDAW/C/KOR/Q/7/Add.1) to be available only in respect of “kidnapping and inducement”. Measures taken to protect E-6 visa workers from sexual exploitation, for example through active monitoring, had also been described, but according to NGO sources, Korean law-enforcement officials had little understanding of human trafficking or of the immigration process and only investigated cases where immigrant women had actually worked as prostitutes in establishments.

37. **Ms. Jahan** asked what was done to protect women when they managed to escape from forced prostitution and in particular whether, in cases of irregular immigration, they were then able to remain in the country pending legal proceedings. The legislation against prostitution apparently had not put an end to the phenomenon but had driven it underground. Moreover, it punished not only clients but also women unless they could prove their status as victims; no such proof should be required. She wished to know whether there was a time line for the decriminalization of women in prostitution. It would also be interesting to know what proportion of the women arrested for prostitution were actually prosecuted. Lastly, she reiterated the hope that that the Republic of Korea would rapidly ratify the Palermo Protocol and that a future victim protection act would incorporate its comprehensive definition of human trafficking.

38. **Ms. Ameline** applauded the State party’s efforts to combat trafficking but said that it also needed to act at the international level. She asked what it was doing to ensure better protection of potential victims in countries of origin. She reiterated the call for ratification of the Palermo Protocol, stressing that the international community could be of assistance in combating the phenomenon, which constituted a crime against humanity. Improved cooperation was essential in that regard between police and justice departments in the Republic of Korea, but also in all other countries.

39. **Ms. Paik Hee Young** (Republic of Korea), in response to the comments about women’s access to elected office, said that her Government, while recognizing that there was still room for improvement, was making slow but sure progress in improving women’s participation in political life. A general election to be held in 2012 would offer an opportunity for increasing the number of women office-holders from all parties. A web campaign was currently under way to encourage women to register as candidates; a pool of qualified women was thus being established that would lead to further progress.

40. **Mr. Lee In-il** (Republic of Korea) said that, in education, policies were in place to increase the number of women in university faculties, particularly through a plan for gender equality in employment opportunities that universities were regularly required to establish. The proportion of women professors had thus risen from around 8 per cent in 2006 to 13 per cent in 2010. Again following the establishment of a specific plan, there had likewise been an increase in the number of women employed in research institutes.

41. **Ms. Hwang Eun Young** (Republic of Korea), reverting to the issue of trafficking, said that the Government was in the process of ratifying the three Optional Protocols to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and that relevant national laws were being revised accordingly. In addition, the Criminal Code would be amended to include a specific provision on the subject. On the question of E-6 visa holders, possible abuses were being investigated by the Ministry of Justice in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture. The victims of forced prostitution were not punished and were allowed to remain in the country during investigations, irrespective of their status. The importance of awareness training for law-enforcement and other public officials was recognized, as was reflected in a special two-day course designed to change their attitudes towards prostitution and trafficking. It was also recognized that there was a need to identify ways of collecting relevant statistical data.

42. **Ms. Paik Hee Young** (Republic of Korea) said that victims of forced prostitution could take refuge in shelters where they could have a livelihood; there had been a significant decline in the number of such cases reported.

43. **Ms. Cho Jin Woo** (Republic of Korea) said that such women together with the victims of domestic violence could file suit. The shelters provided them with a one-stop service which included medical and legal assistance as well as counselling. The women admitted to them did not receive any direct subsidies but were given a basic allowance during their stay. A special shelter also existed for child victims of such violence, the Sunflower Child Centre. All the centres were run by means of matching funds from local and central government.

44. Sexual violence must be seen in the context of the surrounding community. A network of organizations and institutions had therefore been mobilized to give more effective support to victims and to take preventive action. As to whether the registering of complaints by victims was a condition for prosecution, that was indeed the case under the Criminal Code; however, the procedure was currently being reviewed by the Ministry of Justice in consultation with her Ministry with a view to removing that condition. On the question of punishment for those forced into prostitution, the law provided that those who practised prostitution of their own free will were liable for punishment; if, however, they expressed a desire to discontinue, they were given support with a view to their rehabilitation.

45. In response to a question raised by Ms. Gabr, she said that her Government was making every effort to ensure that its official development assistance for women in the developing world actually benefited the women for whom it was intended.

46. **Ms. Cho Kyung Sun** (Republic of Korea) said that the Korean Government had expressed support for the adoption of the International Labour Organization Convention on Domestic Workers and had established welfare schemes and put measures in place to ensure their protection.

47. **Mr. Lee Hyun Ah** (Republic of Korea) said that it was the understanding of the authorities that the prevention of sexual violence began at school; accordingly, school curricula were required to include a significant component on gender and sex education. Teachers received special training for the purpose, funded from local government resources in a spirit of enhanced cooperation between schools and governmental entities.

48. **Ms. Paik Hee Young** (Republic of Korea), taking up the question of the naturalization of foreign wives, said that the husband's presence might be required during the application process in order to demonstrate that the marriage was intact; in the event of divorce, the divorced wife would not need spousal support if she had not been at fault.

49. **Ms. Açar**, reverting to the State party's cooperation with NGOs, asked what criteria guided its selection of organizations. She also wished to know whether perpetrators of sexual violence were automatically prosecuted, even when complaints were withdrawn, and whether the shelters were a temporary arrangement, or offered victims an opportunity to learn new skills and start a new life.

50. **Ms. Šimonović**, again taking up the issue of the right of women to decide on a family name, wondered about the real possibilities available in that respect under current law. She stressed the importance of including discrimination based on sexual orientation in the projected comprehensive anti-discrimination act, recalling Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's recent statement that, as a matter of conscience, discrimination on the basis of sexual identity and orientation should be rejected.

51. **Ms. Halperin-Kaddari** requested clarification of the concept of fault as it affected divorced immigrant women's right to naturalization. There was no mention of it in the periodic report.

52. **Ms. Popescu** reiterated her question concerning plans to broaden the definition of rape and to criminalize marital rape, noting that the Committee's previous concluding observations had recommended those measures.

53. Information provided by non-governmental sources suggested that the anti-discrimination bill had been rejected because sexual orientation had been included along with other grounds that could not be used to justify discrimination. She wondered if that was indeed the case and whether sexual orientation would still be included when the bill was reintroduced.

54. **Ms. Paik Hee Young** (Republic of Korea) said that many NGOs that wished to participate in the preparation of the periodic report had submitted applications in response to the Government's invitation.

55. With regard to a timeline for withdrawing the reservation on article 16, paragraph 1 (g), of the Convention, the National Assembly session had ended before it took up the bill. A new Assembly must be elected before the bill could be reintroduced; thus a timetable could not be provided.

56. **Ms. Cho Jin Woo** (Republic of Korea) said that while it was true that the term “at fault” was used in the granting of divorces, married immigrant women who were victims of domestic violence were protected under the Act on the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Protection of Victims. Separate centres had been established to provide those women with counselling and support services in one of ten languages and admit the women into shelters. Victims of domestic violence could stay in shelters as long as a year and a half, after which other arrangements, such as group homes, were available to them along with employment assistance and mental health services. Cases were examined on an individual basis to determine whether domestic violence was a factor and whether the husband was at fault if a divorce was sought. Women were also advised on the steps they needed to take to divorce their husbands and to become naturalized citizens.

Articles 7 to 9

57. **Ms. Bareiro-Bobadilla** said that more information was needed regarding the way political parties were using the funds allocated for the promotion of women’s participation in politics. She failed to understand why the level of participation was so low, considering that the law encouraged political parties to ensure that at least 30 per cent of their nominees were women.

58. Noting that the report attributed the low level of women’s participation in politics to Confucianism, more specific information would be welcome regarding Confucian stereotypes of women as well as a description of the measures being taken to counter them. Lastly, noting that women accounted for only 7 per cent of the top-ranking civil servants, it would be useful to learn whether any measures were being undertaken to change that, and how many women ambassadors there were.

59. **Ms. Belmihoub-Zerdani** said that the fact that the delegation was made up primarily of women set a positive example. While the Republic of Korea had made no reservations to articles 6 and 7 of the

Convention, there was a lack of women leaders in central and local governments and in the judicial system. Recalling that only 10 per cent of political party funds were required by law to be used towards reducing the gender gap, she suggested that a higher percentage was warranted to achieve equitable representation. Participation needed to be increased at the local level to prepare women to be good representatives at the national level. The fact that parity had been nearly achieved in university enrolments meant that qualified and capable women were available.

60. **Ms. Schulz** said that reports received from NGOs indicated problems with the legal status granted to migrant women married to Korean nationals. She asked the delegation to provide information regarding the number of those women who had become naturalized citizens or had been granted permanent residence versus the number of women who had been issued temporary stay visas, as well as how many women had to leave the country after being married to a Korean man for two years or more. Considering that the Government was encouraging such marriages, she wished to know whether there were plans to change the law to allow for a rapid naturalization procedure for women who had been married to a Korean man for two years, whether the approval of the husband would be required, and if the women could obtain permanent legal status following a divorce. Lastly, she asked whether the Republic of Korea planned to adhere to the Migrant Workers Convention.

61. **Ms. Paik Hee Young** (Republic of Korea) said that political parties did not report to the Government on how they spent the allocation intended for promoting female candidates. While some seats in Parliament were filled through direct elections, others were filled through proportionate representation. Political parties were required to present a list of candidates for those seats that was half women. In addition, it was recommended, but not required, for 30 per cent of the candidates for the directly elected seats to be women. As a result of the two systems together, women had been elected to 13 per cent of seats in Parliament.

62. While patriarchal traditions had contributed to the low numbers of female politicians, there was evidence that the mindset was changing: women had accounted for 20 per cent of the local elected officials in 2010. The increased presence of women at lower levels of

Government was a recent development and as they moved up in their careers the number of high-ranking female politicians was expected to grow.

63. **Ms. Hwang Eun Young** (Republic of Korea) said that immigrant women seeking a divorce from a man found to be at fault could be granted special status allowing them to stay in the Republic of Korea while their situation was under review. Women were not responsible for proving their husband's fault or that they had been victims of domestic violence. They had to submit a formal statement and obtain the support of a reliable NGO that could show that the woman had no choice but to seek a divorce. When an immigrant woman had a child with a Korean husband, she could obtain permanent resident status or become a naturalized citizen whether or not she was divorced. Various criteria were taken into consideration when deciding whether a woman could be granted permanent resident status.

64. **Ms. Cho Jin Woo** (Republic of Korea) said that spousal rape had not been addressed by a specific provision in the law. However, sufficient protection was provided by the existing court precedent that recognized and punished such behaviour.

65. Of the 163,000 women who had come to the Republic of Korea through marriage, 52,000 had become naturalized citizens as of 2010. On average, it took two to five years to complete the process.

66. **Ms. Hwang Hyuni** (Republic of Korea) said that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade acknowledged that there was an insufficient number of women in high-ranking diplomatic positions. While there was only one female ambassador, that number was expected to increase through a five-year plan to increase the number of women at the rank of director and above. More than half of all successful candidates who sat the foreign service examination were women, which was expected to lead to an increase in the number of women administrators.

67. **Ms. Arocha Dominguez** said that the low number of women in decision-making positions was a major problem. She wished to know what percentage of the Ministry of Defence staff were women and the number of women serving in the police and security forces. How much training did police officers receive pertaining to violence against women?

68. **Ms. Schulz** asked whether the Government envisaged changing the law to give migrant women the right to become naturalized citizens irrespective of the reason for the divorce, and how many women had to return to their countries or origin because they had not been granted permission to stay following a divorce.

69. **Ms. Bareiro-Bobadilla** said it would be helpful to learn the number of female members of the Cabinet of Ministers and the percentage of leadership positions in public corporations occupied by women. She also wished to learn more about the Ministry's approach to the role of women in the family and whether it encouraged women to participate in public life.

70. **Ms. Šimonović** asked for an explanation of the current law as it related to the family name a woman was required to take when entering a marriage.

71. **Ms. Cho Jin Woo** (Republic of Korea) said that women made up over 6 per cent of the police force but few were in management positions. The goal was for women to make up 10 per cent of the force. Some, but not all, police stations had one-stop support centres that helped female victims of violence and were staffed with female officers. The goal was for an expert in domestic violence to be the first to assist the victim.

72. **Ms. Paik Hee Young** (Republic of Korea) said that no statistics were available regarding the number of women who had to leave the country following a divorce. The Government's policies in that regard focused on improving the conditions of those marriages while also ensuring that proper support was available if some women sought a divorce.

73. **Ms. Hwang Eun Young** (Republic of Korea) said that there was no definite timeline for adhering to the Migrant Workers Convention and the matter was under review.

74. The law did not require women to change their surname upon marriage; women generally kept their surnames. However, the Government maintained its reservation with respect to article 16, paragraph 1 (g), because when the couple could not agree on the surname of the child, the father's name was used. The proposal to refer the matter to a family court if the couple could not agree had been rejected because it clashed with societal conventions.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.