The present report is a compilation of the information contained in the reports of treaty bodies, special procedures, including observations and comments by the State concerned, and other relevant official United Nations documents. It does not contain any opinions, views or suggestions on the part of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) other than those contained in public reports issued by OHCHR. It follows the structure of the general guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Council. The information included herein has been systematically referenced in endnotes. The periodicity of the review for the first cycle being four years, most of the documents used as reference are dated after 1 January 2004. In the absence of recent information, the latest available reports and documents have also been taken into consideration, unless they are outdated. Since this report only compiles information contained in official United Nations documents, lack of information or focus on specific issues may be due to non-ratification of a treaty and/or to a low level of interaction or cooperation with international human rights mechanisms.

* The information and references contained in the present document have not been verified by United Nations editors prior to submission for translation.
## I. BACKGROUND AND FRAMEWORK

### A. Scope of international obligations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core universal human rights treaties</th>
<th>Date of ratification, accession or succession</th>
<th>Declarations/reservations</th>
<th>Recognition of specific competences of treaty bodies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ICERD</td>
<td>5 Dec. 1978</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Individual complaints (art. 14): Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICESCR</td>
<td>10 April 1990</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICCPR</td>
<td>10 April 1990</td>
<td>Art. 22</td>
<td>Inter-State complaints (art. 41): Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICCPR-OP 1</td>
<td>10 April 1990</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEDAW</td>
<td>27 Dec. 1984</td>
<td>Art. 16(1 g)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP-CEDAW</td>
<td>18 Oct. 2006</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Inquiry procedure (arts. 8 and 9): Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAT</td>
<td>9 Jan. 1995</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Inter-State complaints (art. 21): Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Individual complaints (art. 22): Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Inquiry procedure (art. 20): Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRC</td>
<td>20 Nov. 1991</td>
<td>Yes (arts. 9 para. 3, 21(a), 40 para. 2(b)(v))</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRC-OP-AC</td>
<td>24 Sept. 2004</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRC-OP-SC</td>
<td>24 Sept. 2004</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Core treaties to which Republic of Korea is not a party*: ICCPR-OP 2, OP-CAT, ICRMW, CPD (signature only, 2007), CPD-OP and CED.

### Other main relevant international instruments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ratification, accession or succession</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palermo Protocol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugees and stateless persons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocols thereto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILO fundamental conventions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) encouraged the State to consider ratifying ICRMW, while CEDAW called upon the State to consider ratifying the Palermo Protocol. The Committee against Torture (CAT) noted that the State considered ratifying OP-CAT. The State considered ratifying CPD and planned to sign CED and committed to consider the accession of OP-CAT and ratification of 4 out of the 8 ILO Fundamental Conventions. CEDAW commended the State for the withdrawal of its reservation to article 9 in 1999, but remained concerned that no clear timeline had been established to withdraw the reservation to article 16 para. 1(g). The State informed in 2007 that it was actively striving to withdraw its reservations to CEDAW and ICCPR. CRC also remained very concerned at the State’s reservations to articles 9 para. 3, 21 (a), and 40 para. 2 (b) and (v). The Human Rights Committee (HR Committee) regretted the State’s intention to maintain its reservation to article 22.
B. Constitutional and legislative framework

2. CRC welcomed the legislation enacted to implement further the Convention. The HR Committee and CEDAW welcomed the adoption of the Civil Code amendment, which includes the abolition of the Family Head System due to come into force in 2008. In 2001, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) noted with concern that, according to the Constitution, the status of ICESCR is equal to that of domestic laws and urged the State to accord the ICESRC a legal status that would enable it to be invoked directly within the domestic legal system and that such status be superior to all national laws.

C. Institutional and human rights structure

3. The HR Committee, CEDAW and CRC welcomed the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission of Korea (NHRCK) in 2001. The NHRCK was accredited in 2004 with “A status”. It is also a member of the International Coordinating Committee (ICC) Sub-Committee on Accreditation. The HR Committee in 2006 and CEDAW in 2007 noted with appreciation the initiatives undertaken to strengthen the national machinery for the advancement of women. CRC welcomed the fact that the State is considering to establish a permanent body within the Government to monitor the implementation of the Convention and recommended to expedite its adoption.

D. Policy measures

4. CERD welcomed the adoption, in May 2007, of a National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. In 2007, CEDAW commended the efforts of the Government to incorporate gender perspectives into all government policies and its introduction of a gender-sensitive budget policy in 2006, while the HR Committee welcomed the introduction of the Basic Plan for Realization of Gender Equal Employment and a Recruitment Target Scheme for women. With regard to the implementation of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, the Government informed of efforts to increase human rights education programs and resources for nationwide use, such as backing a bill to make human rights education in organizations a legal requirement, training programs run by the NHRCK for soldiers and teachers, as well as police officers, prosecutors and correctional officers to ensure better protection of human rights in law enforcement.

II. PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE GROUND

A. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

1. Cooperation with treaty bodies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treaty body</th>
<th>Latest report submitted and considered</th>
<th>Latest concluding observations</th>
<th>Follow-up response</th>
<th>Reporting status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CERD</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>August 2007</td>
<td>Due in August 2008</td>
<td>Fifteenth and sixteenth reports in a single document due in 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CESCR</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>May 2001</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Consideration of the third report is pending</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR Committee</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>November 2006</td>
<td>February 2008</td>
<td>Fourth report due in 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEDAW</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>July 2007</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Seventh report due in 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRC-OP-AC</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Initial report to be considered in May 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRC-OP-SC</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Initial report to be considered in May 2008</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. In 2006, the HR Committee remained concerned about the absence of domestic measures giving effect to its adopted Views on Communications. In 2007, CERD appreciated the efforts made by the State to address the issues previously raised. CAT and CEDAW noted in 2007 the ongoing efforts to revise legislation and undertake other measures to give effect to previous recommendations and to comply with its obligations.

2. Cooperation with special procedures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standing invitation issued</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visits agreed upon in principle</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visits requested and not yet agreed upon</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilitation/cooperation during missions</td>
<td>The Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants thanked the Government for the valuable assistance and cooperation afforded to him prior to and during his mission.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow-up to visits</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responses to letters of allegation and urgent appeals</td>
<td>Between 1 January 2004 and 31 December 2007, 11 communications were sent to the Government. Besides particular groups (e.g. a minority) 15 individuals were concerned by these communications. In the same period, the Government replied to 8 communications (72 per cent).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responses to questionnaires on thematic issues</td>
<td>The Republic of Korea responded to 2 of the 12 questionnaires sent by special procedures mandate-holders between 1 January 2004 and 31 December 2007, within the deadlines.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights


B. Implementation of international human rights obligations

1. Equality and non-discrimination

7. In 2007, CEDAW noted with concern the lack of a definition of discrimination against women which complies fully with article 1 of the Convention. CESCR in 2001 and CEDAW in 2007 noted with concern the persistence of patriarchal attitudes and deep-rooted stereotypes regarding the roles and responsibilities of women and men in the family and in society. CEDAW noted that these stereotypes are a root cause of violence against women.
8. As reported by NHRCK, a 2004 report of the Secretary-General on the issue of the total elimination of racism referred to the process of drafting a discrimination prohibition act, which was to be promulgated by the end of 2004 and informed of studies which show that ethnic minorities face severe discrimination and are systematically marginalized. In 2007, CERD noted the absence of a definition of racial discrimination in the law and that the article of the Constitution on equality and non-discrimination includes none of the prohibited grounds of discrimination referred to in ICERD. The Committee noted with concern that existing criminal law provisions that may be used to punish acts of racial discrimination have never been invoked in national courts. It recommended that the State move expeditiously towards the drafting and the adoption of the discrimination prohibition act.

9. CERD noted with concern that the emphasis placed on the ethnic homogeneity of the State may represent an obstacle to the promotion of understanding, tolerance and friendship among the different ethnic and national groups. While welcoming, as also highlighted by UNHCR, the adoption in May 2007, of the Act on the Treatment of Foreigners in Korea, it remained concerned about the persistence of widespread societal discrimination against foreigners. While taking note of the explanations provided by the delegation that, in practice, non-citizens enjoy most of the rights and freedoms set out in the Constitution on an equal basis with citizens, CERD expressed concern, as highlighted also by UNHCR, that strictly in accordance with article 10 of the Constitution, only citizens are equal before the law and entitled to exercise the rights set out in Chapter II of the Constitution.

10. In 2003, CRC expressed concern that the Constitution does not explicitly prohibit discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, language, political or other opinion, national or ethnic origin, disability, birth or other status. The Committee was further extremely concerned that societal discrimination against children with disabilities is widespread.

2. Right to life, liberty and security of the person

11. CAT expressed concern about the high number of suicides and other sudden deaths in detention facilities. It recommended, inter alia, that the State conduct a comprehensive analysis of the link, if any, between the number of such deaths and prevalence of torture and other forms of ill-treatment in detention. CAT also expressed similar concern at the number of suicides in the military. In its follow-up report to CAT, the State informed of concrete measures being considered or adopted in this regard.

12. CAT remained concerned that the State has not incorporated a specific definition of the crime of torture in its penal legislation. CAT and the HR Committee expressed concern about continuing allegations of torture and other forms of ill-treatment in places of detention. CAT also noted with concern the use of excessive force and other forms of ill-treatment during arrest and investigation. The HR Committee regretted the continued practice of certain forms of disciplinary punishment and recommended that the State discontinue harsh and cruel measures of disciplinary confinement. CAT and the HR Committee were also concerned at the lack of thorough investigation and adequate punishment of the responsible officials. CAT expressed concern at reports that investigation records are invoked and relied on during criminal trials, often encouraging investigators to obtain confessions from suspects. CAT recommended to ensure that statements made as a result of torture cannot be invoked as evidence in any proceedings. In 2006, CAT urged the adoption of the bill to exclude or suspend the application of a statute of limitations to crimes against humanity, including
torture. In its follow-up report to CAT and to the HR Committee, the State provided information on measures it adopted, such as the establishment of the Human Rights Bureau in May 2006, the revision of the “Investigation Standards on Human Rights Protection,” and the promulgation in 2007 of the Act on Execution of Penalties and Treatment of Prisoners.

13. In 2006, CAT expressed concern, highlighted also by UNHCR, at the absence of adequate legal protection of individuals, particularly of asylum-seekers, against deportation or removal to locations where they might be subjected to torture.

14. CAT expressed concern about the number of persons held in “substitute cells” (detention cells in police stations), which are reported to be overcrowded and in poor condition. It asked the State inter alia to complete the proposed construction of new detention facilities. In its follow-up report to CAT, the State informed the Committee of concrete measures it took, such as closing some “substitute cells” and the construction of new prisons.

15. CRC noted with great concern that corporal punishment is officially permitted in schools and recommended that the State implement the recommendation of NHRCK that the relevant legislation and regulations be amended to expressly prohibit corporal punishment in the home, schools and all other institutions.

16. CAT noted with concern the prevalence of domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence, including marital rape. While CEDAW and the HR Committee welcomed measures taken by the State, they expressed concern that specific legal provisions on domestic violence are lacking and, together with CAT, regretted that marital rape has not been criminalized as well as the lack of progress in the prosecution and punishment of those responsible. The Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants recommended in 2007 that the State mitigate the requirements to apply for naturalization for the victims of domestic violence, and that it provide a legal system to protect the foreign spouse enabling foreign victims to have access to adequate interpretation facilities in police stations and the courts.

17. CERD noted in 2003, as highlighted also by UNHCR, the State’s efforts to combat trafficking of foreign women for the purpose of prostitution. In 2007, CERD and CEDAW remained concerned about the widespread trafficking of foreign women and the persistence of trafficking and exploitation of prostitution and recommended, inter alia, to review the law in order to ensure that women in prostitution are not criminalized.

18. In 2001, CESCR expressed concern about the rising incidence of sexual exploitation of children, child labour, and hardships caused by the breakdown of the family. While welcoming the enactment in 2000 of the Juvenile Protection Act, CRC expressed concern that it is not being effectively implemented. CRC recommended inter alia the development of a National Plan of Action on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children.

19. While taking note of the draft counterterrorism law, the HR Committee recommended that the State ensure that all counterterrorism and related legislative measures are in conformity with ICCPR and to introduce a definition of “terrorist acts” in its legislation.

3. Administration of justice and the rule of law

20. The HR Committee expressed concern about the State’s interference with the right to counsel during pretrial criminal detention. CAT further noted that the right to have legal counsel present during interrogations and investigations is only permitted under guidelines of the public prosecutors’ office, and recommended that the State adopt relevant amendments to the
Criminal Procedure Act.\textsuperscript{79} In its follow-up report to CAT, the State informed the Committee that the revised bill of this Act was passed by the National Assembly on 30 April 2007 to ensure the presence of counsel during interrogations of suspects.\textsuperscript{80} The HR Committee remained concerned that those detained for the purposes of criminal investigation or under an arrest warrant do not enjoy an automatic right to be brought promptly before a judge to have the legitimacy of their detention determined.\textsuperscript{81}

21. CAT and the HR Committee expressed concern at the urgent arrest procedure, by which individuals can be detained without an arrest warrant for a maximum period of 48 hours. Both committees expressed concern, in particular, at reports of excessive recourse to and abuse of this procedure. In 2006, CAT and the HR Committee urged the State to promptly adopt the relevant amendments to the Criminal Procedure Act.\textsuperscript{82}

22. CRC noted with concern that juveniles accused of violating the law and subject to protective disposition may be deprived of their liberty without undergoing criminal procedures and having access to legal assistance.\textsuperscript{83}

4. Freedom of religion or belief, expression, association and peaceful assembly, and right to participate in public and political life

23. The HR Committee noted with concern that, under the Military Service Act of 2003, the penalty for refusal of active military service is imprisonment for a maximum of three years, and that those who have not satisfied military service requirements are excluded from employment in government or public organizations; and that convicted conscientious objectors bear the stigma of a criminal record. It requested the State to recognize the right of conscientious objectors to be exempted from military service.\textsuperscript{84} In 2006, the Committee adopted Views on two individual communications\textsuperscript{85}, finding a violation of article 18 (1) of the Covenant (refusal to be drafted for compulsory military service based on religious beliefs; thus conviction and sentence were a restriction on ability to manifest religion or belief). It recommended that the State provide the authors with an effective remedy, including compensation. Since the response of the State has not been considered satisfactory by the HR Committee, the dialogue remains open.\textsuperscript{86}

24. In 2003, the HR Committee adopted Views on an individual communication,\textsuperscript{87} finding a violation of article 18 (1) and 19 (1) in conjunction with article 26 of ICCPR regarding the application of the “ideology conversion system” that restricts freedom of expression and of manifestation of belief on the discriminatory basis of political opinion. In the same Views, the Committee also found a violation of article 10, paragraphs 1 and 3 because of a detention of 13 years in solitary confinement on the basis of the author’s political opinions. It requested the State to provide the victim with an effective remedy, and to avoid similar violations in the future. On 14 October 2003, the State informed the Committee that the “law-abidance oath system” was abolished and that the author may submit an application for compensation. However, the response of the Republic of Korea has not been considered satisfactory by the HR Committee and the dialogue remains open.\textsuperscript{88}

25. In 2006, the HR Committee noted recent attempts to amend the National Security Law and the absence of consensus concerning its alleged continued necessity for reasons of national security. However, it noted with concern that prosecutions continue to be pursued and that the restrictions placed on the freedom of expression do not meet the requirements of ICCPR.\textsuperscript{89} Since 1995, it has found violations of ICCPR in five cases related to limitations of rights considered necessary by the State for the protection of national security. In four of those cases, it found a violation of freedom of expression\textsuperscript{90} and in one of them, a violation of freedom of association.\textsuperscript{91} The dialogue remains open
in all of those five cases. In a reply dated 16 August 2006, the Government announced that, to
prevent the recurrence of similar violations, it was actively pursuing the abolition or revision of this
law. Meanwhile, it assured that it would continue to make the utmost efforts to minimize the
possibility of arbitrary interpretation and application of the law by law enforcement officials. In its
follow-up report, the State indicated that as a result of its efforts, the number of persons booked or
detained on charges of violations of the Act and the rate of such detentions steadily declined.93

26. The HR Committee expressed concern at the significant number of senior public officials who
are not permitted to form and join trade unions and at the State’s unwillingness to recognize certain
trade unions.94 CRC expressed concern at the limitations on students’ freedom of expression and
association due to strict administrative control of student councils and school regulations.95

27. Three mandate-holders expressed concern at the arrest of a number of human rights activists,
following a peaceful demonstration against the forced eviction of villagers.96 The State replied that
the police arrested illegal and violent protesters interfering in the execution of provisional
disposition of lands and buildings.97 In another instance, two mandate-holders expressed concern at
acts of repression against the Korean Government Employees Union (KGEU). It was reported that
during a peaceful demonstration that had been legally notified to the authorities in advance, several
people were severely beaten by the riot police and eight KGEU members were arrested.98 The State
did not reply to this communication.99

28. While CEDAW noted, in 2007, the adoption of laws and plans to increase women’s
participation in public and political life, it noted with concern, together with the HR Committee,
that women are underrepresented in high-level positions in the political, legal and judicial
spheres.100

5. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

29. An ILO Committee of Experts noted in 2006 that the State is implementing affirmative action
measures to increase the employment of women, including in management positions in State-owned
companies and government subsidies, on a trial basis. It also noted from the Government’s report
the increase in the proportion of women in professional, technical and managerial positions.101
While welcoming the measures aimed at improving the situation of women in the labour market,
CEDAW expressed concern about the serious disadvantages women face and insufficient
compliance with existing labour legislation.102

6. Right to social security and to an adequate standard of living

30. In 2001, CESCR noted with satisfaction the adoption of a wide range of laws and
programmes aimed at ensuring an adequate standard of living for all persons but expressed doubts
about the adequacy of the assistance given.103 In 2003, CRC was encouraged by the very positive
health indicators for children but remained concerned, as CESCR did in 2001, about the low
allocation from the government budget to health and about the predominance of privately operated
health-care facilities.104 CEDAW expressed concern that many women depend on working members
of their families for access to health services and that the rate of abortion among women between 20
and 24 is high.105

7. Right to education and to participate in the cultural life of the community

31. CERD welcomed the adoption in May 2006 of the Educational Support Plan for Children
from Multi-cultural Families.106 CRC and CESCR noted with concern that despite the State’s
relatively high level of economic development, only primary education is free. CESCR also
expressed concern about the quality of education in public schools, which is low compared to private schools and about the predominance of private institutions in higher education, a fact detrimental to lower income groups. CRC and CESCRe recommended that the State develop a time-bound strategy in this regard.107

8. Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers

32. In 2006, the HR Committee noted with concern, as highlighted also by UNHCR,108 that migrant workers face persistent discriminatory treatment and abuse in the workplace, are not provided with adequate protection and redress, and experience confiscation and retention of official identification papers.109 CRC in 2003 recommended, as highlighted also by UNHCR,110 that the Republic of Korea amend domestic laws to include specific provisions which ensure equal access to services for all foreign children, including those of undocumented migrant workers.111 The HR Committee and CERD recommended that the State ensure to migrant workers enjoyment of their labour rights and the rights contained in ICCPR, without discrimination.112 An ILO Committee of Experts noted in 2006 that NHRCK had by then dealt with some 370 employment discrimination cases, and noted surveys scheduled to be carried out on issues including employment discrimination on the ground of disability and discrimination against non-regular workers.113 In its follow-up report to the HR Committee, the State provided information on existing measures or measures that were adopted to address concerns at discrimination faced by migrant workers.114

33. According to the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, the employment system for foreign workers can be divided into three categories, one of which is the employment system for unskilled foreign workers. Programmes in this category can be classified into two systems, the Employment Permit System (EPS) and the Industrial Trainee System (ITS).115 In 2003, the National Assembly passed the Employment Permit for Migrant Workers Bill, establishing the EPS. Initially it was meant to replace the ITS, however, confronted by objections from the employers’ unions, the authorities decided to operate both the ITS and the EPS. The latter was introduced in July 2004 in the following sectors: manufacturing, construction, agriculture, fishing, and service industries.116 In August 2007, the three-year cycle of implementation of the EPS came to an end and the State committed itself to revise it in order to address, inter alia, the plight of undocumented migrants. Many irregular migrant workers are hoping for legalization under the new revision of the EPS Act in 2007; however, the Ministry of Justice and the Immigration Department are reportedly not favouring the regularization of undocumented migrant workers.117 While CERD welcomed the establishment, in June 2006, of the Interpretation Support Centre for Foreign Migrant Workers,118 an ILO Committee of Experts noted in 2007 that the State acknowledged that there were considerable problems with the ITS. The ILO Committee stated that the revised EPS system will be effective on 1 January 2007.119 The Special Rapporteur stressed that most of the jobs performed in the framework of the ITS were considered to be “dirty”, “difficult”, and “dangerous”.120 He also noted that the EPS requirements place migrant workers in a vulnerable situation and impede their freedom of movement of work.121 A 2007 ILO report noted that the EPS prevents a migrant worker from changing jobs more than three times.122 An ILO Committee of Experts requested further information regarding the EPS, in particular how this system ensures that migrant workers are protected against discrimination.123

34. The Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants noted that women now constitute approximately one third of migrant workers. They are frequently under threat of sexual harassment and abuse in the workplace, and their average income is lower than that of male co-workers. Undocumented female migrant workers do not report violence perpetrated against them out of fear
of arrest and deportation. According to the Special Rapporteur, the deportation of irregular migrants’ children is also an issue of particular concern, following the new policy on children of undocumented migrants put in place on 21 August 2006.

According to the Special Rapporteur, female migrant workers arriving with an “entertainer visa” are increasingly being lured into sexual activities. This visa category, established in 1994, has met an increasing demand for foreign female entertainers and requests doubled since 1997. Sex workers often suffer from serious abuses, and language and cultural barriers exacerbate their vulnerable legal status. Most of them are irregular migrant workers who have overstayed their “entertainer visas”, which makes it even more difficult for them to report abuse or seek redress.

The Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants reported that in the last few years, the number of international marriages has sharply increased. According to the Special Rapporteur, since foreign female spouses are not allowed to work legally, they automatically belong to a marginalized labour market. Another disturbing factor about these marriages is that the legal resident status of a female migrant spouse depends entirely on her Korean husband, which subjects them to all sorts of domestic abuse.

The 2006 UNHCR Global Report noted that there had been some progress in the implementation of the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol and improvement in the treatment of refugees, and noted the doubling of staff of the Refugee Unit at the Seoul Immigration Office. CERD noted with appreciation the information provided by the delegation that the Immigration Control Act is currently being reviewed in order to strengthen the protection of refugees and asylum-seekers. However, it expressed concern, as CESCR did in 2001, and as highlighted also by UNHCR, that only a limited number of asylum-seekers have obtained recognition as refugees since the entry into force of the 1951 Convention.

In 2007, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea encouraged the Republic of Korea to continue its humanitarian policy of accepting those who sought refuge from the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea and to facilitate their social recovery and reintegration, with more opportunities for vocational training and other forms of support with a view to sustainably accessing a variety of employment and livelihood options. Concluding his visit to the Republic of Korea in January 2008, the Special Rapporteur also invited a more comprehensive support system for those who seek refuge in the country.

III. ACHIEVEMENTS, BEST PRACTICES, CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS

The HR Committee welcomed the measures taken to combat domestic violence, in particular the nomination of special prosecutors charged with handling such crimes. In 2006, CAT welcomed measures taken by the State to investigate and provide remedies for past violations of human rights, such as the enactment in 2000 of the Special Act to Find the Truth on Suspicious Deaths and the subsequent establishment of the Presidential Truth Commission on Suspicious Deaths.

IV. KEY NATIONAL PRIORITIES, INITIATIVES AND COMMITMENTS

A. Pledges by the State

In 2008, the State committed to implement its National Action Plan on Human Rights from 2007-2011, which, as it noted, includes institutional provisions to protect socially vulnerable and minority groups. It also committed to enhance cooperation and partnership with civil society and strengthen human rights education and thereby incorporate human rights into the mainstream of
all sectors of society. Furthermore, it committed to support Member States in their implementation of human rights obligations with technical cooperation, and to contribute to the process of identifying and clarifying standards with regard to new human rights issues such as regarding bioethics and information technology.

B. Specific recommendations for follow-up

41. In 2006, CAT recommended the State to inform it, within a year, of the specific steps taken in pursuance of the recommendations concerning measures to prevent and prohibit torture and ill-treatment by law-enforcement officials; to ensure that fundamental legal safeguards are respected; to limit the use of “substitute cells” and to ensure the enjoyment of human conditions for detainees; to prevent and reduce the number of deaths in detention facilities; and to prevent ill-treatments and abusive measures in the military. The requested information was provided by the State on 27 June 2007, such as information on the concrete measures considered or already adopted to comply with the recommendations.

42. The HR Committee requested to be informed by November 2007 of practical steps taken to follow up on the recommendations concerning the enjoyment by migrant workers of the rights enshrined in the Covenant without discrimination, the measures taken to prevent torture and ill-treatment by law-enforcement officials, and the amendment of the National Security Law in order to meet the requirements of article 19 (3) of ICCPR. The requested information was provided by the State on 25 February 2008 and will be examined by the Committee at its ninety-second session (March-April 2008). In January 2008, the State informed the HR Committee of the legislative and policy measures considered or adopted to comply with the recommendations formulated in paragraphs 12, 13 and 18 of its concluding observations.

43. CERD requested information by August 2008 on the way the State has followed up on recommendations concerning the measures to prohibit and eliminate all forms of discrimination against foreigners, to prohibit and punish racially motivated criminal offences, and to strengthen the protection of the rights of foreign female spouses.

44. In 2007, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants recommended a number of measures in order to comply with international human rights labour standards including ratification of the ICRMW; the review of labour laws, especially the EPS Act; and measures to protect women in particular those involved in international marriages. The Special Rapporteur encouraged incentives for voluntary return of migrants rather than expulsion in accordance with procedural guarantees against forced return.

Notes

1 Unless indicated otherwise, the status of ratifications of the instruments below may be found in Multilateral Treaties Deposited with the Secretary-General: Status as at 31 December 2006 (ST/LEG/SER.E.25), complemented by the official website of the United Nations Treaty Collection database, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, http://untreaty.un.org/.

2 The following abbreviations have been used for this document:

- ICERD: International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
- ICESCR: International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- ICCPR: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- ICCPR-OP 1: Optional Protocol to ICCPR
- ICCPR-OP 2: Second Optional Protocol to ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty
- CEDAW: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OP-CEDAW</td>
<td>Optional Protocol to CEDAW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAT</td>
<td>Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP-CAT</td>
<td>Optional Protocol to CAT</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRC</td>
<td>Convention on the Rights of the Child</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRC-OP-AC</td>
<td>Optional Protocol to CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRC-OP-SC</td>
<td>Optional Protocol to CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICRMW</td>
<td>International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPD</td>
<td>Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OP-CPD</td>
<td>Optional Protocol to Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CED</td>
<td>International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance</td>
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5 Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field (First Convention); Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea (Second Convention); Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War (Third Convention); Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (Fourth Convention); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II); Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Adoption of an Additional Distinctive Emblem (Protocol III). For the official status of ratifications, see Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, at: http://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/fr/home/topics/intl/a/intrea/chdep/warvic.html.

6 International Labour Organization Convention No. 29 concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour; Convention No. 105 concerning the Abolition of Forced Labour; Convention No. 87 concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize; Convention No. 98 concerning the Application of the Principles of the Right to Organize and to Bargain Collectively; Convention No. 100 concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value; Convention No. 111 concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation; Convention No. 138 concerning Minimum Age for Admission to Employment; Convention No. 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour.

7 CERD, Concluding observations, CERD/C/KOR/CO/14, adopted on 17 August 2007, para. 21; CEDAW, Concluding observations, CEDAW/C/KOR/CO/6, adopted on 31 July 2007, para. 39 and CRC, CRC/C/15/Add.197, para. 59.

8 CEDAW, para. 20.

9 CAT, Concluding observations, CAT/C/KOR/CO/2, adopted on 18 May 2006, para. 22.


11 Republic of Korea’s Voluntary Pledge submitted in support of its candidacy to the membership of the HRC, New York, 29 January 2008, p. 3.

12 CEDAW, Concluding observations, CEDAW/C/KOR/CO/6, adopted on 31 July 2007, paras. 4 and 11.


14 CRC, paras. 9 and 10.

15 The HR Committee, Concluding observations, CCPR/C/KOR/CO/3, adopted on 2 November 2006, para. 8.
16 CRC, para. 3.

17 The HR Committee, para. 6, CEDAW, para. 6.


19 The HR Committee, para. 3, CEDAW, para. 9 and CRC, para. 4.

20 A/HRC/7/70, para. 3.

21 CEDAW, para. 7 and the HR Committee, para. 4.

22 CRC, paras. 15 and 16.

23 CERD, para. 5.

24 CEDAW, para. 8 and the HR Committee, para. 4.


26 The following abbreviations have been used in this document:

CERD - Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination;
CESCR - Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
HR Committee - Human Rights Committee;
CEDAW - Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;
CAT - Committee against Torture;
CRC - Committee on the Rights of the Child;
CMW - Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

27 HR Committee, para. 7.

28 CERD, paras. 3 and 4, CAT, para. 2 and CEDAW, paras. 2 and 3.


35 The questionnaires included in this section are those which have been reflected in an official report by a special procedure mandate-holder.

36 See (i) report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education (A/HRC/4/29), questionnaire on the right to education of persons with disabilities sent in 2006;
(ii) report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants (A/HRC/4/24), questionnaire on the impact of certain laws and administrative measures on migrants sent in September 2006;

(iii) report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights aspects of victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children (A/HRC/4/23), questionnaire on issues related to forced marriages and trafficking in persons, sent in July 2006;

(iv) report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants (A/HRC/4/24), questionnaire on the implementation of the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms sent in June 2005;


(vi) report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children (E/CN.4/2006/62) and the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (E/CN.4/2006/67), joint questionnaire on the relationship between trafficking and the demand for commercial sexual exploitation sent in July 2005;

(vii) report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education (E/CN.4/2006/45), questionnaire on the right to education for girls sent in 2005;

(viii) report of the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination (A/61/341), questionnaire concerning its mandate and activities sent in November 2005;

(ix) report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (A/HRC/4/31), questionnaire on the sale of children's organs sent in July 2006;

(x) report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (E/CN.4/2005/78), questionnaire on child pornography on the Internet sent in July 2004;


(xii) report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprise (A/HRC/4/35/Add.3), questionnaire on human rights policies and management practices.


OHCHR Annual Reports 2004.

A/60/299, paragraph 11 and OHCHR Annual Report, p. 188.

A/HRC/7/69, para. 80.
43 CEDAW, paras. 15 and 16.

44 CEDAW, paras. 25 and 26, CESCR, para. 10.

45 2004 Report of the Secretary-General on the Global efforts for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, see A/59/375, para. 41.

46 CERD, para. 10.

47 CERD, para. 20.

48 CERD, para. 13.

49 CERD, para. 12.

50 UNHCR submission to the UPR on the Republic of Korea, citing CERD/C/KOR/CO/14, para. 11.

51 CERD, paras. 6 and 11.

52 UNHCR submission to the UPR on the Republic of Korea, citing CERD/C/KOR/CO/14, para. 14.

53 CERD, para. 14.

54 CRC/C/15/Add.197, paras. 31-32.

55 CRC, paras. 32, 50 and 51.

56 CAT, para. 14.

57 CAT, para. 15.

58 Comments by the Governements of the Republic of Korea to the conclusions and recommendations of CAT, 27 June 2007, CAT/C/KOR/CO/2/Add.1, paras. 19-28.

59 CAT/C/KOR/CO/2, para. 4.

60 CAT, para. 7.

61 The HR Committee, para. 13.

62 CAT, para. 16.

63 CAT, para. 8 and the HR Committee, para. 13.

64 CAT/C/KOR/CO/2/Add.1, paras 1 and 3.


66 UNHCR submission to the UPR on the RoK, p. 2, citing CAT/C/KOR/CO/2, para. 12.

67 CAT/C/KOR/CO/2, para. 12.

68 CAT, para. 13.

69 CAT/C/KOR/CO/2/Add.1, paras. 14-18.
CRC, paras. 38 and 39.

CAT, CAT/C/KOR/CO/2, para. 17 and the HR Committee, paras. 5 and 11 and CEDAW, paras. 17 and 18.

A/HRC/4/24/Add.2, paras. 62 and 64.

UNHCR submission to the UPR on the RoK, p. 3, citing CERD/C/63/CO/9, para. 11.

CERD/C/63/CO/9, para. 11.

CED, para. 8 and 16, CEDAW, paras. 19 and 20.

CRC, para. 54 and 55 and CESCR, para. 21.

The HR Committee, para. 9.

The HR Committee, para. 14.

CAT/C/KOR/CO/2, para. 9.

CAT/C/KOR/CO/2/Add.1, para. 13.

The HR Committee, para. 16.

CAT, CAT/C/KOR/CO/2, para. 11 and the HR Committee, para. 15.

CRC, para. 56.

The HR Committee, para. 17.


Follow-up of the HR Committee on individual communications under the optional protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, CCPR, A/59/40, vol.I (2004), Chapter VI, para. 250, Case 878/1999.

The HR Committee, para. 18.


Information on the Follow-Up to the HR Committee’s Recommendations, op. cit, para. 25.

The HR Committee, para. 19.

CRC, paras. 36 and 37.

100 The HR Committee, para. 10 and CEDAW, paras. 23 and 24.
101 ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Direct Request, 2006/77 session, para. 4.
102 The HR Committee, para. 10 and CEDAW, paras. 27 and 28.
103 CESC, paras. 5 and 23.
104 CRC, paras. 48 and 49 and CESC, para. 26.
105 CEDAW, paras. 29 and 30.
106 CERD, para. 9.
107 CRC, paras. 52 and 53 and CESC, paras. 27, 28, 29 and 42.
108 UNHCR submission to the UPR on the RoK, pp. 3-4, citing CCPR/C/KOR/CO/3, para. 12.
109 CCPR/C/KOR/CO/3, para. 12. See also CERD, para. 18.
110 UNHCR submission to the UPR on the RoK, p. 2, citing CRC/C/15/Add.197, paras. 58-59.
111 CRC/C/15/Add.197, paras. 58-59.
112 The HR Committee, para. 12 and CERD, para. 18.
113 ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Direct Request, 2006/77 session, para. 3.
114 Information on the Follow-Up to the HR Committee’s Recommendations, op. cit, para. 3 ff.
118 CERD, para. 7.
119 ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Doc No. 062007/KOR111, para. 1.
120 A/HRC/4/24/Add.2, para. 10.
121 A/HRC/4/24/Add.2, paras. 21-22.
123 ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations, Observation, 2006/77 session, para. 2.
124 A/HRC/4/24/Add.2, para. 32.
126 A/HRC/4/24/Add.2, paras. 33 -34
130 UNHCR submission to the UPR on the Republic of Korea, citing CERD/C/KOR/CO/14, para. 15.
131 CERD, para. 15 and CESCR, para. 30.
134 CCPR/C/KOR/CO/3, para. 5.
135 CAT, CAT/C/KOR/CO/2, para. 3.
137 Republic of Korea’s Voluntary Pledge submitted in support of its candidacy to the membership of the HRC, New York, 29 January 2008, pp. 3-4.
139 CAT, para. 20.
140 CAT/C/KOR/CO/2/Add.1
141 The HR Committee, para. 23.
142 Information on the Follow-Up to the HR Committee’s Recommendations, op. cit.
143 CERD, para. 26.
147 A/HRC/4/24/Add.2, para. 58.

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