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Oral Statement
Item 6:
Consideration of UPR reports: Republic of Korea

UN Human Rights Council
Fifty-third session
19 June – 14 July 2023

Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes the government's support for the recommendation to encourage domestic and international private sector companies to take all appropriate measures to eliminate all forms of online discrimination, including online gender-based violence and digital sex crimes.¹

We have documented Google's inadequate reporting system that hinders non-consensual content and survivors' personal information from being swiftly deleted.² This has led women and girls to be subjected to further harm or crimes, even when the original perpetrators were punished.

We urge the government to recognize the transnational nature of online gender-based violence and adopt active and sufficient measures, such as cooperation with overseas platform operators, to prevent the further distribution of illegal and non-consensual materials online.

Mr President,

We urge swift implementation of supported recommendations to reduce gender inequality,³ as women in South Korea face multiple legal, social and economic barriers and discrimination.

¹ UN Human Rights Council, Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*: Republic of Korea, 23 March 2023, UN Doc. A/HRC/53/11 and its Addendum, UN Doc. A/HRC/53/11/Add.1 - Para.20, recommendation 139.120 (Ireland)

² Amnesty International, "South Korea: Online sexual abuse content proliferates as survivors blame Google failings", 8 December 2022, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/12/south-korea-online-sexual-abuse-content-proliferates-as-survivors-blame-google-failings/>

³ UN Doc. A/HRC/52/11 and A/HRC/53/11/Add.1 - Para.20, recommendations 138.54 (Brazil) 139.110 (Ukraine)

A number of gender quotas have been removed, and the term “gender equality” is being erased from the national curriculum and from the names of local government departments around the country.

Measures should include a halt to plans to close the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family, and concrete steps to strengthen the central mechanism for the advancement of women and ensure that it is equipped with the necessary human, financial and technical resources.

Finally, we encourage the Republic of Korea to promptly implement supported recommendations. We also urge the government to submit a mid-term report on progress towards implementation and to use an Item 6 General Debate to bring this to the attention of UN Member States.

Thank you.