

**Consideration of Report on the Implementation of the Convention on the  
Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women  
Content of the Speech of the Macao SAR**

The Macao SAR Government and society have been paying great attention to and actively promoting the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women since its application to the Macao SAR. In order to realise the Macao SAR's acknowledgement of women's value, the Macao SAR Government has been sparing no efforts to implement and enhance various related policies and measures for assuring the full protection of women's rights and interests through the joint efforts of different departments and non-governmental institutions.

Since the consideration of report of the Macao SAR Government's first periodic report by the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in 2006, the Macao SAR Government has continued to safeguard women's rights and interests at different levels, including in legislation, policies and other respects and has obtained considerable results. For instance, with regard to the right to work, women in the Macao SAR enjoy the same rights and opportunities in employment and choice of occupation as men but subject to the special conditions of women, the Macao SAR Government provides women with more comprehensive protection through the amendment to the Labour Relations Law. Since 1 January 2009, the maternity leave for female employees has been extended without being limited by the number of births so as to enhance women's labour rights and interests.

Priority has been given to preventive measures at the institutional and legal framework levels to address all forms of violence against women. Accordingly, the Macao SAR Government set up the Commission to Follow Up the Implementation of Dissuasive Measures against Trafficking in Persons in 2007 and adopted a new law on the fight against trafficking in persons, Law 6/2008. This law, in full compliance with international law on the subject-matter, criminalizes trafficking autonomously and establishes a comprehensive assistance mechanism for victims.

Pursuant to the existing law of the Macao SAR, whether it occurs within the family or in other circumstances, an act of violence is regarded as a criminal offence. In order to consolidate the combat against and prevention of domestic violence, and with the protection and support of the victims as the emphasis, the Macao SAR Government has drafted the Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence for the establishment of a flexible and highly efficient collaboration mechanism through the

effective cooperation of cross-departments and non-governmental service institutions so that the victims could flee from dangerous environments as soon as possible and obtain appropriate assistance. Furthermore, the Macao SAR has planned to add independent legal protective measures to the draft law so that public authority could instantly intervene in the protection of the victims of domestic violence and to consider expanding the applicability of public offences. The related draft law will be submitted to the Legislative Assembly for discussion in due course.

In addition, the boost of women to participate in the management and decision-making of society's public affairs is one of the Macao SAR Government's major tasks. The Women's Commission has launched tasks at different levels throughout all these years, such as attending international conferences related to women's affairs, organising activities with non-governmental organisations, publicising women's rights and interests, drawing the public's attention to issues concerning women, and playing a significant role between the Government and the non-governmental organisations in talks and cooperation regarding domestic violence. In order to further strengthen the representativeness of the Women's Commission in various social areas, the Macao SAR Government has amended the formation of the members of the Women's Commission by adding representatives of professionals or prominent figures in society to the Commission for the sake of boosting and perfecting the development of women's affairs.

The Macao SAR Government will continue to consolidate the protection of women's rights and interests in laws, health care, education, work and social support so as to guarantee that women could enjoy equal opportunities, rights and dignity, and encourage women to fully participate in the Macao SAR's construction and development through different platforms under the same philosophy.