

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador KIM Seong-in  
Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the Republic of Fiji**

**Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States**

**1-4 September 2014  
Apia, Samoa**

<Check against Delivery>

---

Mr. Chairman,

We are at today's conference for small island developing states (SIDS), a group of countries categorized as being in a 'special situation' along with the land-locked developing countries (LLDC) and the least developing countries (LDC). However, I would like to address the SIDS **not as countries in a 'special situation'**, but as **those who show us a glimpse into the near future of humankind.**

Images of islands submerging under water, or of polar bears desperately stranded on drifting pieces of ice broken off by global warming, serve as powerful warning messages on how environmental and development issues are closely interrelated, and how urgent it is to solve these problems.

It is my hope that this conference will bring about a **global paradigm shift on the SIDS' status and role.** Discussions on climate change and the Post-2015 Development Goals, must serve as an opportunity to jointly explore and contemplate the challenges facing SIDS and the role it can play to overcome these obstacles.

Mr. Chairman,

There are only a few country groups apart from the SIDS that are as directly affected by the sustainable development paradigm and are in its dire need.

The SIDS are small open economies that are vulnerable to any external shock. As such, their dependency on imported fossil fuels needs to be reduced while increasing the mix of renewable energy; SIDS must address conflicting interests between the (submarine) mining and the tourism industry; they must also diversify their economies to resolve jobless growth, and resolve problems of ocean acidification and the depletion of fishery stocks.

Therefore, it is incumbent upon SIDS that a strategy be crafted, so that it may simultaneously address the 3 pillars of sustainable development -the economic, environmental and social, based on the premise that they are all interrelated. To help find a solution to SIDS' problems, Korea wishes to make four suggestions.

Firstly, climate change poses a threat to the very existence of small island states. Therefore, the on-going negotiations at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change(UNFCCC) on the **Post-2020 climate regime should create a “climate change response regime that secures the participation of all states, and is effective and flexible”**.

Secondly, in the context of taking meaningful actions, assistance should be provided to developing countries for their efforts in greenhouse gas reduction and climate change adaptation. In this regard, it is essential to **fully operationalize the Global Climate Fund (GCF) through its capitalization**. Korea will closely cooperate with the SIDS to achieve this goal.

Thirdly, all countries should strive to **include 'sustainable development' as the Post-2015 Development Goals' vision and core element, and ensure that it is put into practice**. The Post-2015 Development Goals provide guidance for international development till 2030, and should therefore be **reflected in national development plans** and implemented accordingly. Furthermore, assistance should be provided to developing countries to execute such strategies.

In addition, it is important that the 'global citizenship education' be included as a target in the Post-2015 Development Goals. This will be an effective mid-long term strategy that will bring behavioral changes to young students and households.

Fourthly, it is equally important to implement the Post-2015 Development Goals as it is to set them. In this regard, Korea proposes to cooperate in **realizing the Global Partnership**, an essential means of implementation. The Global Partnership derives from the vision and principles of **solidarity and cooperation among the various development partners in working towards a common goal**. At the national level, there should be an **active partnership platform** where the various development partners can take part in.

To this end, we propose the utilization of existing mechanisms such as the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC), to prevent overlaps and waste of resources.

Mr. Chairman,

Korea places great importance in cooperating with SIDS, and has been doing so increasingly in the areas of development cooperation and climate change response.

This November, the 2nd Korea-Pacific Islands Foreign Ministers' Meeting will be held in Seoul (following the first meeting in 2011). I ask the Pacific island states' for their active participation.

Korea looks forward to starting the 'ROK-Pacific Islands Climate Prediction Services Project', a new project that will be funded by the Korea-PIF Cooperation Fund. It aims to assist the Pacific island states in producing and making use of their own climate change information. I hope that the initiative will contribute to SIDS' climate change response.

Also, Korea has been providing training and capacity building programs to 65 public officers from the Pacific region in 15 ODA-related areas through KOICA, its international cooperation agency. I hope there will be more participation to come.

Mr. Chairman,

Marcel Mauss, a renowned cultural anthropologist wrote in his work 'The Gift (Essai sur le don)' that the key to the advancement of civilization lies in the Kula culture of Malaysia.

Kula started off as a practice among tribes in the Pacific region, where **one-off gifts gradually led to continued contacts and trust-building. Eventually, it created human and material exchange networks that were mutually beneficial.** This has prevented wars from breaking out in the region, and has provided a foundation for a **co-existing, co-prosperous community.**

**Given that the island countries have gained such wisdom for the advancement of civilizations,** I hope that they can continue to play a central role in strengthening the community spirit, and in reaching a mutually beneficial solution for climate change and the Post-2015 Development Goal talks.

As previously mentioned, I do not view SIDS as a group of countries in a 'special situation', but as ones facing challenges of humankind a little earlier than the rest. I am hopeful that SIDS will be the forerunners in finding a solution for the future, just as they have in the past. /End/