

**Statement by Ms. Oh Youngju  
Director-General for Development Cooperation  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea  
Post-2015 Intergovernmental Negotiations  
(Sustainable development goals and targets)  
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Thank you, Mr. Co-Facilitator, for giving me the floor.

At the outset, I would like to express my admiration for what we have been able to pull off during this week's discussions. Thanks to the Co-Facilitators' outstanding leadership, we have enjoyed a great opportunity to gain insight into the work on indicators and share our initial views. I look forward to fruitful discussions on the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and targets as well.

Mr. Co-Facilitator,

The Republic of Korea would like to welcome the technical review by the UN System and takes this opportunity to show appreciation for the circulated document.

During the first two days of our discussions, many delegations pointed out the deficiencies regarding the proposed indicators. Some pointed to the insufficient time to solicit inputs from experts as a potential reason for this. However, as I expressed in my previous intervention, good indicators can only come from good targets. Indeed, there is no way we can come up with indicators that are feasible, suitable, and relevant if the targets themselves are intrinsically lacking clarity.

Co-facilitators,

Everybody here today would agree that we need goals and targets that are transformative and ambitious, yet also implementable. No one in this room, I hope, would like to see our critical vision to either alter or falter because the goals and targets are selected a la carte due to the problem of unimplementability.

To achieve this objective, it is important that we should not shy away from opportunities to further clarify and improve targets when necessary. The Republic of Korea does not think that a technical review, by any means, will undermine or reopen the work of the OWG, which is the basis of our negotiations. Instead, we believe that the technical review exercise adds further clarity and precision to the OWG proposal. The Republic of Korea again supports the review work by the UN System and wishes to suggest that discussions on the technical aspects of the targets should continue so that we are fully convinced and reassured about what we present to our leaders in September.

On the same note, (as others suggested), we would also appreciate it if the entirety of the Membership was fully informed about how the UN taskforce team carried out the technical review and the rationale behind the suggested changes.

Regarding the proposed revision of the 19 targets, we are simply not in a position to provide specific suggestions at this stage, as our national statistical offices and relevant ministries need more time for review. As such, the Republic of Korea wishes to request that we revisit this issue in due course.

Now, let me draw your attention to how we should communicate a new set of global and sustainable development goals. The current

SDGs have about twice as many goals and eight times as many targets as the MDGs. Apart from the unimplementability issue, we must address the communication challenge of the new agenda. In this regard, the Republic of Korea is of the view that the six Essential Elements put forward by the Secretary-General in his Synthesis Report can help to bring clarity to the post-2015 agenda for the public. We firmly believe that the six elements are instrumental in amplifying our vision and communicating our essential messages around the globe.

Mr. Co-Facilitator,

Taking this opportunity, I would like to briefly share my country's priority goals and targets with other colleagues here. Drawing lessons from our own development experiences, the Republic of Korea particularly values education, gender equality, good governance, human rights, and the rule of law as enablers of development.

Other areas of focus include inclusive economic growth, decent work, monitoring and accountability, climate change responses, energy, culture, and social protection for vulnerable groups including women, children, and persons with disabilities.

In particular, addressing environmental challenges—such as universal access to safe drinking water and sanitation, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, and climate change responses—are essential for poverty eradication and sustainable development.

Finally, I would like to reiterate the importance of global citizenship education (GCED) that focuses on the cultivation of tolerance, mutual respect, and understanding. In particular, GCED will contribute to building a peaceful society which is a precondition for achieving the sustainable future we want. In May, Korea will host the World Education Forum, whose key themes include the GCED. We are looking forward to incorporating the outcomes of this valuable forum into the post-2015 development agenda in September.

I thank you. /END/