

Republic of Korea's Comments on the Zero Draft of the Post-2015 Outcome Document

I. Preamble

- Elements of **dignity and justice**, as referenced in the UN Secretary-General's Synthesis Report, should be included in the Preamble. Additionally, we suggest to include the language of paragraphs 3 and 4 in the Preamble to streamline the text, which would amend the paragraph to read:

"This Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity that also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom **grounded in justice**. All countries and people acting in collaborative partnership will implement the Agenda. **Recognizing that poverty eradication is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, we are resolved to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want and to heal and secure our planet for present and future generations.** We are determined to take the bold and transformative steps needed to shift the world on to a sustainable **and dignified future**. As we embark on this great collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind **and wish to see the goals and targets met for all economic and social groupings.**"

- Taking into account the outcome of the Twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 12) held in 2014, we suggest adding a reference to **biodiversity and the ecosystem** to the 7th bullet point to read:

"Protect the planet **including its biodiversity and ecosystems**, fight climate change, use natural resources sustainably and safeguard our oceans;"

II. Declaration

✧ *Introduction*

1. Paragraphs 3 & 4

As similar content is covered in the Preamble, we suggest **to incorporate the paragraphs into the Preamble**, and delete them from the Declaration.

2. Paragraphs 5 & 6

As the content of the two paragraphs are linked in the sustainable development agenda setting process, we propose to **combine the two paragraphs into one** that would read:

"This Agenda is of unprecedented scope and significance. Having consulted widely with stakeholders, and having made a special effort to listen to the voices and concerns of the poorest and the vulnerable, we are adopting a universal Agenda for sustainable

development that is accepted by all countries and applicable to all. This first ever global compact for human development and preservation of the planet has been agreed following two years of intensive public consultation and engagement around the world. We commit ourselves to working tirelessly for its implementation and for the attainment by 2030 of our shared vision."

3. Paragraph 7

We propose to **consolidate the paragraph with other similar language in the Preamble** and delete the paragraph.

4. Paragraphs 8 & 9

The two paragraphs focus on the relationship between the MDGs and the new development agenda, and **should be combined into one** that would read:

"The new Agenda builds on the Millennium Development Goals, agreed almost fifteen years ago. The MDGs provided an important framework for development and significant progress has been made in a number of areas. But the progress has been uneven and some of the Goals remain off-track. We recommit ourselves to the full realization of what the MDGs did not achieve. In its scope, however, the framework we are announcing today goes far beyond the MDGs. Alongside traditional development priorities such as health, education and food security and nutrition, it sets out a wide range of economic and environmental objectives and also promises more peaceful, better governed and inclusive societies. Reflecting the integrated approach that we have agreed, there are deep interconnections and many cross-cutting elements across the new goals and targets."

*❖ **Our commitment and shared principles***

1. Paragraph 11

As paragraph 11 references the fundamental principles that will guide the new agenda, we propose to **place this paragraph before the current paragraph 10**. Additionally, to **clarify and more comprehensively refer to international human rights instruments**, we propose to amend the paragraph to read:

"The new Agenda is guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including full respect for international law. It is grounded also in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international **human rights** instruments **including** the Declaration on the Right to Development. We reaffirm all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

2. Paragraphs 13 & 14

Both paragraphs discuss the integrated and balanced approach of the three dimensions of sustainable development, and we suggest **combining the two paragraphs** to read:

"These challenges are interrelated and call for new, effective and integrated solutions. Sustainable development recognizes that eradicating poverty and inequality, preserving the planet and creating inclusive economic growth are linked to each other and interdependent. It is for this reason that we have decided on a set of integrated and indivisible goals which balance three crucial dimensions: the economic, the social and the environmental. Furthermore, these are universal goals which transcend the traditional North/South divide and involve the entire world, rich and poor countries alike, in a new global compact for the betterment of humanity."

3. Paragraph 15

Considering the importance of the environment, we propose to add "**in an environmentally sound manner.**" We also suggest to include a reference to "**lifelong learning**" to reflect the language from SDG 4. The amended paragraph would read:

"In the goals and targets which we have agreed, we are setting out a supremely ambitious vision. We envisage a world free of poverty, hunger, disease and want **in an environmentally sound manner.** A world, for example, of safe and nutritious food; of affordable drinking water; of universal access to basic education **and lifelong learning;** of physical, mental and social well-being. A world of universal respect for human rights and human dignity; of justice and equality; of respect for race and ethnicity; and of equal opportunity permitting the full realization of human potential while promoting shared prosperity. A world in which every woman and girl enjoys full gender equality and all barriers to their empowerment in our societies have been removed. A just, equitable, tolerant and inclusive world. And one in which humanity lives in complete harmony with nature."

✧ *The new Agenda*

1. Paragraphs 16 & 19

We propose to **combine paragraph 16 with paragraph 19** to consolidate related content and to streamline the text. The combined paragraph would read:

"We are announcing today 17 Goals with 169 associated targets which will come into effect on 1 January 2016 and guide the decisions we take over the next fifteen years. Never before have world leaders pledged common action and endeavour across such a broad policy agenda. We are setting out together on the path towards sustainable development, devoting ourselves collectively to the implementation of the Agenda at the regional and global levels for the full benefit of all, including present and future generations. In doing so, we will take into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respect each country's policy space for economic growth, while emphasizing that the Agenda will be implemented in a manner that is consistent with the rights and obligations of states under international law."

2. Paragraphs 18 & 21

The importance of the **participation of the marginalized and vulnerable population** should be better highlighted, and **the challenges facing people affected by conflict, terrorism, and humanitarian emergencies** should be considered. In this regard we propose to combine paragraphs 18 and 21 as indicated:

"Working for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the goals and targets. The achievement of full human potential and of sustainable development is not possible if one half of humanity continues to be denied its full rights and opportunities. This is also a basic issue of human rights. Women and girls must enjoy equal access to education and equal opportunities for employment with men and boys. All forms of gender inequality, gender-based discrimination and violence against women and children, both boys and girls, will be combatted. **Marginalized and vulnerable populations—including women, children, youth, people living with disability, older people, migrants, and indigenous peoples—must fully participate in creating enabling environments for the implementation of the Agenda. Severe challenges faced by people living in areas affected by conflict, terrorism and complex humanitarian emergencies must also be addressed.**"

3. Paragraph 22

We support **the use of agreed language on education as reflected in SDG 4**. The importance of **lifelong learning opportunities** should be reflected, as well as a **reference to the 2015 World Education Forum**, where worldwide leaders in education gathered to discuss education-related goals of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. We propose to amend the paragraph to read:

"We commit to providing **inclusive and equitable** quality education at all levels—early childhood, primary, secondary and tertiary. All people irrespective of gender, age, race or ethnicity, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, children and youth in vulnerable situations, should have access to **lifelong learning opportunities** that helps them acquire the knowledge and skills needed to exploit opportunities, to participate fully in society. **We welcome the outcome of the World Education Forum 2015.**"

4. Paragraph 27

Land is an important aspect of environmental issues, thus we suggest adding language on **restoration of degraded land**, as included in the outcome document of CBD COP12, to read:

"We are determined to address decisively the threat posed by climate change and environmental degradation. The global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible international cooperation aimed at accelerating the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions. Looking ahead to the COP 21 conference in Paris in December, we underscore the historic responsibility of all States to work for a meaningful and universal climate agreement which will put in place this essential component of a sustainable world. We must also safeguard our oceans and seas,

protect biodiversity, **restore degraded land** and promote resilience and disaster preparedness."

5. **Paragraphs 28**

While we welcome the reference to good governance, the current text should be further strengthened. **The importance of good governance based on transparency, accountability, and participation** should be better highlighted.

"Sustainable development cannot be realized without peace. The new Agenda recognizes the need to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies, based on respect for human rights (including the right to development), the rule of law, **good governance based on transparency, accountability, and participation, as well as** effective and accountable institutions. These are fundamental requirements for the achievement of sustainable development. Factors which give rise to violence, insecurity and injustice, such as corruption and poor governance, are addressed in the Agenda. We must redouble our efforts to resolve or prevent conflict and to support countries emerging from conflict situations so as to lay the foundations for sustainable development. We commit to remove the obstacles to the full realization of the right of self-determination of peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation, which continue to adversely affect their economic and social development as well as their environment"

✧ ***Implementation***

General comment on the section

- The section should reflect in a balanced manner the importance of all financial flows and actors in the context of an evolving development landscape, as well as the basic principle that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development
- Creating domestic enabling environments, sound policies and institutions at country level as the key to poverty eradication and sustainable development must be further emphasized.

1. **Paragraph 30**

We propose to add a reference to the importance of an **enabling environment** as well as **principles of Global Partnership**.

"The new Agenda deals also with the means required for implementation of the goals and targets. We recognize that these will require the mobilization of financial resources (both public and private, domestic and international) as well as **an enabling environment**, capacity-building, the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and a wide range of other supportive policies and measures. Business, the private sector and philanthropic organizations will feature prominently in relation to resource mobilization and implementation of the Agenda. **We also emphasize the importance of internationally agreed principles of the Global Partnership, including the development effectiveness principles.**"

2. Paragraph 31

We propose to clearly reference that the Addis Ababa outcome document will become the MOI pillar of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

"We welcome and endorse fully the outcome document of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Addis Ababa from 13-16 July 2015. **We acknowledge that the Addis outcome constitutes the means of implementation (MOI) pillar of the post-2015 development agenda.**"

3. Paragraph 32

The current text overemphasizes the role of ODA. To also **reflect the importance of domestic resource mobilization in a more balanced manner**, we propose to amend the paragraph as the following:

"The mobilization and effective use of domestic resources is at the crux of our common pursuit of sustainable development and achieving the SDGs, underscored by the principle of national ownership. We will endeavour to create domestic enabling environment and encourage private business activity, investment and innovation as major drivers of productivity, inclusive economic growth, and job creation, providing people with the opportunity to overcome poverty and inequality."

4. Paragraph 35

We believe national policy space should be **consistent with relevant international rules**.

"We acknowledge the need for international financial institutions to respect the domestic policy space of all countries, **while respecting international principles and commitments pertaining to effective development cooperation**. We agree to work to increase the representation of developing countries, and their involvement in decision-making, in these institutions."

❖ A call for action to change our world

1. Paragraphs 41 & 42

To consolidate relevant content, we propose to **combine the two paragraphs** to read:

"Today we are taking a decision of comparable significance. Ours can be the first generation to succeed in ending poverty; just as we are the last to have a chance of saving the planet. We have resolved to build a better future for millions of people in our world, millions who have been denied the chance to lead decent, dignified and rewarding lives and to achieve their full human potential. The world will be a better place in 2030 if we succeed in our objectives. What we are announcing today – an agenda for global action for the next fifteen years – is a charter for people and planet in the twenty-first century."

2. Paragraphs 43 & 44

To consolidate relevant content, we propose to **combine the two paragraphs** to read:

"“We the Peoples” are the celebrated opening words of the UN Charter. It is “We the Peoples” who are embarking today on the road to 2030. Our journey will involve Governments, Parliaments, local authorities, business and the private sector, the scientific and academic community, civil society – and ordinary citizens. Millions have already engaged with, and will own, this agenda. It is an agenda by and for the people – and this, we believe, will ensure its success. The future of humanity and of our planet lies in our hands. It lies also in the hands of today’s younger generation, who will pass the torch to future generations. We have mapped the road to sustainable development; it will be for all of us to ensure that the journey is irreversible.”

III. Sustainable Development Goals and Targets

1. Paragraph 3

The reference to the **timetable of finalizing the global indicator by March 2016** is too technical, and would not be appropriate to include in the outcome document. We suggest **deleting the reference** to amend the paragraph to read:

"The goals and targets will be followed-up and reviewed using a set of global indicators. These shall be complemented by indicators at the regional and national level to be developed by member states. Under the guidance of the Economic and Social Council and the UN Statistical Commission, the global indicator framework will be developed by the Inter Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators. This framework will be simple yet robust, address all SDGs and targets and preserve the political balance and ambition contained therein."

IV. Means of Implementation and the Global Partnership

1. Paragraph 5

The fulfillment of ODA commitments is overemphasized, and the paragraph should be amended with **more** balanced language as the following:

"Domestic public resources mobilization will continue to be crucial. We acknowledge the power and reach of financial inclusion. We note also the critical importance of private finance and we call on businesses to apply their creativity and innovation and to engage as partners in the development process. International public finance remains key and **ODA plays a central role in complementing domestic resources.**"

V. Follow-up and Review

1. Paragraph 1

The element of the **universality** needs to be added.

"A robust, **universal**, effective, inclusive and transparent follow-up and review framework, operating at the national, regional and global levels, will promote effective implementation of this Agenda and accountability to our citizens."

2. Paragraph 3

The review of effectiveness of development cooperation should constitute an integral part of the overall review progress. In this regard, **the principles of effective development cooperation** – national ownership, focus on results, inclusive partnership, transparency and accountability – should be highlighted in the document. **Shared responsibility and universality** are also important elements that should be reflected in the text. Lastly, we suggest the addition of the **Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC)** as a good example of existing platforms.

"Follow-up and review processes shall be guided by the following principles:

- a. They will address progress in implementing the goals and targets, including the means of implementation, in a manner which respects their integrated and inter-related nature, **as well as the quality of development cooperation based on the principles of national ownership, focus on results, inclusive partnership, and transparency and accountability.**
- b. They will maintain a longer-term orientation, identify achievements and critical success factors, support countries in making informed policy choices and mobilize the necessary means of implementation and partnerships;
- c. They will be **universal**, open and inclusive, supported by an enabling environment for the participation of all people and stakeholders, **based on shared responsibility.**
- d. They will build on existing platforms and processes, **including the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation,** evolve over time and minimize the reporting burden on national administrations.
- e. They will be rigorous and evidence-based, informed by data which is timely, reliable and disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts. Support for developing countries, particularly LDCs, to strengthen national data systems is critical."