



# THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

335 East 45<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, N.Y. 10017  
Tel (212) 439-4000, Fax (212) 986-1083

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**Statement by Ambassador Sul Kyung-hoon  
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea  
1<sup>st</sup> formal meeting of Open Working Group on SDGs  
Friday, 15 March 2013, New York**

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Mr. Co-chair,

At the outset, let me commend your hard work and excellent leadership in finally launching the first formal meeting of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. I sincerely hope that today's meeting will kick-start our long overdue work, expediting the process of producing very useful inputs for establishing the SDGs. As we begin this journey to uncharted territory, I am confident that you will continue to lead us in our noble endeavor.

Mr. Co-Chair,

In light of the monumental tasks ahead of us, my delegation would like to now highlight the following points regarding the process as well as the substance.

First of all, on the process, we concur that the process of our deliberations should be open, inclusive, transparent, and effective. It is essential that the work of the Open Working Group be informed by research-based evidence and expert analysis. Diverse multi-stakeholders should be consulted as widely as possible throughout the process of our deliberations. On-line platforms and round tables need to be more actively utilized to this end.

Secondly, many delegations have raised concerns about parallel work currently under way, seemingly without a clear division of labour or coordination. As known to us, so far we have multiple tracks of deliberations, taking place almost in parallel. These include the discussions on the High-Level Political Forum and the committee on development financing strategy, as well as the Secretary-General's High-level Panel discussion on the post-2015 development agenda. Diversity will certainly enrich our discussion. However, at the end of the day, we should be able to come up with one coherent and well-coordinated set of development goals for the post-2015 period. In this regard, my delegation believes that the leadership of the UN Secretary-General and the role of the UN Secretariat will be critical for moving our endeavor forward in a coherent and coordinated manner.

Now, turning to the substantive aspect of our work, my delegation would like to make the following comments.

First of all, we are of the view that Rio's outcome document should serve as the guiding principle in our efforts to develop the SDGs. In order to ensure that the SDGs are universally applicable, the Goal's priority areas should be wide in scope and relevant to all countries. We consider the SDGs as one of the most valuable outcomes of Rio+20. However, it will be a tremendous challenge that we sort out all of the different views and priorities and come to an agreement on a set of coherent goals and targets. As such, we believe it is paramount to maintain our openness and flexibility in the process of our discussions to chart out the SDGs. While my delegation has its own priorities and preferences for the SDGs, we would like to stress that we will remain open and flexible in exploring diverse ideas and possibilities in our deliberations.

Secondly, when we agree to set certain goals and targets for sustainable development, we are collectively committing ourselves to achieving these goals through an on-going joint effort. As numerous delegations have pointed out, the SDGs can have different implications for different countries, depending on their national realities, capacities, and levels of development. This underscores that targeted attention needs to be given to those countries in special circumstances like the LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS, and those in the African continent as well. Furthermore, it highlights that the means of implementation will be of critical importance to the success of the SDGs. Given the magnitude of the financing needs that accompany sustainable development, we believe we need to be very innovative in mobilizing significant resources from a variety of sources, as well as to ensure effective use of such resources.

Thirdly, we would like to recall that the Rio+20 outcome document recognized "green economy" as one of the most important tools for achieving sustainable development. In this respect, we are of the view that the Open Working Group should duly address this issue of green economy in the diverse aspects in our deliberations.

Finally, we stress that the development of the SDGs should not divert our focus or our efforts from achieving the MDGs. Indeed, we must stay focused on meeting the MDGs as their target date approaches. Full realization of the MDGs will foster confidence and mobilize critical global support for drawing up and implementing the ambitious SDGs and the larger post-2015 Development Agenda.

Mr. Co-Chair,

Let me conclude by reiterating our strong commitment to the work of the Open Working Group. We will continue our best efforts to contribute to our joint work.

Thank you.