

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Sang-wook Ham,
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On the occasion of the

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The compounding challenges that we are facing today have had devastating impact on the lives of people, with the most vulnerable and the weakest hit the hardest. Seventy five to ninety five million people are estimated to be pushed back to extreme poverty this year. Acute food insecurity affected nearly 19 million people last year, surpassing all previous records, and the prospects for this year are not promising either. One hundred million more children than pre-pandemic fail to demonstrate basic reading skills. The ripple effects of the conflict in Ukraine, together with persistent environmental degradation, have further aggravated an uneven recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, deepening inequalities and deprivation.

As it marks the third year of the Decade of Action, we stand at a critical juncture. As the 2030 Agenda provides a blueprint for shaping recovery from the devastating consequences towards a more inclusive and sustainable future for all, we need to reaffirm our ambitious and resolute commitment to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Today, I would like to offer a few points that will be central to such efforts.

First, inclusiveness. Humanitarian crises, caused or exacerbated by global health emergencies, protracted conflicts, intensified climate change-related shocks, continue to be of urgent concern. The COVID-19 pandemic has vividly revealed the vulnerability of the marginalized and disadvantaged groups and the need for more dedicated attention to women and children especially. The “leave no one behind” principle should therefore be placed at the center of our journey toward building back better and creating more sustainable and resilient societies.

In particular, we should also double our efforts to build and sustain peace in fragile contexts since sustainable development is not possible without peace. A coordinated and coherent approach to address the root causes of conflicts, as reiterated in the humanitarian-development-peace (HDP) nexus, is essential for addressing such multidimensional challenges. Korea has been adhering to the spirit of inclusiveness to ensure that the vulnerable in particular are not left behind. In this context, Korea has been a steadfast supporter of reform to promote coherence and coordination across the main pillars of the UN’s work and place greater focus on prevention and peace building across the UN system.

Second, global solidarity and partnership. We have learned that one country alone cannot effectively address highly interconnected crises and thus an integrated, coherent approach is essential. Therefore, to move forward to the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda, beyond the recovery from the reversal of hard-won progress, it is paramount to strengthen international cooperation and solidarity based on multi-stakeholder partnerships. Building partnerships among governments, international organizations, international financial institutions, the private sector and civil society has never been more critical.

We have seen many inspiring examples of different partners coming together in response to the pandemic, such as the creation of the ACT-Accelerator. The Korean government has championed such efforts and will continue to be actively engaged in the global endeavors to jointly address common challenges. In this regard, the Korean government has contributed a total of 100 million US dollars to support Ukraine and pledged to work closely with the Ukrainian government and the international community in rebuilding Ukraine. Also, as an effort to embrace multi-stakeholders in the implementation of the SDGs, the Korean government enacted the Framework Act on International Development Cooperation, which laid the legal and institutional mechanism for holding public hearings so that it could gather various stakeholders' opinions for establishing Korea's national plan on the SDGs implementation.

Lastly, effectiveness of development cooperation. Financial constraints undermine the global efforts to cope with the current unprecedented crises and their cascading impacts. Therefore, effective and efficient cooperation at all levels - global, regional, and local - is important more than ever. Against this backdrop, Korea believes that the Busan Partnership Agreement adopted at the High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness held in Busan in 2011 will be a reference for our united efforts towards more effective response. In this regard, I hope the 2022 Effectiveness Development Cooperation Summit this December will be a timely opportunity to prove the relevance and importance of the effectiveness of development cooperation and to draw firm commitments of various multi-stakeholders to work hand-in-hand to achieve the shared goals.

Faced with increasingly complex global challenges, Korea is seeking to expand its contribution to addressing global challenges as a “global pivotal state” by strengthening its development cooperation efforts. To this end, Korea will play an active role in realizing the shared values and achieving the shared goals such as the SDGs to promote freedom, peace and prosperity. It will also continue our efforts to increase our ODA and actively engage in the collective efforts to address global challenges. In addition, we will work closely with various partners including the private sector to find innovative solutions for tackling the unprecedented challenges.

Last September, the Secretary-General presented a report “Our Common Agenda” with audacious proposals. We should explore ways to address the challenges identified in the report from a long-term perspective through in-depth discussions. In addition, as underscored in the report, multilateralism should be reinvigorated to find innovative ways to address global challenges. The Korean government will work with the international community so that the multilateral order works in an inclusive and effective manner in the process of accelerating recovery from the pandemic and other untraceable multi-dimensional crises while advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

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