

Statement by Director Kyoo-ho LEE, Republic of Korea
2017 ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum follow-up
23 May 2017, New York

The Republic of Korea would like, first of all, to commend the President of ECOSOC for successfully convening the second ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development follow-up.

This year, discussions have become wider and deeper in every aspect, which reaffirms our stronger commitment to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Particularly, my delegation finds the outcome document sufficiently substantive and balanced. It includes notes on progresses made, gaps to be bridged, obstacles to overcome, and recommendations to follow in all action areas of the Addis Agenda.

The Republic of Korea would also like to express its deep appreciation to H.E. Mr. Agustín García-López, head of the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation, for

speaking on behalf of MIKTA countries.

Mr. García-López demonstrated clearly the MIKTA countries' common will to contribute in a constructive manner to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Agenda by bridging the gaps between developing and developed country partners.

My delegation believes that the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals could be achieved only when they are well matched by concrete actions including the proper mix of financial and non-financial means of implementation. In this regard, we would like to share our efforts and views.

First, tax revenues are the most reliable resource of financing development. However, many developing countries have not been able to fully realize their potential due to weak institutional foundation, narrow tax base, inefficient tax administration, limited capacity, and low tax compliance.

Based on its past experiences, the Republic of Korea has been assisting developing countries in modernizing their tax administration system and building capacity. Korea will continue

to take part in the Addis Tax Initiative and also help developing countries build a financial information system aimed at detecting illicit financial flows and broadening the tax base.

Second, as true witness of ODA efficacy, Korea has been steadily increasing its ODA contribution since its membership to the OECD DAC in 2010, and will endeavor to attain its national target of ODA-to-GNI ratio of 0.2% by 2020 and 0.3% by 2030.

In particular, Korea will increase development cooperation and humanitarian assistance dedicated especially to fragile and conflict-affected states as well as to the most vulnerable groups of society such as women and girls.

At the same time, in an effort to increase ODA's money-for-value, Korea will try to make development impacts more visible by mainstreaming the SDGs, its targets and indicators, where appropriate, in its ODA policies and programs.

In this context, my delegation would like to stress that the shared principles of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) has been increasingly relevant to the implementation of the Addis Agenda and the 2030 Agenda.

Korea will continue to support country-led development efforts, by focusing on results, with all stakeholders, in a transparent and mutually accountable fashion.

Lastly, faced with large financial gaps in our efforts to achieve the SDGs, we need to incentivize the private sector to actively engage in the global efforts to pursue sustainable development by improving the investment environment and reducing risks in developing countries.

Not only can financial resources from the private sector make a huge difference in financing development, but also the creativity and innovation capabilities owned by the private sector can allow us to reach our common goals in a faster and easier fashion.

Taking note of ODA's catalytic effects, Korea has been running the 'Creative Technology Solution' program which facilitates technology-based start-ups to address social, economic, and environmental challenges in developing countries.

Korea has also been expanding impact investment projects in developing countries that would pursue both financial returns and

development results. One of their main purposes is to promote affordable and stable access to credit and other financial services especially to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs)

Mr. President,

Korea itself is a manifestation of best practice that has shown the importance of financing development. Based on a virtuous cycle of domestic and international resources, global trade, investments in social and economic infrastructure, and debt management, Korea had successfully eradicated poverty, achieved economic growth, and established social protection systems.

As a solid aid provider, Korea commits to actively participate and continuously expand its contribution in the Financing for Development implementation process to achieve the SDGs, with its proven experiences and willingness to act.

Thank you. //END//