

Joint Statement of CSOs in South Korea

in response to the UN High-Level Panel Report on Post-2015 Development Agenda

(3 July, 2013)

"**Beyond 2015 Korea**" a network of three national CSO coalitions - GCAP Korea, KCOC, and KoFID – working on development issues was launched in early 2012 in an effort to effectively engage in the UN-led Post-2015 Development Agenda (hereinafter "Post-2015"). **Beyond 2015 Korea** has held a number of events concerning MDGs and the Post-2015 Development Agenda in 2012 and 2013. An outcome statement titled, "South Korea CSO Position Paper on Post-2015," was presented to Mr. Sung-Hwan KIM, former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of South Korea who was a member of the UN-High Level Panel of Eminent Persons (hereinafter 'HLP') during the "Post-2015 CSO-led Multi-stakeholder Policy Forum: Dialogue with the HLP" in February 2013.

Following the Beyond 2015 Korea position paper (Feb 2013) and the ADA¹ statement (June 2013), **Beyond 2015 Korea** would like to express the opinion of the South Korean Civil Society in response to the "Report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda" (hereinafter "UN-HLP Report"), submitted to the UN Secretary-General on 30 May 2013.

Beyond 2015 Korea agrees that the UN-HLP Report considerably complements the initial shortcomings of the MDGs and presents significant suggestions to the international community, with particular focus on the UN, for considering the future development agenda along with an agenda/policy set-up process. The principles and vision of the UN-HLP Report and the following 12 illustrative goals reflect numerous suggestions not only from international civil society but also from South Korea CSOs.

¹ **Asia Development Alliance(ADA)**, a regional forum of national and sub-national development NGO/CSO platform in Asia, officially launched in Bangkok in early February 2013



In particular, the UN-HLP Report has made a meaningful contribution by setting fundamental values on human rights including the right to development, universality, equity, sustainability and solidarity. It has also suggested specific development goals in peace and security, food and energy, employment and health. Emphasis was not only placed on structural problems - illicit financial flows, money-laundering, tax evasion and hidden ownership of assets - that concern financial justice and transparent financial governance, but also more systematic and balanced approaches to global poverty by emphasising sustainable production and consumption from the “Global North.”

However, we conclude that the UN-HLP Report fails to fully include core concerns presented by CSOs. Furthermore, the suggested targets were not sufficiently “bold yet practical,” as intended, but rather, it was “**NOT bold, and NOT practical**” in its efforts to tackle fundamental global issues like poverty and inequality.

1. Need for a new development paradigm in responding to multiple global crises

The UN-HLP Report addresses multiple development crises - food, energy, financial economy and climate change - at a global level, yet the five transformative shifts and 12 illustrative goals and targets suggested in the report cannot properly respond to the current crises. The current development paradigm based on neo-liberalism is the main cause for the current crisis, thus a fundamental transition from this perspective is required in order to move past the critical state that it is in. While human rights, peace and security, gender equality, democracy and ecological sustainability have been mentioned as principles, the UN-HLP Report has failed to lay out concrete policies and mechanisms for deploying them.

2. Inequality should be addressed as a single goal

The UN-HLP Report also acknowledges that inequality is a significant phenomenon around the world, and is a cross-cutting issue, yet it has not been included as a separate goal in the 12 illustrative goals to be dealt with at the initial stage. The exclusion of inequality has been commonly pointed out



from almost all organizations and civil society groups as a weak point and a limitation of the report. Hence, inequality should be set as a stand-alone goal and given priority in the UN Secretary General Report.

3. Secure innovative development resources via financial transaction taxes and disarmament

The UN-HLP Report acknowledges and succeeds **the Monterrey Consensus on financing for development**. It is, indeed, a positive outcome that suggestions like tax evasion have been included in the goal and target, yet innovative financial resources were not included. Specifically, disarmament and a Financial Transaction Tax (FTT) which had been discussed at the G20 Cannes Summit in 2011 and introduced in several EU states have not been included in the goal. Considering the ever increasing military tension and nuclear security crisis on the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia, the lack of disarmament measures will lead to an escalating national defense budget. As mentioned in the UN Declaration on the Right to Development, disarmament should be addressed as an important and relevant issue within the international development agenda.

4. Urgent need for an accountable and transparent mechanism based on human rights

The UN-HLP Report emphasizes the importance of an accountable monitoring system by producing a periodic single Global Sustainable Development Outlook, convening a global forum at a high political level, reporting and peer-review at the regional level. However, the current standard falls behind on the demands of CSOs around the globe, with regards to human rights. In particular, the suggestions from CSOs to adopt or utilize a similar monitoring system in development fields, such as the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)², or to implement UN Human Rights related treaties concerning poverty eradication, has yet to be included in the UN-HLP Report.

² **Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**, a unique process which involves a review of the human rights records of all UN Member States. It is a State-driven process, under the auspices of the Human Rights Council.

There is a need for a legal and political binding mechanism in order to overcome the limitation of the MDGs which has a weak monitoring and evaluation system and lacks a practical implementation system at the national level.

5. Need for a more equal and responsible global partnership for effective development

The UN-HLP Report's emphasis on forging a new global partnership is in line with the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC)³ and the G20 development agenda, where the Korean government made significant efforts to build a more effective global partnership. Inclusive partnership for equitable development is crucial to tackle global poverty and eradicate inequality emphasized in HLF-4. Such partnership should be practiced on the basis of internationally agreed principles in accordance with accountability in respect.

In particular, decreases in the amount of ODA, and low levels of awareness, a heavy reliance on private resources, and a lack of general understanding on the role of civil society are main challenges and tasks in achieving an effective partnership. South Korea, the host country of the HLF-4, should demonstrate effective partnership and put a great amount of effort into fully carrying out the **Istanbul CSO Development Effectiveness Principles**⁴ in order to create an enabling environment that enhances the legal and institutional framework.

South Korean civil society has been actively engaged at the national and regional levels in order to gather citizens' voices by holding various campaigns and events in preparation for the upcoming UN General Assembly and Special Event on MDGs and Post-2015 in September. We hope to strengthen the leadership and capacity of South Korean civil society and make genuine contributions to the Post-2015 development agenda setting process.

³ Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) has derived from the fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan(HLF-4) in 2011.

⁴ The Istanbul Principles, agreed at the Open Forum's Global Assembly in Istanbul, September 2010, consist of eight principles including human rights and social justice, gender equality, democratic ownership and participation, environmental sustainability, transparency and accountability, equitable partnerships and solidarity, knowledge share and positive sustainable change.

Through those efforts, we wish to make substantive contributions to international development discourse and policy formulation process and build international leadership. At the same time, we intend to contribute to the development of exemplary policies and practices in international development cooperation in accordance with international standards by critically examining the Korean development experience and participate in the Development Alliance Korea (DAK), a partnership platform among government agencies, private corporate sector, academics and civil society. Furthermore through active participation in Post-2015 international development agenda process, we wish to contribute to the eradication of poverty and reduction of inequality.

Global Call to Action against Poverty Korea (GCAP Korea)
Korea NGO Council for Overseas Development Cooperation (KCOC)
Korea Civil Society Forum on International Development (KoFID)



지구촌빈곤퇴치시민네트워크
Global Call to Action against Poverty KOREA



국제개발협력민간협의회
KOREA NGO COUNCIL FOR OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION



국제개발협력시민사회포럼
Korea Civil Society Forum on International Development Cooperation

<Annex 1>

***Five Recommendations from 'South Korea CSO Position Paper on Post-2015'**

(Presented in February 2013)

1. Setting the Post-2015 Development Agenda must not be understood as a narrow technical project that merely sets development goals and indicators, but rather, seeks to motivate new development paradigms that overcomes the multitudes of global crises – economic crisis and financial upheaval, food and energy crises, climate change, nuclear threats. We must approach International development from a holistic point of view and consider interconnected human rights, peace and security, gender equality, democracy and ecological sustainability, rather than economic advancement and neoliberal economic globalization.

2. Inequality must be dealt with at the core of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Inequalities and polarization within the country as well as between countries has increased. As a result, children and the elderly have become the biggest victims. To resolve such problems, a human rights-based approach must be exercised along with ecological sustainability in discussing Post-2015.

3. To ensure the effective implementation, discussions on development resources also need to proceed concurrently with breakthrough solutions which go beyond the Monterrey Consensus must be suggested. In particular, more substantial efforts are needed in order to safeguard financial aid resources, notably, in the areas of speculative capital for a financial transaction tax, global disarmament, international cooperation and prevention of tax avoidance.

4. In order for the international society to adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda as binding goals, it is crucial to find ways to instill mechanisms for accountability. We must strengthen democratic governance both nationally and internationally and monitor target actions efficiently. In addition, we propose introducing a **Universal Periodic Review** that examines the human rights performances of UN member states in the field of international development along with practice on other international human rights instruments that are related to development.

5. To ensure effective implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, it is crucial that both donor states and recipient states take mutual responsibility, democratic ownership of development programs, and equal partnership between stakeholders - government, parliament, civil society and the private sector. As with the emphasis seen in the Busan Partnership, such universal values - human rights, gender equality, decent jobs and environmental sustainability - must be counted as the principle of partnerships.



<Annex 2>

■ GCAP Korea (Global Call to Action against Poverty KOREA) / 27 member organizations

World Vision Korea
Good Neighbors
Global Civic Sharing
Korea NGO Council for Overseas Development Cooperation (KCOC)
Citizens' Coalition for Economic Justice (CCEJ)
National Council of YMCA of Korea
Young Women's Christian Association of Korea
Good People
One-Body One-Spirit
Korean Women's Association United
Networks for Green Transport
Green Future
Korea Food for the Hungry International
Child Fund Korea
Korean Committee for UNICEF
Korea Federation for HIV/AIDS Prevention
Join Together Society
Plan Korea
Korea Christian Social Responsibility
Korean foundation for World Aid
Global Care
KJ Choi Foundation
Korea Human Rights Foundation
Habitat for Humanity Korea
Asian Bridge
Merry year International
The Beautiful store



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■ **KCOC (Korea NGO Council for Overseas Development Cooperation)** / 105 member organizations

World Headquarter of Canaan Farmers' Movement Corporation	The National Council of SAEMAUL UNDONG Movement in Korea
Kyung Hee-International Medical Cooperation Society	International NGO LIFE WORLD
GO&DO International	Service for Peace
Kwang Sung	World Neighbors
Educators Without Borders	Save the Children Korea
International Development Association	Serving Friends International
Loving Concern International	The Beautiful Store
United Help for International Children	Public interest foundation Friends on the Path
International Corn Foundation	Asia Focus
People for Medical Cooperation International	Institute of Asian Culture & Development
Good Neighbors	Adult & Infant
Good People	Africa Future Foundation
Global Care	Future for African Children
Global Together	Child Fund Korea
Joyful World Together	Ecopeace Asia
Nanum International	Angels' Haven
DAIL Social Welfare Foundation	Merry year International
Korea Oriental Medical Service Team Abroad	World Share
Better world	World Together
Dental Service International	Well International
International Foundation for NortheastAsia Education & Culture	With
East-West Cultural Development Cooperation Council	Korean Committee for UNICEF
Raphael Clinic International	Helping Our Neighbors
Lotus World	Planned Population Federation of Korea
Medi Peace	Rose Club Korea
Miral Welfare Found	Korea Disaster Relief Association
GCS International	Junghae Social Welfare Association
Korean Development Association in Bangladesh	Jogye Order Social Welfare Foundation
Busrugy	Good Hands for Global
Vision Care	GLOBAL CIVIC SHARING
Samdong International	JIRANI Cultural Organization
Chung Soo Relief Foundation	Peace Village Network
Camp	Hanaro
Cooperation and Participation in Overseas NGOs, COPION	Heart to Heart Foundation
Pacific Asia Society	National Council of YMCA of Korea
Taiwha Methodist Social Welfare Foundation	Korea Association of Health Promotion
Team & Team	KFHI, Korea Food for the Hungry International
Welfare Foundation of Peacemakers	Korea International Volunteer Organization
Green Asia Network	Help Age Korea
Plan Korea	Sunny Korea Welfare Foundation
World Vision Korea	Salesians of Don Bosco
Korea Freedom Federation	Caritas Korea
Join Together Society	Habitat for Humanity Korea
Korea Overseas Volunteers Association	Hanviet Foundation
Korea Hope Foundation	Friend Asia
Skip a Meal Saves a Life	Work Together Foundation
One-Body One-Spirit	People Together
Korean Foundation for World Aid	Hosanna
Korea-Vietnam Culture Communication Center	Human in Love
The Promise	Wondong Culture Development Institute
Peace Asia	World Diakonia
Athena Culture Foundation	Korea Green Foundation



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Korea Civil Society Forum on International Development Cooperation

■ KoFID (Korea Civil Society Forum on International Development Cooperation)

/ 24 member organizations

Korea NGO Council for Overseas Development Cooperation (KCOC)

People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy

Korean House for International Solidarity

Good Neighbors

KFHI, Korea Food for the Hungry International

Save the Children Korea

Asian Bridge

Child Fund Korea

Energy & Climate Policy institute

Korea Center for United Nations Human Rights Policy

World Together

Planned Population Federation of Korea

Global Civic Sharing

Korean Women's Association United

Transparency International Korea

World Vision Korea

One-Body One-Spirit

National Council of YMCA of Korea

Korea Human Rights Foundation

Korea Green Foundation

ODA Watch

ReDI

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