



**Korea Civil Society Forum**  
on International Development Cooperation

**LETTER TO MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA  
BEFORE THE UN 69TH GA**

To: Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Yun Byung-se  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Seoul, Republic of Korea

(22 September 2014)

CC: Director-General for Global Economic Affairs Bureau Mr. Yun Kang-hyeon  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
Seoul, Republic of Korea

CC: Director-General for Development Cooperation Bureau Ms. Oh Young-ju  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
Seoul, Republic of Korea

Your Excellency Mr. Yun Byung-se, Minister of Foreign Affairs

We present the compliments on behalf of **Korea Civil Society Forum on International Development Cooperation (KoFID)**, a Korean civil society platform comprising 24 civil society organizations\* working to make international development cooperation more effective and advance the adoption of a strengthened, inclusive and legitimate Post-2015 framework.

We are aware that the 69<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly theme will be “Delivering on and Implementing a Transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda” and that UN Member States were invited by the President of the 69<sup>th</sup> Session to comment on this issue during the General Debate starting on September 24, in New York.

Considering this important discussion, we would like to offer some inputs that we hope could be considered in preparation for the representation of the Republic of Korea at the UN General Assembly:

***Aiming higher:***

The negotiation of the Post-2015 agenda is a once in a generation opportunity and failure to act collectively and decisively now will mean that the challenges faced by the next generation may be insurmountable: there is no way ahead if we continue on the current trajectory of increasing consumption, accelerating climate change combined with increasing inequality, deteriorating global social cohesion, and routine disregard for human rights and human security.

Several important steps in the definition of the Post-2015 agenda were already taken, including the outcome of the Open Working Group (OWG) on the Sustainable Development Goals. This outcome is a **good starting point** for the intergovernmental and must represent **the floor, not the ceiling** of the ambitions for a truly transformative and people-centered framework.



### *On Participation*

Only by welcoming a diversity of voices can a legitimate and **people-centered** Post-2015 framework be designed. It is therefore vital to ensure strong participation of civil society in the process leading up to and following the Post-2015 Summit in September 2015. **Full access and the meaningful participation** of all groups will be essential to the transparency and integrity of the forthcoming negotiations.

### *On Human Rights*

The post 2015 framework must reinforce international human rights commitments, laws and standards, fight injustice and address *how* its goals will allow for a progressive realization of rights. It must embrace a rights-based approach to development based on equality, equity and non-discrimination, and ensure the rights of people to participate fully in society and in decision-making.

### *On Equality*

Goal 10 - “**Reduce Inequality within and among countries**” - is one of the most transformative goals proposed by the OWG. By including this goal, the new development framework commits to address both economic inequalities and forms of discrimination that affect poor, marginalised and vulnerable social groups. Only a goal with both of these components will truly “**leave no one behind**”. The framework should explicitly specify that **no target should be considered met unless it has been met for all**, including the poorest and most marginalised groups.

### *On Environmental Sustainability*

Global resource constraints and planetary boundaries in the proposed SDGs must be clearly acknowledged. The Post-2015 framework cannot afford an approach that promotes growth at all costs without considering human rights and environmental implications. The framework must demonstrate coherence and integration across the environmental, economic and social dimensions of different goals and targets.

The post 2015 framework must recognize the global resource constraints and aim at a more equitable distribution of resources, including how it meets the rights and needs of future and present generations.

### *On Climate Change*

We fully support the maintenance of this Goal in the SDGs, and the inclusion of a strong paragraph on climate change in the Chapeau. **KoFID recommends reinserting a target on holding the increase in global average temperature below 1.5°C rise**. There is also a need to include more specific and quantified targets under this goal to adequately address the most fundamental challenge of our time.

The SDGs must be designed so as to contribute to a global low-carbon, green development pathway and to keeping global warming below dangerous levels.

### *On Peaceful and Inclusive Societies*

**KoFID** strongly welcomes the retention of a goal on **peaceful and inclusive societies**, and specifically the reference to **access to justice and governance**. In the negotiations moving forward, it is important to guarantee political freedoms and to ensure the protection of human rights. More widely, peace can be promoted across the framework through addressing issues such as jobs, natural resource management and inequalities between people and social groups.

*On accountability*

The Post-2015 framework must be underpinned by the **strongest, most robust and comprehensive accountability framework** possible, incorporating the commitment to monitor and report on progress and share learning and knowledge. This will help build a global partnership towards achievement of the SDGs that makes all actors – governments, civil society and private sector – accountable.

Accountability should be ensured, first and foremost, for those the SDGs are designed to help – the poorest and the most marginalised. Only through hearing the voices of the poorest and most marginalised can we be sure that their lives are truly improving; only through protecting and valuing their participation do we respect and empower them. The contribution of all actors to the global responsibility for realising this agenda must be assessed.

Governments, as duty-bearers and signatories to the framework, have a responsibility to commit to ensuring accountability of all relevant actors in these respects. The accountability framework of the Post-2015 agenda must include clear directions for governments to provide an environment conducive to citizens, civil society and voluntary organisations to hold governments to account.

We look forward to further supporting the processes under way at the United Nations and stand ready to provide practical suggestions related to these values.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nam Boonwon', written in a cursive, flowing style.

Boo-won Nam  
Chair of Steering Committee of KoFID

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\* Child Fund Korea, World Vision Korea, Climate Justice Institute, Global Civic Sharing, Good Neighbors, Korea Association of International Development Cooperation(KAIDEC), Korea Center for United Nations Human Rights Policy(KOCUN), Korea Food for the Hungry International(KFHI), Korea Green Foundation, Korea Human Rights Foundation, Korea NGO Council for Overseas Development Cooperation(KCOC), Korean House for International Solidarity(KHIS), Korean Women's Association United(KWAU), Music for One Foundation, National Council of YMCA Korea, ODA Watch, One Body One Spirit Movement (OBOS\_Caritas Seoul), Solidarity for Participatory Democracy(PSPD), Planned Population Federation, of Korea(PPFK), Re-shaping Development Institute(ReDI), Save the Children Korea, Asian Bridge, Transparency International Korea(TI-Korea), World Together