

Position Paper #2

Addressing drivers of migration including adverse effects of climate change, natural disasters and human-made crisis through protection and assistance, sustainable development, poverty eradication, conflict prevention and resolution

Republic of Korea

When addressing drivers of migration, ranging from economic opportunities to demographic changes and from climate change to man-made disasters, we should be mindful that our main goal is, rather than to stop migration, to prevent people from migrating out of necessity through unsafe, disorderly and irregular means. Recognizing it, Korea has established policies to address drivers of migration.

Sustainable development and poverty eradication

Poverty and food insecurity, compared to economic and demographic drivers, are more closely related to migration out of necessity than choice. To prevent migrants from venturing on a perilous journey and to address one of the key elements of the Sustainable Development Goals, we should increase efforts to end poverty in all its forms everywhere. To this end, the Korean government has constantly expanded its official development assistance (ODA). In addition, we launched ‘Global Poverty Eradication Contribution’ (now renamed ‘Global Disease Eradication Fund’) in 2007, air-ticket solidarity levy that collects around 1 USD per ticket for flights departing from Korea and disburses the fund to support the prevention and eradication of infectious diseases in developing countries, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa. As one of the most successful innovative financing mechanisms, the Fund has been a useful source of development aid that complements the existing ODA framework. We will continue to support multi-year projects with this Fund to provide predictable and stable funding for disease prevention eradication projects and to contribute to sustainable development in Sub-Saharan African countries. Also, we will continue our efforts to eradicate poverty by expanding the entire ODA on a long-term basis.

The factors driving migration towards countries of destination include poorly regulated informal labor markets. Enhancing regular migration channels supported by efforts to achieve sustainable development in the countries of origin can reduce the drivers that cause irregular migration. Facilitating transition from informal to formal employment can thus reduce

irregular migration, and decrease large costs that otherwise governments, labor markets and migrants would have borne. Also, this is conducive to promoting human rights of migrant workers and reducing their exclusion from social protection. In this context, the Korean government has implemented the Employment Permit System (EPS). Under the EPS, migration process of workers is regulated by the governments of the country of origin and that of destination rather than private companies. In addition, only companies with labor shortage are allowed to apply for employment permit, in accordance with the guiding principles of the ILO Recommendation 204¹. Moreover, we provide migrant workers under EPS with a range of social protection including back pay insurances and personal accident insurances. The Korean government will remain committed to promoting employment formalization, respecting human rights of migrant workers and improving their access to social protection.

In our efforts to address drivers of migration, we should engage multi-stakeholders including private sector and civil society, considering the diversifying patterns of contemporary population movements. Korea has been enhancing cooperation at private sector level to this end. For example, KT Corporation, a large telecommunication service provider in Korea, signed an MOU to build a high-speed internet connection to a remote island of Moheshkhali in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazaar region. This will reduce the need for many residents to migrate in search of better economic opportunities and improved access to medical services. It will also help reduce farmers' vulnerabilities to climate change by providing up-to-date information on soil and weather conditions.

Conflict Prevention

Conflict is one of the drivers of migration and often causes unsafe and irregular migration through its multiple socio-economic ramifications. To promote safe, orderly and regular migration, we should make efforts to prevent conflicts and sustain peace. In addition, we should take measures to ensure that no one is left behind in the process of making peace agreements. The Korean government is committed to conflict prevention and resolution. We are committed to the concept of "sustaining peace" as a comprehensive approach that integrates peace, human rights, sustainable development, the rule of law and gender equality².

¹ Para. 7(a), Article II of the ILO Recommendation 204: *In designing coherent and integrated strategies to facilitate the transition to the formal economy, Members should take into account the diversity of characteristics, circumstances and needs of workers and economic units in the informal economy, and the necessity to address such diversity with tailored approaches.*

² Preamble of the Security Council resolution 2282: *Emphasizing the importance of a comprehensive*

As chair of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), we take initiative in and financially contribute to the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) and activities of the United Nations Department of Political Affairs (UNDP) including through contribution to UNDP's Multi-Year Appeal. We are committed to mainstreaming sustaining peace in the United Nations system, ensuring predictable financing for peacebuilding, and promoting participation in peacebuilding process of people in vulnerable situations including women and youth.

Protection and Assistance in Crisis situations

Providing humanitarian assistance to people in crisis situations is crucial for addressing the urgent needs and building the resilience of the affected population, thereby reducing the drivers that encourage unsafe, disorderly and irregular migration.

Korea takes a holistic approach to humanitarian assistance – exploring options for incorporating development elements into humanitarian aid and cooperating closely with relevant international organisations. A stronger link between humanitarian assistance and development cooperation is also described as a key policy goal for the Korean government in the *Mid-term Strategy for Development Cooperation (2016-2020)* and the *Humanitarian Assistance Strategy (2015)*. In this regard, Korea has continued to focus its humanitarian assistance on supporting education and capacity building for the most vulnerable, *i.e.*, women, children and refugees in conflict-affected and fragile states.

In line with the *Humanitarian Assistance Strategy*, Korea will make efforts to gradually expand its humanitarian assistance budget in order to address dire needs of those in crisis situations and to reduce adverse factors that force them to move desperately to other countries risking unsafe and dangerous conditions.

Improve data collection and analysis towards effective and informed policies

approach to sustaining peace, particularly through the prevention of conflict and addressing its root causes, strengthening the rule of law at the international and national levels, and promoting sustained and sustainable economic growth, poverty eradication, social development, sustainable development, national reconciliation and unity including through inclusive dialogue and mediation, access to justice and transitional justice, accountability, good governance, democracy, accountable institutions, gender equality and respect for, and protection of, human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Disaggregated and reliable data supports efforts to address drivers of migration. Data and information are essential to measure progress of policies on unsafe, disorderly and irregular migration. The importance of statistical capacity-building is also recognized in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development³. The Korean government is making efforts to collect disaggregated data on international migration. We collect migration data disaggregated by sex, age, migratory status and nationality, and conduct surveys on employment and children. We will conduct a comprehensive survey including migrants' income, consumption, housing, education and children's education to improve the quality of data. Through these efforts, we will compile migration data more disaggregated, accessible and reliable. /END/

³ Para. 48, goal 17.18 and 17.19 of Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)