



2018 HLPF 한국시민사회보고서

# Korea Civil Society Report for 2018 HLPF

지속가능하고 복원력 있는 사회로의 변혁

Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies



English version

June 2018



※ This report is supported by the Beautiful Foundation



**Korea Civil Society Report for 2018 HLPF |  
Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies**

English  
(Korean version is separately bound.)

Korea SDGs Network © 2018

Publisher | Korea SDGs Network  
Day of Issue | 18 June 2018  
Co-Presidents | Choony KIM, Eunsoon CHOI  
Editor | Denise K.H. YOON  
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Translators | See 'appendix 1'  
Cover design | Yujin NAM  
Print | Sudosa Co. Ltd.

※ This report is supported by the Beautiful Foundation

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## Summary

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The report is the second one summarizing major issues and activities, and recommendations of the Korean civil society in terms of SDG 6, SDG 7, SDG 11, SDG 12, SDG 15, and SDG 17-the themes for the overhaul at 2018 UN High-Level Political Forum. The first report, 'Korea Civil Society Report for 2017 HLPF' was submitted to UN in April, 2017

The purposes of the report are 1) to record political, social, economic and environmental issues in Korea associated with UN SDGs for comprehensive understanding, 2 ) to build a learning process for capacity building, 3) to carry out the policy campaign to build a participatory, inclusive and integrated implementation system of SDGs in Korea.

The Korea SDGs Network formed a team to prepare the 1st draft on Mar, 13 in 2018. The draft was made public through the homepage of the Korea SDGs network and using the mailing list in order to collect comments and opinions from the network members and public from May 8 to June 1.

The report sums up main issues and recommendations for the goals of 2018 HLPF. The report aims to comprehensively overhaul the goals encompassing gender equality and human rights, the linchpin for UN SDGs implementation in 2018. However, it was impossible to measure how much progress has been made due to the lack of disaggregated statistics related to gender equality, people with disabilities and the youth. Korean civil society strongly urges the government to generate disaggregated statistics as a premise to SDG implementation with no one left behind.

Concerning SDG 6, major issues in Korea are as follows: 1) overdevelopment of dams, 2) water pollution and destruction of freshwater ecosystem due to the fact that more than 70% of rivers are enclosed by banks, obstructing flow of water, 3) bureaucratic water management policies excluding local residents. Thus, the existing water management policies need to be transformed into the policy driven by demand and water quality. In addition, the existing policy excluding sub basins should be modified because most water pollution taking place within watersheds originates from sub basins. Thus, management by sub basin is necessary with community participation building and unified water management.

With regard to **SDG 7**, main issues in Korea are: **1) energy demand and its effective management, and 2) transformation into the renewable-energy driven policy.** As of 2013, the energy intensity of Korea is 0.25toe/\$1,000, which is much higher than 0.14toe/\$1,000 of the OECD average. The current energy pricing system needs to reform because of its irrationality that the rate of electricity, the 2nd energy source is set lower than that of the 1st energy source. Adequate pricing by energy source based on social consensus is required taking into account external costs such as the environmental tax or the carbon tax. On the other hand, the plan to increase power generation by renewable energy up to 20% is encouraging, given the circumstance that the proportion of renewable sources in the energy grid of Korea is only 2.2% as of 2015.

Regarding **SDG 11**, the limitations have been pointed out as in the following: **1) high cost of housing and lack of measures to deal with informal residential areas including 'gosiwon,' infringement of human rights in the facilities accommodating persons with disabilities and social exclusion, 2) lack of universal public transport including mobility of people with disabilities, 3) the superficial participatory city-planning process, 4) the policy of safe city for women only focusing on the physical expansion of facilities.**

In the case of housing, to secure a stable tenure of tenants and reduce their burden of housing costs, there is the need for regulating the rental period agreement and rent fee increase. The government should arrange generation of the statistics about informal housing such as 'gosiwon' or vinyl greenhouses and should take proper response measures. Also, it is required to stop the housing policy against human rights, supporting separate facilities accommodating persons with disabilities because the separation makes them excluded from the society. Strengthening welfare service is required to help persons with disabilities being integrated into the society.

In relation to mobility of people with disabilities, the number of low-floor buses should be expanded and people with disabilities need to be involved with the process of transport infrastructure building.

With respect to **SDG 12**, **resource-circulating economy and social economic aspects have been overhauled.** **1) To achieve resource-circulating economy, a comprehensive plan for resource circulation beyond waste management is require** because of the absence of a plan for resource circulation encompassing the entire stages of consumption and production from the economic perspective. The incentives need to be introduced for the active participation of businesses, the main actor in the resource-circulating economy. **2) From the perspective of**

social economy, despite that all the seventeen SDG goals are associated with social economic aspects, the study on parties of social economy, government, civil society as well as the effort to raise awareness are recommended because there have been insufficient analyses and studies in the policy context.

Regarding SDG 15, major issues in Korea are as below: 1) designation of reserved areas and their expansion, and protection of habitats for threatened species with local resident participation, 2) the forest destroyed at Mt. Gariwang due to the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics and its restoration, 3) restoring the forest in North Korea. A good case is the designation of Hwapo wetland in Bonghwa, Gyeongnam Province, a habitat of an endangered species, a White Oriental Stork in 2017, which is the outcome of constant communication among the government, environmental organizations and local residents. To the contrary, a bad case is also introduced, which involves destruction of half of the reserve to build the Alpine ski slope for the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympics although it was the protected area for forest genetic resources. The policy applied to protected areas is reproached in that it is susceptible to economic development. In the meantime, resuming the restoration project of the destroyed forest is proposed as part of inter-Korean exchange.

In relation to SDG 17, it is criticized with the following reasons: 1) lack of comprehensive and transparent information of international development, 2) the percentage of ODA/GNI lower than that recommended by UN and of the OECD average, 3) the high proportion of credit assistance and low proportion of grant aid, urging the faithful implementation of SDGs and Busan Partnership.

For actual citizen participation in city planning, the participatory planning process should be institutionalized, and appropriate financial and human resources need to be allocated to facilitate information supply and deliberation processes. Building disaggregated statistics is required in the areas of migration, refugees, gender minority, people with disabilities and North Korean female defectors in order to establish the policy for a safe city for the vulnerable including the female-friendly city.

The MGoS engagement system like UN MGoS system in the process of Korea SDGs development in 2018 is introduced by Korea government as an additional participatory channel for multi-stakeholders. It is welcoming that the government introduced an innovative participatory platform embracing the proposal by civil society. However, it is concerning that the actual participation of major groups is not easy and that adequate information is not provided at proper time, which may eventually lead to collecting opinions with no substance, given that 9 months are too short period to establish 'the national SDGs.' It is meaningful to

introduce an innovative participatory system, but the system should enable the national SDGs to be continuously rectified and supplemented on the basis of MGoS system.

To boil down, the political regime change in 2017 served as an opportunity to transform the policies related to water, energy and resource circulation from the perspective of quantitative growth and management to the perspective of qualitative growth and management. However, the policies related to human rights protection including housing rights, universal mobility and safety for the vulnerable are still problematic. The policy for protected areas is unsettling because of its susceptibility to development and conflicting local interests.

Recently, MGoS that introduced by the government in the process of establishing ‘the national SDGs’ is operated against its original purpose because of the government’s tendency to focus on project outcomes rather than a political consensus.

The core principle of SDGs implementation, ‘no one left behind’ means the process of political consensus among various actors, which is consistent with the national agenda of the current government stressing citizen participation. Besides, the fundamental principles of SDGs such as ‘the precautionary principle,’ ‘the principle of common but differentiated responsibility,’ and ‘the principle of integrated decision-making,’ which are universal principles agreed by 193 nations in the world to achieve sustainable development, should be reflected in the future policy-making process.

For policies to be sustained regardless of regime change, universal principles for sustainable development should be reflected in each individual policy making. To this end, the open, transparent, formal and systematic participation process in which various actors can take part must be built from policy making to evaluation. For the voluntary and active participation, information provision and promotion should be carried out in advance. In other words, the administration-driven governance should be transformed into the participatory governance.

It is not too much to say that the sustainable development in Korea depends on the success of ‘MGoS engagement system’ pursued by the government this year. Civil society hopes that the government effort in the process of establishing ‘the national SDGs’ is meaningful, and we can give a positive evaluation about the outcome in ‘the 2019 civil society report.’

## Introduction

Since the adoption of ‘2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’(Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)) in September, 2015, UN has held ‘High-level Political Forum’ in July every year to review implementation by goal. Following the 1st HLPF with the theme of ‘No One Left Behind,’ the overhaul was carried out for SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 3, SDG 5, SDG 9, SDG 15 in 2017. In 2018, with the theme of ‘Transformation towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies,’ the review is going to be carried out for SDG 6, SDG 7, SDG 11, SDG 12, SDG 15), and SDG 17.



With the principle of ‘No One Left Behind,’ UN offered a venue for hearing voices of various stakeholders in addition to national governments in the process of reviewing SDG implementation. It can be classified into two: 1) ‘the position statement of major groups’ about the themes to be reviewed at HLPF, and 2) ‘the report on activities of stakeholder groups.’ The former is included in the statement announced by HLPF through MGoS, and the latter, reporting SDG-related voices and practices carried out on the ground by various groups at domestic and international level, is voluntarily submitted to UN and shared through the UN homepage.

This report is the second one covering major issues, activities and recommendation in relation to SDG 6, SDG 7, SDG 11, SDG 12, SDG 15, the themes of 2018 HLPF, following ‘the Korean civil society report for 2017 HLPF’ submitted to UN in April, 2017.

The report is a learning process for capacity building, a record of civil society covering political, social, economic and environmental issues of Korea in a comprehensive manner with the purpose of policy movement to promote system-building for the Korean SDG implementation.



The report consists of 1) summary, 2) introduction, 3) the progress and major issues of thematic goals for 2018 HLPP, 4) cross-sector review: human rights and gender equality, 5) position on the Development of Korea SDGs and its multi-stakeholder engagement system in 2018, 6) conclusion and recommendation. To share the report more effectively, the summary of each goal was boiled down to about 3~5 pages centering on representative issues of each goal, so it is tried that the entire volume does not exceed 50 pages. For consistency and organization of the report, the table of contents was unified but detailed contents and tones of authors in their own areas were maintained in respect for diversity.

To draw up this report, the Korea SDGs network formed a draft team at the 4th steering committee held on Mar 13, 2018, and the list of team members are shown in the appendix 1. **The draft of civil society report was collected by May 8 and finalized after having been made public to collect opinions and comments from members and the public (through the mailing list and network homepage) for 26 days from May 8 to June 1.** The report is composed of Korean and English versions, and its English version is submitted to UN on the 15th of June.

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# The Progress and Major Issues of Thematic Goals for 2018 HLPF

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## Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

### 1. The current state and meaning of SDG targets

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 is to ‘ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all people.’ All the international organizations as well as UN urge all the nations to sustainably manage water essential to human life by implementing SDG 6.

Targets 6.1 highlights universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all from the perspective of human rights. 6.2 addresses to fill the gap between different continents, regions and social classes in terms of access to safe drinking water, putting the emphasis on the access for women, the vulnerable, rural areas and special groups. 6.3-6.6 take a comprehensive approach in terms of social, economic and environmental impact of water, covering management of water resources, waste water and water quality. 6.b is to strengthen community participation in drinking water and sanitation, and to pursue effective governance collecting opinions from various stakeholders in water management.

### 2. Major local issues and challenges

#### 1) The current state 1: Overdevelopment, four rivers project and environmental destruction

Korean water facilities have continued to develop exceeding optimal capacity, triggering conflicts due to environmental destruction and budget waste. Korea ranks first in the world in terms of large-dam density, and more than 70% of rivers are enclosed by banks. Drinking water, sewage and water purification systems are oversupplied twice more than what is required for actual use.

Four rivers project was selected as the world top ten structures of ‘visible waste of capitalism’ by the Guardian in UK in 2017. This project, which was initiated by the previous president of the nation, an epitome of an uncontrollable development included 16 large-dam building and dredging in four major rivers. 22 trillion won was injected into the project for the purpose of water-quality improvement and flood and drought prevention, which turned out to be useless and caused water pollution and ecosystem destruction.

### **1-1) Task1: Improving water-quality and developing response measures**

Korea has entered the age of strengthening management rather than development. Simply applying 6.1.1 (Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services) and 6.2.1 (Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand-washing facility with soap and water) to our situation is not appropriate. The distribution rate of waterworks reaches 98.9% (Ministry of Environment, 2016) with 92.9% of sewage system(MOE, 2016).

Korea should focus on the target 6.3 (improving water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally. Water quality can be managed by reinforcing water quality improvement of water supply source, tributaries and branches, and supervision of emission of harmful substances with total volume-based pollution fee system. Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs should reinforce monitoring items to improve quality of water supply source. The target for intermediate influence zone needs to be set up to upgrade water quality of nationwide water supply sources from the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade to the 1<sup>st</sup> grade.

Four rivers project is unprecedented at home and abroad. It is an urgent environmental task for sustainable river ecosystem and closely related to target 6.6 (protection and restoration of water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes). The records and statistics related to 4 rivers project are inadequate except water quality investigation. Data have been accumulated since the regime change in 2017, monitoring 4 rivers. The new goal and road map need to be established to achieve sustainable river ecosystem.

## **2) The current state 2: Concrete structures blocking flow of water**

Dams maximize use of rivers but cause ecosystem disconnection and water quality aggravation. The number of large dams over the height of 15 m in our rivers is more than

1,300 (K-water, 2000), 33,800 dams for agricultural use, and about 5,800 dams among them are damaged (Korea rural community corporation, 2016), but most of them are discarded not in reality but only on the document.

Brackish water zones are very important as a treasure trove of biodiversity, but 228 out of 463 (49%) are closed (ME, Mar 28, 2018). Estuary banks cut off circulation of rivers and sea, increase water pollution and sediments, disconnect ecosystem links and cause the long-term damage such as erosion, destroying spawning ponds and habitats of marine resources in coastal areas.

22.4% of our area is impermeable except water system and forest areas (ME, Oct 6, 2013). If the proportion of the impermeable layers gets higher, it will cause many problems such as increasing spill in flood, worsening water pollution, decreasing river biodiversity and population, aggravating heat-island effect and dry stream phenomenon, which eventually incurs costs like increasing installation of sewer pipes and power consumption.

### **2-1) Task 2: Unifying indicators to protect and restore ecosystem and preparing indicators to dismantle structures disconnecting river flow and to improve urban permeability**

Target 6.6 is to protect and restore water ecosystem including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifer and lakes and stipulates the scope of water ecosystem over time through the indicator 6.6.1. Korea is currently investigating the change in watershed area by the change in the size of coastal wetlands and the current state of rivers and probing the size of forests and national forests by forest statistics. Indicators are utilized to preserve the land and fresh water ecosystem, using the accumulated data about restoration of rivers, the proportion of natural reserves, the restoration state of eco-axis on the Korean Peninsula of the Ministry of Environment and the proportion of forest reserves of the Forest Agency. But the information which can directly represent indicators of SDGs is not sufficient, which makes it difficult to carry out consistent assessment at the national level.

The Ministry of Environment announced a new act on water environment conservation in 2017. The act includes managing volume of discharge and river structures, and mandates to take necessary steps to take inventory of whether water ecosystem in rivers is disconnected or damaged. Armed with the act, the use, function and safety of structures including dams, weirs, estuary dams and reservoirs need to be inspected. When necessary, the criteria to dismantle concrete structures should be established, which can be applied as an indicator of task accomplishment.

The indicator may include the improvement of the proportion of urban permeability which can help restore the network of the urban green land and normalize water circulation.

Installing rainwater reservoirs in the buildings of public institutions and frequent water-disaster stricken areas can help restore green lands and reduce damage due to heavy rain. A case in point is applying the rainwater reservoir to public facilities which was announced by the Seoul city government.

### **3) The current state 3: Bureaucratic water policies: water management distrusted by citizens**

Water policies in Korea are implemented by 7 government departments including the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport and the Ministry of Environment with 20 relevant laws and 23 plans. The central-government driven policies and inter-departmental inefficiency and irresponsibility gave rise to 4 rivers project. Local governments are forced to implement the plan to organize creeks and to manage nonpoint pollution sources requiring hundreds of million won.

Sub basins which are not covered in the scope of national rivers/local rivers/small rivers are excluded in the policy context. Sub basins, habitats for various flora and fauna as a major source of organic matters are virtually neglected without any comprehensive management. Most water pollution within a watershed occurs in sub basins, thus the management by sub basin is required.

#### **3-1) Task3: Community-participation building and urging a unified water management**

Target 6.b is aiming to support and strengthen community participation to improve water and sanitation management, and clearly states indicator building for administration units with polices and processes for community participation. The water system committees under the Environmental Agency in each watershed have a limit in representing citizens' position because of their membership composed of public agencies and institutions including the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, K-water, Korea Hydro and Nuclear Power, etc. A new system and indicators are required to enable communities to participate in decision-making for citizens and municipalities.

Target 6.5 states the implementation of integrated water resources management (IWRM) including transboundary cooperation by 2030. 6.5.1 states degree of integrated water resources management (IWRM) (0-100) to indicate the proportion of watershed areas where transboundary operation agreement is made for water cooperation. In Korea, the government organization act is to be amended in order to integrate dual management of water resources. But it has been pending for a year at the National Assembly among conflicting interests. The integrated water resources management needs to be expedited to implement SDGs.

### **3. Efforts and activities of civil society**

Civil society is carrying out various activities to implement the above tasks ▲Regularly monitoring four rivers project areas, citizen-participating campaign, government lobby for opening and dismantling water gates, monitoring the National Assembly, budget monitoring ▲Tearing down and monitoring to prevent new construction of dams, weirs, estuary dams, citizen-participating campaign, government lobby, monitoring the National Assembly, proposing legislation ▲Carrying out activities including pressing the National Assembly, citizen-participating campaign, government lobby to amend the government organization act for unifying water management.

### **4. Recommendation**

#### **1) Mechanisms to lead SDG implementation**

The improved governance and institutions are required for effective implementation and management of SDGs. Inter-departmental positions need to be coordinated for strategic decision making and its implementation. The Sustainable Development Committee under Ministry of Environment and the Green Growth Committee under Prime Minister's office need to be upgraded to the committees under President.

#### **2) Data accumulation which can be applied to SDGs**

Korea lacks data which can directly be used for indicators of SDGs, so proxy data are applied based on the definition of indicators. Indicators and methodologies need to be developed for consistent assessment at the national level, taking into account various regional conditions

#### **3) Implementing agenda which is not impacted by a political regime and situation**

The regime change in Korea has driven discontinuity of the existing agenda and lost interest in and support for relevant policies. A methodology to attract public interest and support needs to be studied for continuity of the national agenda implementation.



## Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

### ○ SDG 7 and Targets

- In today's world, we can't imagine life without energy. The goal on energy is addressed in SDG 7 to achieve access to energy for all, using the word 'affordable'.
- The effective response to the adverse effects of energy use, such as climate change, air pollution including fine dust, and radiation, is captured in the word 'sustainable'.
- In order to measure the success of continuous improvement, SDG 7 presents key targets: ① Proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology, ② Renewable energy share in total final energy consumption, ③ Energy intensity, and ④ Financing to support developing countries.

### ○ Progress of SDG 7 Targets in South Korea

- Thanks to rapid urbanization and energy infrastructure focused investment, South Koreans have secure access to the modern energy. Civil society concurs with this assessment.
- As for the energy production, South Korea has been heavily relying on large-scale power plants, such as nuclear and coal. Renewable energy comprises only a fraction of its power generation, accounting for 2.2% (New & Renewable Energy Statistics, Korea Energy & Utilities Corporation, 2016). It is a very low level compared to the International Energy Agency (IEA) member countries. South Korean government, however, has announced an energy plan to increase the share of renewables to 20% of total power generation by 2030, and it receives a positive feedback.
- As of 2013, the South Korea's energy intensity is 0.25toe/ 1K dollars, while the average energy intensity of OECD countries is 0.14toe/ 1K dollars in 2012. South Korea is considered having very high energy intensity. (Korea 's Third Sustainable Development Basic Plan).

## ○ **SGD 7 and Key Issues for Civil Society**

### ■ **Need for social consensus on clear definition of 'affordable' in Korean**

- A social consensus is needed on how to define and translate 'affordable' into Korean. It is not simply a matter of translation. If translated into 'cheap', it may be interpreted as maintaining the low electricity rate policy. On the other hand, 'reasonable' entails the present generation should take on greater responsibility for the energy and its environmental impacts.

### ■ **Need for social consensus on fair energy price reflecting externalities**

- In 2014, the Korea Electric Power Exchange (KEPCO) described the following as externalities that are not properly reflected in the power generation costs: ① External costs, such as carbon dioxide and air pollution, that are not reflected in the fuel price, ② Accident risk costs in nuclear power plants, ③ Dismantling costs of thermal power plant, ④ Costs of the grid construction based on community receptivity and location selection, and social cost. In the ExternE project, which the EU Commission and the US Department of Energy carried out to calculate the externalities per source of power generation, the externalities are defined as follows: ① Environmental effect - an effect caused by the emissions of hazardous substances or energy on the environment resulting in danger and harm to humans, animals, and the ecosystems, ② Global warming - damage caused by acceleration of global warming due to greenhouse gas emissions, ③ Effect of accidents - damage to society caused by unexpected accidents, ④ Energy security effect - possibility of discovering new energy source and damage caused by price changes (Lee, Jong-Soo, Outline of Energy Market and Energy Basic Plan, Discussion on Energy Policy Direction for a Bright Future, January 10, 2017).

- The problem is that externalities are not accurately reflected in the cost, and the adverse effects of using energy sources are intensified. The worsening impacts of climate change and the exacerbating level of fine dust indicate the severity of the issue. More seriously, the underprivileged, children, and the elderly are not only more susceptible to the air pollution, related to the mentioned above, but also more sensitive.

- Civil society in South Korea helps the government make a sensible choice of energy source by accurately reflecting the external costs to the energy price through environmental tax or carbon tax. We are also engaged in promoting environmentalist



policies to make sure the created national budget is to be spent on energy welfare as well as on reduction of harmful effects and damages caused by the energy use.

▪ **Need for revision of electricity rate system to improve energy intensity**

- In South Korea, it is not uncommon that electricity price for the secondary energy sources is lower than that for the primary. This contributed to a dramatic increase in the use of electricity in the manufacturing process when kerosene or gasoline are available (see Figure 1 below).

- A good example is the use of electric furnace in the steel industry. According to the Korea Electric Power Statistics in 2016, the average thermal efficiency of thermal power plants, such as anthracite, bituminous coal, gasoline, and combined-cycle power, is only 39.79% at the power generation stage and 37.92% at the power transmission stage. The most favorable combined-cycle power generation is 47.5% at the power generation stage and 46.4% at power transmission. In other words, 50-60% of energy is being wasted in the process of switching to electricity, the secondary energy, compared to using the primary energy source for direct heating.

- Civil society points out these problems and engages in lobbying politicians to revise the electricity pricing so that the light-duty electric prices set at less than the cost level is set higher than the cost of primary energy.

▪ **Energy poverty**

- Even though South Korea's energy infrastructure is well-equipped, some households can't afford the energy consumption needed for their living. In identifying energy poverty level, the UK's 'Home Heating and Energy Conservation Act' is being used. It defines the households whose energy cost for reasonable level of heating (18 ~ 21 °C) exceeds 10% of income. However, it has a flaw in effectively filtering high-income households. This calls for a social consensus on the definition of the energy poor. With this regards, a new measure has been suggested using a low-income-high-cost (LIHC) indicator, with which the households ① Whose income is less than 60% of the median income, and ② Whose average fuel expenses exceeds the median of the reasonable consumption level are to be considered in energy poverty.

- Below is the energy poverty data in recent years:

Index (Year)	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Energy Poverty Household (%)	10.1	10.6	10.6	9.2	6.7

(Source: Statistics Institute, People's life index)

- In South Korea, the current system has a limitation in directly or indirectly supporting fuel and fuel costs for the energy poor. The civil society focuses on the energy efficiency through improving housing insulation and finding solutions through energy conversion, such as Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG).

### ○ **Suggestions for SDG 7's Success**

- Pursuant to SDG 7's success, the following needs to be added as targets:
  - **Percentage of externalities (e.g. climate change, air pollution, accident, etc.) to be internalized per use of each energy source**
  - **The ratio of energy production sales profit shared with the community where the power generation facilities are located**

: This proposition may be a unique to South Korea. However, the expansion of sustainable power generation facilities can contribute to the creation of new socioeconomic system.



## Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

### 1. SDGs 11.1 Housing Rights

#### 1) Current status and targets of SDGs 11.1

The United Nations (UN) has emphasized the importance of human settlements for sustainable development through the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) set in 2000, at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002 and 2012, and at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21) held in Paris. In particular, among the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the UN set “making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable” as Goal 11 along with seven specific targets and indicators.

One of the targets relating to housing under Goal 11 is to, by 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe, and affordable housing and basic services, and upgrade slums (11.1), and a proposed indicator for this target is proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (11.1.1).

With respect to this target 11.1, the Ministry of Environment of Korea set out three indicators, namely the number of housing per 1,000 persons; Price-to-Income Ratio (PIR); and the number of households living below the minimum housing standard. Similarly, in accordance with the provisions of Article 3-2 of the National Land Planning and Utilization Act, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of Korea (MOLIT) suggested Guidelines for Evaluation of Sustainability and Living Infrastructure of Cities, and housing-related indicators suggested in the Guidelines are ratio of rental housing units to the total housing units; Rent-to-Income Ratio (RIR); Price-to-Income Ratio (PIR); the number of buildings that have been extend, renovated, or substantially repaired with extension, renovation, or substantial repair compared with the number of old buildings.

## 2) Housing Issues in Korea relating to SDGs 11.1

### ● Increase in informal settlements and households living below the minimum standard, and statistical discrepancy

Key issues in SDGs 11.1 are informal settlements and households living below the minimum housing standard. Informal settlements (non-residential housing, dwellings other than houses) in Korea refers to places which are inadequate for residence, such as greenhouse, shanty, *jjokbang* (a small shabby cubicle), container, *goshiwon* (very tiny sleep and study spaces at cheap prices), inn, non-residential public use establishments (internet cafe, sauna, *dabang* (Korean coffeehouse), comic book cafe, etc). Occupants living in these informal housing are one of the most common groups vulnerable to housing insecurity in Korea, along with the homeless on streets.

According to the Population and Housing Census by Statistics Korea, the number of residents living in visible informal housing such as shanty and greenhouse has decreased, whereas the number of residents living in non-visible informal housing such as *goshiwon* and inn or motel has been on the rise. The number of households occupying informal housing (dwellings other than houses, excluding *officetels*—studio-style apartments) has rapidly increased from 57,066 in 2005 to 129,058 in 2010 to 393,792 in 2015.

One of the critical indicators playing an important role in reducing the growing number of residents in informal housing and achieving the target 11.1 are official statistics on the number of households living below the minimum housing standard and on informal settlements. There is, however, a huge statistical gap between the Korea Housing Survey by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport (MOLIT) and the Population and Housing Census by Statistics Korea. Even worse, the statistical difference between these two surveys has continued to grow larger, posing a serious problem.

According to data from the Korea Center for City and Environment Research (KOCER), the number of households living below the minimum housing standard in the 2010 Population and Housing Census conducted by Statistics Korea was 2.03 million (11.8% of all households), whereas the number from the 2010 Korea Housing Survey by MOLIT was 1.84 million (10.6% of households). KOCER noted that there was a gap of 190,000 households between the two official statistics. Similarly, the number of households counted as living below the minimum housing standard from the Statistics Korea's 2015 Population and Housing Census was 1,560,752 (8.2% of households), whereas the number from the 2016

Korea Housing Survey by MOLIT was 1.03 million (5.4% of households), resulting in an even wider gap of 530,000 households between the two surveys.

Such a big discrepancy in national statistics stems from the fact that the number of sample households was only 20,000 in the Korea Housing Survey by MOLIT, and that the survey excluded informal housing or informal settlements such as *goshiwon* and greenhouse from the sample simply because they are not considered residential houses. As a result, even though more than 2 million residents live in housing conditions deemed poor enough to be the focus of a housing welfare policy, the government has in fact underestimated the number living in such conditions by more than a million residents.

Moreover, the Korean government does not have appropriate standards for measuring how excessively high housing prices are a burden on residents and also standards for identifying habitability of housing units, except the minimum housing standards consisted of the number of rooms, the size of housing, facilities (toilet, bathroom). The Korean government should set up standards for affordable housing to support those living in unstable, inadequate housing.

#### ● Excessive burden of housing costs (high RIR) and housing rights for tenants

The main goal of the target 11.1 of the SDGs is to ensure access for all to adequate and affordable housing, and when the international community such as the UN talks about adequate housing, affordability and habitability of housing are mentioned as the key elements of housing rights. These two critical elements are, however, considerably insufficient in the housing situation in Korea.

44.5 % of all households (8.625 million) are non-homeowners, and the total long-term public housing stock makes up only 5% of all housing units. Such a lack of public housing stock makes most of the non-homeowners to bear a high burden of housing costs in the private rental housing market.

Even though the guaranteed term of lease for tenants is two years — which is considerably short, the current Korean law does not ensure tenants' right to renew the lease contract (contract renewal claim right), but also does not control the increase in rent prices. This prevents tenants from enjoying stable occupancy and makes them to bear higher burden of housing costs. According to a household survey data from Statistics Korea, the rent to income ratio (RIR) for the first income quintile group (20% of total households), from 2010 to 2016, was around 50 percent, which is extremely high ratio for tenants to live a normal

life. The RIR for all households has been also steadily growing from 19.9% in 2010 to 23.7% in 2016, leading to middle-class people as well as low-income people suffering from the heavy burden of housing costs. When a short-term lease contract of two years is terminated, tenants are forced to accept any increase in rent provided by their landlord or otherwise, they have no choice but to move to another place. These tenants cannot afford the increased rent and deposit with their income, which far surpass the inflation rate, and also, skyrocketing housing prices make it difficult for them to become a home owner. In other words, most of the non-homeowners cannot afford habitable housing, and they are living an unstable life in affordable but uninhabitable housing.

### **3) Policy suggestions and civil society activities for SDGs 11.1**

Korean civil society organizations working in the field of housing have steadily carried out a variety of activities, such as expanding housing issues into a housing rights issue, raising questions about housing policy and system, and developing policy alternatives. Since the 1996 UN-Habitat II conference, they have played a central role in the demonstration against a forceful eviction resulting from a development project and have raised various housing problems among young adults, tenants, women, children, the homeless, and housing vulnerable groups, to expand discussion and issues on universal housing rights for all.

A variety of civil society organizations in the field of housing have built solidarity through Land Housing Publicity Network, Forum for Redevelopment Administrative Reform, Housing Right Network, to draw people's attention and confront housing issues and make policy suggestions. They also organized solidarity and network such as Korea Civil Society Network on Habitat III (KCSN-Habitat 3) depending on the timing and different issues, and developed alternative models and monitored housing welfare center, urban regeneration, and public housing supply through public-private partnership.

The civil society has continued to make policy suggestions of expanding the supply of public rental housing, controlling private rental housing market, and improving housing welfare, to achieve SDGs 11.1 aiming at improving insufficient housing conditions and informal settlements and ensuring access to adequate housing.

As of late 2016, the stock of long-term public rental housing with a 20 to 30 year lease period is 942,543 units. Since Korea has a low ratio of public rental housing units to total housing units, it is hard to expect for public rental housing policy to achieve effective

outcomes, such as curbing the growth of rents and securing housing stability. The Korean government should sufficiently expand the supply of public rental housing for better housing stability of the low-income people and reform the public housing types and home rental system to make the public housing affordable.

In particular, the government should scrap New Stay housing project, which only supplies expensive private-public housing through big developers under the new name of public-assisted private rental housing. New Stay housing project, implemented by the former administration, was a project for giving preferential treatments to large companies that do not pursue any public purpose. The benefits offered to the companies include lifting greenbelt restrictions, providing public resources such as public housing sites and funds - which had to be used for building public rental housing, high initial rent (90 to 95% of market rent prices), and a short term eight-year lease. The government should scrap New Stay housing project immediately and focus more on increasing the supply of long-term public rental housing units.

The private rental housing market also has serious issues, such as short term rental contract and high housing costs. It is urgent to amend the Housing Lease Protection Act to regulate prices of private rental housing, ensure tenants' contract renewal claim right to guarantee a long-term lease, and control the rate of rent increase, to stabilize rent. The government also should increase the transparency of housing rental system, and mandate landlords to register themselves as a housing business operator to prevent rental homes from indiscriminately becoming an investment product.

As for housing welfare, the Korean government should first increase the beneficiaries of housing benefits and the amount of the benefits so that the vulnerable people can live in affordable housing, and should carry out continued monitoring of inadequate housing to improve housing's compliance with housing standard and help people move to a better housing conditions.

In addition, it should secure a sufficient supply of public housing units and improve the assistance delivery system so that housing support projects for housing vulnerable groups can work properly and effectively. Furthermore, for housing policy for informal housing residents to be effectively implemented, the government should conduct a systematic survey to identify the exact scale and conditions of people living in informal housing.

## 2. SDG 11.3 Urban Plan

### 1) Importance of the SDG Goal 11 and Participation in the New Urban Agenda

Participation in urban planning is an important means and method. Since the mid-2000s, our society has been discussing the active participation of residents in planning processes in South Korea and in the administration of urban planning the importance of participation is increasingly emphasized.

Participation is generally the act of influencing or sharing the control over decisions or choices that affect stakeholders. In the past, participation was primarily limited to the decision-making part of the plan, while participation was through the participation of the elite group. However, recently, the scope of people participating, has been expanding, including even low-income classes, and has focused on the operation and execution of the adopted plans.

The SDG Goal 11 is to "[m]ake cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable." The New Urban Agenda of Habitat III from 2016 provides a basic direction for implementing Goal 11, with a particular emphasis on transforming the urban crisis into an opportunity for innovative change.

The 'New City Agenda', gives meaning to the participation of citizens. At the same time, it refers to 'participation' as a direct measure for implementing measures. Of course, we talk about the participation of various entities, such as world, regional, state or local governments and NGOs. However, in addition to these basic forms of participation, citizen participation is the part emphasized the most.

The Vision of Quito Declaration consists of three components: non-discrimination of the urban space, citizen participation, gender equality and effective participation of women. "Leave no one behind" is a principle that suggests the participation of the public, a sustainable and inclusive urban economy, and an environmental sustainability that ensures a safe and equal approach for all. In the Quito declaration, "participation" is an important topic that flows in the first half of the new city and is mentioned as an important means of implementation.



## **2) Major Issues and Tasks in Korea**

Major tasks in Korea that are related to Goal 11 can be summarized as citizen participation in planning, traffic and fine dust, disaster safety and resilience cities, as well as the securing of urban parks. First, the citizen participation in the plan was discussed after the first court city planning on the Korean Peninsula, in 1934, but participation was only in the form of formal comments. Citizen participation in urban planning has not yet been secured.

Second, with rapid urbanization, problems such as the increase in the number of cars and traveling distances, the increase in energy consumption, and the deterioration of air quality, including fine dusts, occur. The fine dust problem in particular is a direct factor that threatens the health of citizens.

Third, the securing of urban parks is important for providing urban amenities. In the meantime, local governments have failed to purchase appropriate land and parks for budgetary reasons and are now in danger of disappearing into large-scale untapped urban parks by 2020, due to a decision on the constitutional unconstitutional decision (Oct. 1999).

On the other hand, concerns about the safety of the city in terms of natural disasters, such as flood damages in the summer and earthquakes, are increasing. The damage caused by the Pohang earthquake in 2017 is raising the fear of additional damages due to the location of nearby nuclear power plants.

## **3) Civil Society Efforts and Activities**

### **A. Civil Society Actively Calling for Citizen Participation**

Citizen participation, which grants legitimacy of the decision-making process for the plans and policies of local governments, is in line with Korean epochs of localization and decentralization. Korea's civil society has been advocating citizen participation to solve the problem of urban space on its own.

In this way, there have been changes in the outlook of citizen participation in each region, such as the citizen participation budget, the urban master plan of citizens' participation, and the citizen participation of the city planning committee. Yet, in many areas, citizen participation is often little more than just slogan.

## **B. Civil Society Activities for Ecotourism**

The idea that the owners of a road should be a non-automobile has spread widely in Korea since the 2000s. Environmental campaigns in cities such as Seoul, Daegu and Gwangju, have celebrated Earth Day, created 'car-free streets' and presented new experiments and methods of managing urban traffic.

At the same time, in accordance with the demands of the civil society for the improvement of the walking environment, the local governments such as those of Seoul and Gwangju have established ordinances and basic plans for the walking environment. Suwon's 2013 Ecotourism Congress showed that the efforts of civil societies have been major factors in changing the public's perceptions of traffic.

## **C. Activities of the Civil Society for Park Responses to the Sunset**

Since city parks in Korea were in danger of disappearing from the early 2000s, demands have been made for local governments to respond to the sunset by focusing on the civil society. Without the voice of the people, city parks would have been destined to disappear by 2020. Recently, there have been solutions for private parks, special projects for private parks and national city parks, among other things. However, NGOs are continuously asking for countermeasures at the central government level and for solutions from the local governments.

## **4) Suggestions**

### **A. Ensuring Citizen Participation**

Citizen participation in urban planning is in line with Goal 11.3. The capacity of citizens to plan and manage cities must be strengthened. First, detailed and user-friendly planning information should be provided to them, opportunities for learning should be given, and the opinions of the various stakeholders should be collected in accordance with a planning period that is of sufficient length. In addition, the planning and citizen participation processes should be institutionalized, so that essential citizen participation is implemented in a practical and uniform manner. For this reason, it is necessary to form participatory groups for resident units and a specialist cooperation group to support the resident groups.

## **B. Guarantee of Movement Rights through Ecotourism and the Vitality of Cities**

The transition of everyone to use 'public transport' is necessary. The term 'public transport' is perceived as merely a means of transportation that only ordinary citizens use. In addition, it is necessary to ensure that ecotourism is implemented in each city and to take the needs of vulnerable groups (such as women, children, the disabled and the elderly) into account by creating a safe traffic system for all of them.

## **C. Seeking Diverse Ways to Secure Parks**

City amenities must be secured to improve the quality of life of citizens. The charm of a city is manifested when its culture and ecology are in harmony. The government should act promptly to the response of the central government to the response to the sunset of city parks: Urban park support for the national budget / amendment of the law for the suspension of the park / introduction of the lease park and reduction of the property tax on the urban park area. Universal access to public green spaces that are safe, inclusive and accessible for women and children, the elderly and the disabled must be available.



## Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

### 〈Resource Circulation〉

#### 1. Background and purposes

- UN recommends establishing the robust action plan and methodology in each phase and supporting environmental, social and economic integration to achieve UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs), which was unanimously adopted by 193 countries in the world.
- Poverty eradication, conversion of unsustainable production and consumption and sustainable natural resource management are essential requirements for sustainable development, and transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies was selected as the theme of High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2018.
- According to the report released by UNDP in 2015, resource circulation and eco-friendly management of waste are very important for transformation into resilient and sustainable society and UNSDG implementation. It also states that 17 SDGs are clearly linked with resource circulation and waste management.
- Based on such an international trend, the mechanism is required to analyze the connection between 17 UNSDGs and waste management and to assess sustainability and accomplishment of the relevant government policies and plans in order to drive establishing goals and strategies for resource circulation and waste management, the implementation plan and managing safe and sustainable resource circulation.

#### 2. How to evaluate sustainability

- **To analyze the connection between 17 SDGs and resource circulation:** to find out the link between resource circulation and zero waste through analyzing domestic situations and policies and the social, economic and environmental connection and recommendation.
- **To establish the goals, strategies and implementation plan for resource circulation associated with 17 UNSDGs:** to review and analyze the government's resource-circulation

and waste-management policies and to establish the goals, strategies and implementation plan associated with 17 UNSDGs.

- **To propose how to assess sustainability of resource circulation and waste management:** to provide indicators for resource circulation and waste management involved with 17 UNSDGs and to prepare the resource-circulation checklist associated with the framework for sustainable development.
- **To provide sustainable resource circulation and waste management model from home and abroad:** to build and distribute a safe and sustainable resource-circulation model and to lead a paradigm shift and policy transformation of resource circulation and safe waste management.

### **3. The proposal for sustainable consumption and production**

- Korea has established the 10-year national goals and plans for sustainable consumption and production. The plan is limited to environment and energy. The plan to prevent waste should be established from the phase of production and consumption. Product should be designed to use less material and to be recycled at the final cycle. The products manufactured considering 5R (design, plan, production, reuse, recycle) will eventually lead to waste volume reduction, which will get rid of the need for incineration. The policy should be set up in the way that consumers do not purchase and use unnecessary, environmentally unsafe and unrecyclable products.

- The goals and indicators are difficult to achieve because Korea is a nation exporting finished goods without natural resources. The Basic Act on Resource Circulation contributed to material recycling by applying tax on incineration and landfill. For better quality of reused products, good quality of packaging material should be used in the production phase. Unless material is inspected from the design and planning stage, good quality of reused products can not be guaranteed. The use of products can change depending on collection methods in the phase of production, sales, use and disposal because of cyclability of material. In this context the policy should be established in order to enhance sustainability of circulating resources.

- Since 1990, Korea has been ahead of other nations in terms of the policy on food waste reduction. Volume-based waste fee system based on 'the polluter-pay principle' has led to food waste reduction. But small packaging, order-based side dishes and total volume-based

system per pollution source need to be introduced for bigger reduction.

- Harmful waste is disposed through landfill, incineration and recycling in Korea. Compared to the international standard, there are no sufficient policies and management to safely treat harmful waste. Safe management of harmful waste needs to be upgraded to that of advance nations not only on land but also at sea. The products using harmful material need to be made public for their right to know. The management plan for new chemicals and nano material is also required.

- A number of policies and systems are in place to reduce waste and expand recycling. The regulations for disposable items were put in place for the first time in the world. Furthermore various policies and regulations were implemented to mitigate packaging, to prohibit free distribution of promotional materials, to standardize rechargeable electric and electronic products and to reduce waste. From the recycling perspective, it is important to raise consumer awareness and enhance quality of products as the good-quality recyclable products are few, and the quality of most products is poor, which makes it difficult to buy them.

- Businesses are not faithfully carrying out their duties to improve product quality or mitigate waste. The guidelines to evaluate sustainability of businesses should be given, and the rewarding policies such as the incentive for excellent firms need to be provided.

- In the case of public procurement, recyclable products are prioritized for purchase, but there are not many of them. To increase the number of products or purchasing volume, the policy priority should be given to building infrastructure where sustainable products-which consumers or companies can purchase and use-can be produced, and to enhancing incentives for companies manufacturing and selling sustainable products. The incentive to consumers who buy green products will lead to more purchase.

- The awareness about sustainability should be raised in the nation centering on the economic growth. Despite its ongoing need, school is not playing a major role in terms of education on resource circulation. Civil Society Organizations (CSO) are carrying out education in the society with insufficient resources. A change in Citizens' perception can only take root when the government continues to invest human and financial resources in the mid to long term education.

#### 4. Sustainable development goals and proposal for strategies from the standpoint of resource recycling and circulating economy

SDGs	Strategies (proposed) from the standpoint of resource circulation and circulating economy (waste management)
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Connection between waste and poverty</li> <li>- Population with low-income picking waste paper and junk</li> <li>- Aging population in poverty who are janitors</li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Organic waste and agriculture</li> <li>- Farmer population growing crops near waste (within 100M)</li> <li>- Livestock farms using unsanitary organic fertilizer(dog meat farms)</li> <li>- Damage to crops due to waste water from livestock farms</li> <li>- Illegal waste dump and incineration in agriculture and fishing areas</li> </ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Safe and comprehensive operation of waste treatment facilities</li> <li>- Waste treatment facilities within 300M of residential areas</li> <li>- Food containing micro plastic among domestically produced food</li> </ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Education on resource circulation</li> <li>- Wether resource circulation is included in the regular school curriculum?</li> <li>- Wether the government support is offered for social environment education</li> <li>- Wether the education infrastructure (education facilities) for resource circulation is put in place</li> </ul>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Welfare for workers handling waste</li> <li>- Woman-only lounge(shower, toilet, etc) within waste treating facilities</li> <li>- Excluding female workers from equipment or machine management</li> </ul>
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Safe treatment of waste and water</li> <li>- Wether there is a waste treating facility near to drinking water sources</li> <li>- Wether waste water is safely treated after waste disposal</li> <li>- Any institution prohibiting waste and recycling sites near rivers?</li> </ul>
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Waste and energy production</li> <li>- Policies to manage solid waste energy</li> <li>- Wether heat reclaim from incineration plants can be considered energy</li> <li>- Policies to support bio energy</li> </ul>
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Creation of quality jobs and recycling industry</li> <li>- Government investment to develop new recycling technologies</li> <li>- Infrastructure building and expansion for nurturing the recycling industry</li> <li>- Social welfare for workers in the recycling industry</li> <li>- The volume of production and use of circulating resources</li> </ul>
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Waste-related technologies (harmful substances, radioactive waste)</li> <li>- Facilities to safely treat domestic chemical waste</li> <li>- Domestic PCBs and safe treatment</li> <li>- Domestic asbestos and safe treatment</li> </ul>

10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Waste management and inequality</li> <li>- Annual damage due to waste treating facilities</li> <li>- Annual conflicts due to installation of waste treating facilities</li> <li>- Comparison of wage and labor intensity between general laborers and workers of waste treating facilities</li> </ul>
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Urban waste management plan</li> <li>- Infra-building for convenient separation and recycle</li> <li>- Any inconvenience caused to citizens (stop collection etc)</li> <li>- Conflicts among citizens due to waste treatment facilities within residential areas</li> <li>- Environmental pollution due to waste dispersion during transfer</li> </ul>
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Resource circulation and sustainable consumption and production</li> <li>- Products replaced with ones for business-reuse</li> <li>- Reduced volume of disposable cups and plastic bags</li> <li>- Citizens carrying eco-bags</li> <li>- Installing drinking fountains within offices(Reduced use of disposable water bottles)</li> <li>- % of annual reduction of food waste</li> <li>- Barter market places for reuse</li> </ul>
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Waste and climate change impact</li> <li>- Annual plastic use</li> <li>- Usage of new renewable energy generated by waste</li> <li>- Pollution emitted from waste treatment facilities</li> </ul>
14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Marine waste</li> <li>- Inflow and removal of waste from land</li> <li>- Generation and removal of annual waste in coastal areas</li> <li>- Volume of microplastic stored in marine resources</li> <li>- Annual population of marine resources harmed by waste</li> </ul>
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Biodiversity and waste</li> <li>- Illegal dump and incineration of waste</li> <li>- Illegal dump and incineration of waste in agricultural areas</li> <li>- Manual for appropriate resource circulation</li> </ul>
16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Waste-related system, human rights and justice</li> <li>- % of permanent workers dealing with waste</li> <li>- Observance of labor hours and break time for waste-related workers</li> <li>- Manuals and education on risk prevention</li> </ul>
17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Global waste</li> <li>- International solidarity for exchange of resource-circulation policies</li> <li>- International solidarity for education and promotion of resource circulation</li> <li>- Support of resource-circulation technologies and policies for other countries</li> </ul>



## <Social Economy>

### 1. Overview of Social Economy in Korea

'Social economy' is based on reciprocity and solidarity. It includes all forms of economic activities in private sector such as production, distribution, exchange and consumption of goods and services that are necessary to pursue the mutual benefit of members in community as well as social objectives. Generally, social economy is described as reciprocal economic organizations that are social value oriented and democratically managed. Social enterprises, cooperatives, community enterprises and self-support enterprises are representative organizations of reciprocal economy. In reality, social economy sector is intimately connected and operated with communities and civil society. Explanation based on some characteristics of corporate limits the understanding of social economy and couldn't decode the meaning in South Korea. Social economy is an autonomous activity of the residents to build the society where they could happily live together, and both socially and economically disadvantaged people are involved as the decision-makers and the beneficiary of their business activities. Social economy innovates its business method to aim for the public virtue and sets its mission to relieve the social problems such as poverty, welfare and environment issues. In social economy, the spirit of sharing and value for work are as crucial as 'freedom and competition', and the core principles are on the reciprocity and cooperation'.<sup>1)</sup>

Roughly, social economy in South Korea is composed of cooperatives established under eight specific cooperative laws and 'Framework Act on Cooperatives' (including Cooperative alliance organizations such as federation and association). There are also community enterprise, self-support enterprises and social enterprises certified by either government or local government under their certification standards. These social economic organizations are permitted to be involved in most of the nation's industries except for the financial and insurance business.

**Table 1. Social Economy in Korea: Institutionalization and Current Situation.**

Items	Social enterprise	Community enterprise	Agricultural/ Fisheries association	Self-Support enterprises	Cooperatives*
Participants	Vulnerable Social Class/ Social Entrepreneur	Residents	Farmers and Fishermen	Poor and Low-income bracket	Stakeholders

1) Source book from 2018 General meeting of solidarity conference for Social Economy in Korea. 2018:76

Applicable Act	Social Enterprise Promotion Act	Special Act on the Promotion and Support of Urban Regeneration	Act on Fostering and Supporting Agricultural and Fisheries Enterprises	National Basic Livelihood Security act	Framework Act On Cooperatives
Legalized in	2007	2010	2009	2000	2012
Number of Organization (By the end of 2016)	1,713	1,446	Agricultural 11,599 (Nov. 2015) Fisheries 1,241 (2011)	1,149	10,640
Objective of Policy	Job creation and improvement of social service	Village revitalization and Urban regeneration	Increased jobs and income	Poverty exit and Self-help	Compensating market-driven economy and Economic democracy

\* Source: Hyungmi Kim(2018.3.8) 『2018 Workshop for Community enterprise participant: To make better "Community enterprise" and to understand Social economy』

\* Statistics of cooperatives based on individual cooperative law such as National Agricultural Cooperative, National Federation of Fisheries Cooperatives, Korea federation of Community Credit Cooperative, National Credit Union Federation of Korea, Small and Medium Industry Cooperatives and Consumer Cooperatives are collected separately.

\* A suggestion exists that Social ventures should be included as a Social economic organization.

**Table 13. Current Situation of Cooperatives on basis of individual cooperative laws (end of 2016)**

Field	Names of the Cooperative Federation	Number of Cooperatives	Number of Members	Branches or Stores
Agricultural Cooperative	National Agricultural Cooperative Federation	1,131	2,246,123	4,665
Forestry Cooperatives	National Forestry Cooperative Federation	142	394,000	157
Fisheries Cooperatives	National Federation of Fisheries Cooperatives	91	158,300	444
Finance Cooperative	National Credit Union Federation	904	5,801,000	1,657
	Korean Federation of Community Credit Cooperatives	1,321	5,052,064	3,047
Small and Medium Industry Cooperatives	Korea Federation of Small and Medium Industry Cooperatives	925	550	n.d
Consumer Cooperatives	Hansalim Federation	22	596,240	210
	Dure Coop Federation	29	189,370	110
	HappyCoop Federation	14	38,224	24
	Korea Federation of University Cooperative	30	109,216	601
	ICOOP Consumer Cooperative Federation	90	250,980	193

\* Source: ICOOP Cooperative development center

\* Allied organizations of Korea Federation of Small and Medium Industry Cooperatives are included (2017.3.31.)

\* Korea Tobacco Growers Organizations which is legally based and operating on Tobacco Producers Cooperative Act are excluded

## 2. 'SDGs and Sustainable Consumption and Production' from a social economy point of view

SDGs that will continue from 2016 to 2030 has an intimate relationship with social economy and cooperatives. International organizations of cooperatives and labor are concerned in this matter, and they have been carrying out the debates and researches.<sup>2)</sup> Social economy and cooperatives in South Korea are closely related with SDGs, yet there has not been a frequent opportunity to view its business and activity from SDGs viewpoint. Unfortunately, it is true that there are some cases where its society is going against the SDGs. On the other hand, even though social economy sectors including cooperatives are limited by its size and the impact, they are slowly taking a step toward where SDGs direct.

The way social economy sectors consider 'Sustainable Consumption and Production' is not only limited by the targets and indicators in SDGs Goal 12 'Responsible Consumption and Production'. By limiting the understanding of 'sustainable consumption and production' as indicated in SDGs 12, it could cause problems like narrowing the scopes of practices and challenges regarding the Sustainable Consumption and Production.

The correlations between SDGs and activities of various social economic organizations established in South Korea are as follow.

- The Agricultural Cooperatives, Forestry Cooperatives, Fisheries Cooperatives and Consumer Cooperatives are carrying on the businesses and activities which has association with SDG 2, Zero Hunger. SDG 2 states 'End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture'. Also, there is an association with 'conservation and sustainable usage of marine resource' in SDG 14 'Life below water'.
- The businesses and activities of solar energy generation cooperative which is becoming livelier in recent years are directly related to 'Affordable and clean energy' in SDG 7.
- Social economic organizations such as Social Enterprise and Cooperatives in urban regeneration, social housing and housing cooperatives has connection with 'Sustainable Cities and Communities' of SDG 11.
- SDG 3, Good Health and Well-being, is connected to Cooperatives and other Social economic organizations in Health, Welfare and Caring services fields.
- Social economic organizations which provides services in Education such as Communal Child-care and Alternative Education, are working for 'inclusive and equitable quality education' sated in SDG 3.
- In worker cooperatives, workers are not only being hired but also they own the business themselves. In this condition, it has a link with SDG 8, 'Promote sustained, inclusive and

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2) Refence <Roles and Tasks for Sustainable Growth and Social Economy, DaeHoon Kim, 2017>

sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

- In addition, Self-support enterprises, which work to end poverty and create jobs for socially disadvantaged class, Social enterprises that creates jobs and Social economic organizations in Fair-trade activities are widely and extensively linked to SDG1, 'End Poverty in all its forms everywhere', SDG 8 'Sustainable economic growth and decent work' and SDG 10, 'Reduce inequality within and among countries'.

As stated above, social economic organizations have relationship with SDGs throughout industry and society, and they are carrying on their businesses in line with the direction of complex and multidimensional Sustainable Development Goals. However, besides the sized cooperatives such as agricultural cooperatives, fisheries cooperatives and consumers cooperatives, the sectors and organizations of social economy fail to produce independent and systematic statistics yet. Furthermore, the scale of Social Economy is yet too small that it is not estimated to reflect the national statistics.

### **3. Problems of Social Economy and Suggestions to achieve Sustainable Development Goals**

For social economy, which considers the sustainability of society, economy and environment for social inclusion and economic growth, followings are needed to enlarge its role in achieving SDGs.

- Initially, there is a need for an awareness of interested parties of social economy, government and civil society that the activities and the business of social economy are closely related to SDGs.
- Also, above parties ought to understand that both 'methodology' and 'achieving objectives' of Social Economy activities accord with the directivity and the purpose of SDGs. Therefore, they must review the policy and institutional environment and allocate suitable resources such as financial resources and government funds to vitalize Social Economy activities.
- Encouraging fact is that unlike the governments in the past decade, current government appreciates social economy and progresses in making policies and reviewing the law system synthetically with enthusiasm. On the other hand, there is a concern that social economy is skewed towards the aspect of job creation. Nonetheless, social economy sectors and the civil society require to have a broader view and maintain the development prospect of social economy for the sustainable growth and development. Also, they must gradually induce a change in perception of government and the administration.
- In addition, responsibility of involved parties must be enhanced followed by an expansion in subsidy system along with the favorable policy environment. Also a purposeful

measurement of impact and achievement of Social economy and its visualization is necessary. For the measurement and visualization, there is a need for an aggregation of status, list of activities and the outcome of businesses of social economic organizations, which are active in almost every fields of SDGs. Currently, a research project is in progress to include status and impact of social economy in National Statistics system. However, there is a possibility that only visible business information such as a scale of operation, and the number of employees and organizations might be included in the statistics. Therefore, social economy should commit to the project to devise a supplement.



## Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

### **15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements**

What is important in the conservation of terrestrial ecosystem in SDG 15.1 is to designate a reserved area. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, Aichi Targets recommends designating 17% of a nation's land as protected areas with five strategies and 20 goals by 2020. The protected area in Korea accounts for 11.57% of the entire land equivalent to 11,599.3km<sup>2</sup> (Korean nature reserve database system). The government aims to reach 17% by 2021 through registration of non-registered areas and new designation and expansion of the reserves (Ministry of Environment, 2018).

Hwapo wetland in Bonghwa, Gyungnam Province in which an Oriental white stork released in Japan lives was designated as an inland wetland protected area on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November in 2017. 1.24km<sup>2</sup> out of the entire area of Hwapo-cheon (3.1km<sup>2</sup>) was designated as a protected area. The wetland ecosystem in the designated area is well preserved without any farmland or vinyl greenhouses. Although there were conflicts among residents, it is very meaningful that Hwapo-cheon was designated as a wetland protected area because the Oriental stork-1st grade of endangered species, Natural monument No 199, the IUCN red list species-once an endemic species, came back as a migratory bird.

White-napped cranes-Natural monumnet No 2013, the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade of endangered species-spent winter at Joonam reservoir in Changwon, Gyungnam Province from 2017 to 2018, and their number reached around 360. The number tends to increase because sleeping places for the cranes seem to be secured (The report on monitoring result from Masan-Changwon-Jinhae KFEM). White-napped cranes sleep with their legs about 20 cm below water when depth of water is 3.2 m. In winter when no agriculture water is needed, the gate of Joonam reservoir is closed and the depth of water was maintained at 4.6 m. In the end, the sleeping place for White-napped cranes became insecure because

water was too deep.

Environmental organizations in Changwon asked the city government to adjust the water level on the basis of daily monitoring result in winter, and the request was accepted (The 2017 Patagonian project report from Masan-Changwon-Jinhae KFEM). The environmental organizations in Gyeongnam province has longed for designating Joonam reservoir as a protected area for 20 years. But the designation has not been welcomed by the owners of rice paddy fields for the infringement of property rights, by the city government for development and by the central government for insufficient budget. It is very encouraging that the local government, farmers and environmental organizations are in the process of a constructive dialogue about the designation of the protected area in 2018 despite conflicts having lasted for the last 20 years.

The designation of the protected area is the product of communication among the central government, local government, local environmental organizations and local residents. Local residents being opposed to the designation should be persuaded. The budget to purchase neighboring lands needs be allocated. But how about in reality? Local residents still think of the designation as the infringement because of the lack of promotion by the government. The relevant budget of the central and local government is not enough. The terrestrial ecosystems in the following list urgently need to be designated as protected areas: the summit area of Mt Cheonsung in Yangsan, Dalsung wetland in Daegu, Joonam reservoir in Hangwon, Gunnam dam in Imjin river, Sanyan-cheon and Guchun-cheon in Geoje, lagoons in the east sea, Nilrribundegi wetland in Suncheon.

There are ten ways to expand protected areas: 1)to constitutionally designate a certain proportion of our nation's land, 2)to allocate the quota for protected areas to municipalities, 3)to designate the primary industry (agriculture/fisheries) areas as protected areas and announce them as the industry promotion area, 4)to establish integrated management plan for protected areas, 5)to appoint a secretary handling protected areas in the president's office, 6)to invite municipalities to recommend protected areas, 7)to allocate a certain amount of national budget for protected areas, 8)to establish the national merit system for biodiversity protection, 9)to support deliberative discussion for consensus, 10)to distribute manuals to and educate public servants of local governments.

As the result of the 4.27 Inter-Korean Summit, 'Panmoonjeom Declaration for peace, prosperity and unification of the Korean Peninsula' was adopted. Under the declaration, which states the transformation of DMZ into a peace zone, loudspeakers in DMZ were torn

down on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May, 2018. The proposal is welcomed. But it is highly likely that DMZ and its adjacent areas, a sanctuary for wild animals may be overdeveloped when economic cooperation between North and South is realized. DMZ and its neighboring areas, the world treasure trope for flora and fauna should be reborn as an eco-peace zone beyond just a peace zone in the journey toward permanent peace regime. To this end, the 2030 development plan for these areas which was set up in 2011 by the government alone needs to be annulled and re-established. Through governance building to develop and conserve the adjacent areas, the government, environmental organizations and resident who are concerned about environment should sit together to discuss the eco-peace zone.

**15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally**

International agreements including the Convention on Biodiversity Conservation discourage logging natural forest and stress protection and restoration for sustainable forest. In particular, forestation and management to restore forest are fundamental policies that need to be adopted by each nation. Korea had lost most of forest areas during the Japanese colonial period and the Korean War. The policy to green our land having been executed in 1960~70s laid the foundation for our current forest. In this context, it is not easy to define a natural forest in our country. Climax forests or their equivalent also exist in some areas including high lands above 1,000m. The government arranges laws and regulations to protect them through ecological zoning map and degree of green naturality. To achieve target 15.2, the priority should be given to forests highly worth protection, especially for those with the 1st to 2nd grade from ecological zoning map and the 8th to 9th from degree of green naturality. The plan for restoration must be run in parallel.

The construction of Alpine ski slope in Mt Gariwang by the government typifies a policy failure against the forest policies mentioned above. 55% of the area where the ski slope was built used to be a protected area for forest genetic resources. On top of this, the areas rated as above the 2nd grade from ecological zoning map and above 8<sup>th</sup> grade from degree of green naturality amount to 70%. This is the case completely opposing 'the halt of deforestation' stated in 15.2. The restoration of the Alpine ski slope is going to be a yard stick that we can judge the government's effort to achieve 15.2 and its subsequent



effect.

The restoration of forests in North Korea is also important. Most mountains in North Korea adjacent to the border are grassland. Trees including shrubs rarely exist, which raises the potential disaster risk. In the past, active discussion was held as part of exchange between North and South during the Kim Daejung and Roh Moohyun administration. Thus, resuming a dialogue to restore the forest in North Korea is going to be a critical touchstone for restoring forests on the Korean Peninsula.

### **15.5. Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Global Biodiversity Outlook evaluates that Aichi target 12 stating management of threatened species is not progressing and difficult to achieve. This is also applied to Korea as well as foreign cases. Protection of endangered species is difficult to achieve without protecting habitats. Scientific understanding and long-term monitoring are required for habitats of threatened species. The protection of their habitats is essential. But development, administrative opportunistic management of endangered species and inefficient allocation of the nation's budget make it difficult to protect threatened species.

Gorals-the first-grade endangered species and natural monument number 217-show how serious the situation is. A representative case was when 25 gorals were killed en masse in Uljin alone in 2010. 25 gorals isolated due to the sudden heavy snow were rescued being dehydrated but killed because there was no rescue center nearby. The nearest rescue center was 4-hour drive away. Still the same. Uljin is the southernmost goral habitat in Korea. The number of gorals killed in Uljin alone has been 54 since 2010.

Restoration of Asiatic black bear is also problematic. The government has been carrying out restoration of Asiatic black bear mainly in Mt Jiri. But the number of annual visitors to the mountain is 2.87 million, ranking fifth among national parks. The entire mountain is fragmented with trails shaped like a spiderweb. According to the recent research, Mt Jiri is divided with 152 zones. Among them, there is only one place over the size of 50km<sup>2</sup> suitable for large mammals, and the number of the areas with the size of 5km<sup>2</sup> is 130. It is doubtful whether Mt Jiri is a good place for restoring Asiatic black bear, a large mammal. The Center for Species Restoration under Korean National Park Service is responsible for

restoring threatened species. The policy to restore endangered species which is handled by a single department reveals its limitation.

The core of endangered-species management is managing habitats. The management and restoration of threatened species that are limited to a single species cannot but fail without the policy to manage habitats. The habitat management requires a comprehensive approach and budget allocation.



## Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

### 1. Introduction

SDGs 16 and 17 are methods to effectively achieve the SDGs, whereas SDGs 1 to 15 are sustainable development goals. SDG 17 was developed because there was no concrete means of implementation in previous MDGs and emphasizes global partnerships. It consists of 19 targets and 25 indicators. Each target can be categorized into five areas: finance, technology, capacity-building, trade and systemic issues, and the systemic issues can be classified into policy and institutional coherence, multi-stakeholder partnerships and data, monitoring and accountability.

The “Korean Civil Society Report for 2017 HLPF on Sustainable Development” (hereafter ‘Civil Society Report’) specifically addresses target 17.2 (expanding ODA to meet international standards) and target 17.17 (enhancing multi-stakeholder partnerships to promote cooperation with civil society).

However, since the last HLPF, the Korean ODA/GNI ratio dropped to 0.14% in 2017 compared to 0.16% in 2016. Government’s effort to cooperate with civil society is also still insufficient in partnership framework considering the suggestions from 2017 OECD DAC Peer Review Report.

In this regard, this report aims to examine means of SDG implementation, discussing the accountability of various stakeholders from the universal perspective and progress review relative to suggestions from last year.

### 2. Issues

As attention to international development cooperation and demands for ODA transparency have increased, the Korean government has committed to improve the quality of statistical data on international development cooperation by joining the International Aid Transparency Initiative (hereafter ‘IATI’) in 2016.

The Korean government has also pledged to ensure financial transparency, including voluntarily disclosure of international aid information and improved citizens' accessibility to ODA statistics as part of its third National Action Plan (2016.10) as it has served as part of the steering committee of the Open Government Partnership (hereafter 'OGP') since October 2017.

The government intends to disclose information on the performance of 740 KOICA and EDCF programs, which are currently being carried out or planned to help developing countries adhere to common standards set by the IATI. It also seeks to improve access to data on public services to ensure freedom of information on individual ODA project and relevant statistics through the revision of the current ODA statistical system.

However, according to South Korea Progress Report 2016-2017 by the OGP Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM), the disclosed information does not effectively promote the transparency of ODA activities and it does not clearly identify how this increased access to information towards the general public.

In addition, according to the peer reviews conducted by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (hereafter 'OECD') Development Assistance Committee (hereafter 'DAC') in 2012 and 2017, it is pointed out that the Korean international development cooperation implementation system is still not integrated in terms of policy and executive bodies.

While it is true that the disclosure of IATI information has been expanded since the last HLPF, the lack of coordination between agencies has led to limited information within each department and organization. Despite the government's commitment, improvements to public access to information remain limited as a result. In this regard, civil society faces challenges in assessing progress towards the SDG 17 targets despite government's efforts to publish international aid information and join the IATI in 2016.

This report aims to examine the current cooperation between the Korean government and civil society in terms of SDG targets 17.2 and 17.17 on the domestic ODA issue and partnerships between multiple stakeholders presented in last year's civil society report.

### **3. Target 17.2**

1) Indicator 17.2.1: Net official development assistance, total and to least developed countries, as a proportion of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development

## Assistance Committee donors' gross national income (GNI)

## (1) Indicator analysis and problem

## ① Low ODA/GNI ratio

The Korean government set a goal of attaining an ODA/GNI ratio of 0.2% by 2020 and 0.3% by 2030 in the 『Mid-term Strategy for Development Cooperation (2016-2020)』. These targets were inexplicably reduced from the original 2020 target of 0.25% set out in the Strategic Plan for International Development Cooperation in 2010. Moreover, there is no detailed roadmap to achieve it.

The Korean ODA/GNI ratio in 2017 was 0.14%, similar to the level in 2015 and below both the UN-recommended level of 0.7% and the OECD DAC average of 0.3%. Korea thus ranked the 25<sup>th</sup> among the 29 OECD DAC member countries(excluding the EU). It also failed to meet the recommendation in SDG17.2 that at least 0.15% of GNI should be provided to LDCs.

<Table> Total ODA/GNI ratio of South Korea and DAC average(Net disbursements, %)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
South Korea	0.12	0.12	0.14	0.13	0.13	0.14	0.16	0.14
DAC average	0.31	0.31	0.28	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.32	0.31

## ② High loan, low grant aid ratio

In the 『Mid-term Strategy for Development Cooperation (2016-2020)』, the government set out to maintain the current loan/grant ratio of 40:60 until 2017. However, the proportion of grants in Korea's ODA is much lower than the OECD DAC average of 90%. The government vowed to adjust the loan/grant ratio for 2018-2020, but it has yet to publish implementation plans.

<Table> Overview of Korean loans/grants(Net disbursements, %)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Tied	36.28	41.89	39.58	38.22	36.69	36.73	39.29
Untied	63.72	58.11	60.42	61.78	63.31	63.27	60.71

As Korea provides loans (amounting to about 40% of gross aid) to LDCs and highly-indebted poor countries (HIPCs), which are vulnerable to defaulting on loans, the 2012 OECD DAC peer review recommended to be cautious in enforcement. In particular, as the proportion of loans exceeds that of grants to LDCs and HIPCs, the means of aid must take into consideration the country's ability to repay.

**<Table 6.4 > Ratio of loans and grants in least-developed countries and heavily-indebted poor countries(Gross disbursements, %)**

		2010	2016
Loans	LDCs	35.1	39.4
	HIPCs	9.6	39.5
Grants	LDCs	36.1	33.1
	HIPCs	27.4	21.4

### ③ Low ratio of untied aid

Even though the Korean government set a goal of increasing the ratio of untied aid to bilateral aid to 75% by 2015, as stated in the 2010 Strategic Plan for International Development Cooperation, the proportion of untied rate dropped from 62.3% in 2014 to 55.6% in 2015. The 2012 OECD DAC Peer Review recommended the 'establishment of an untied aid implementation roadmap', and in 2017, the OECD DAC Peer Review stated that Korea needed to make further progress on untying aid, particularly to LDCs.

The 2017 OECD DAC Peer Review pointed out that inconsistent trends over the past three years have made Korea's progress on untying aid inconsistent with the Busan commitment to untie aid to the "maximum extent possible". In addition, it described that the percentage of Korea's ODA consisting of untied aid to LDCs in 2015 (45.9%) was below the average for Korea's total ODA (48.7%) and below the DAC effort-sharing benchmark of 60% of untied bilateral aid to LDCs.

In this regard, the Korean government vowed to increase the proportion of untied aid to 55% (loans), and 95% (grants) by 2020 with step-by-step roadmap of untying aid. However, all of the untied aid data are set based on commitment. Considering the fact that the amount of disbursement is below the average for the commitment, the proportion of tied aid is regarded as higher in actual implementation.

〈Table 6.5〉 Untied aid ratio of South Korea and DAC average(Based on commitment, %)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
South Korea	35.7	51.1	55.1	62.1	62.3	55.6
DAC average	82.6	83.4	83.7	84.8	84.9	80.7

〈Table 6.6〉 Volume of Korean untied aid(Based on commitment)

		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Grants	Volume (USD million)	498	288	312	674	627	627	600
	Proportion (%)	46	68	81	88	92	85	86
Loans	Volume (USD million)	1,091	1,054	1,111	1,200	1,273	1,222	1,430
	Proportion (%)	31	46	48	47	48	44	52

#### ④ Inappropriate selection of ODA Priority Partner Countries

Korean government select and announce ODA Priority Partner Countries regularly and it is recommended more than 70% of total ODA budget provide to these Priority Partner Countries. In this regards, selection of ODA Priority Partner Countries is important issue along with increasing ODA/GNI ratio.

The Board of Audit and Inspection stated in its ‘ODA Audit Report 2015’ that it is inappropriate to designate a upper-middle income country like Peru, which aims to reduce foreign debt, as one of the Priority Partner Countries to provide more than 70% of the total ODA budget. Nevertheless, Peru was included in the list of ODA Priority Partner Countries in 2016. The adjusted second ODA Priority Partner Countries list contains nine lower-middle-income countries and four middle-high-income countries out of 24 Priority Partner Countries. Thus more than half of the countries are upper-middle-income countries.

〈Table 6.7〉 2<sup>nd</sup> ODA Priority Partner Countries list

Region (24)	ODA Priority Partner Countries
Asia (11)	Vietnam, Indonesia, Cambodia, Philippines, Bangladesh, Mongolia, Laos, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Myanmar

Africa (7)	Ghana, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, Senegal
Middle East-CIS (2)	Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan
Central-South America (4)	Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay

## (2) Suggested additional indicators

- ① Proportion of tied and untied aid provided to developing countries (based on disbursements)
- ② Proportion of tied and untied aid provided to the LDCs (based on disbursements)

## (3) Actions by civil society

The Korea NGO Council for Overseas Development Cooperation, (hereafter 'KCOC') in cooperation with the Korea Civil Society Forum on International Development Cooperation, (hereafter 'KoFID') jointly held a seminar on Korean international development cooperation policy and discussed ways to ensure the transparency and efficiency of ODA projects through coordination between loans and grant portfolios and the expansion of the ODA budget. It also published an opinion article titled 'Civil Society Proposal on the Committee for International Development Cooperation (CIDC)'s agenda for Aid Effectiveness and Aid Coordination' requiring expand civil society participation and strengthen coordination of the committees.

The KCOC submitted the '2017 OECD DAC Peer Review Korean civil society report' to the OECD DAC responding to the 2017 OECD DAC Peer Review in cooperation with various civil society organizations. It also identified the necessity of government efforts to improve overall ODA policies including the total ODA budget and aid provided for LDCs and HIPC.

## 4. Target 17.17

The sustainable development goals set at the 2015 UN Sustainable Development Summit aims to 'promote effective partnerships among public, private, civil society sectors' and emphasized partnerships with civil society. This is consistent with the agenda of the 2011



Fourth High Level Forum highlighting the role and participation of civil society as a main actor in international development cooperation.

In this regard, the Korean government established the 『Mid-term Strategy for Development Cooperation (2016-2020)』 identifying enhanced cooperation with civil society as ‘Together ODA’ for the achievement of the SDGs. This reflects efforts towards ‘Inclusive Partnership’ to foster the participation of businesses, academia and civil society as well as the government and development cooperation agency.

## 1) Indicator 17.17.1 : Amount of United States dollars committed to public-private and civil society partnerships

### (1) Indicator analysis and problem

#### ① Low proportion of civil society partnership

Whereas OECD DAC countries are spending about 10% of their total ODA budgets for partnerships with civil society, Korea’s budget for partnership with civil society only accounts for about 2% of its total ODA volumes (refer to table 6.8). Even though the Korean government emphasized that the volume has steadily increased, the ratio for partnership with NGOs as a proportion of gross ODA volumes has not changed, considering that the total ODA volume has also increased at the same time.

〈Table〉 OECD DAC membership countries and Korea’s ODA budget to and through NGOs(Gross disbursements, %)

		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
OECD	Volume for the partnership with NGOs (USD Million Dollars)	16,879.38	17,540.48	18,679.29	17,918.14	17,561.74
DAC	Proportion(%) of total ODA volumes	12.04	11.56	12.36	12.52	11.14
South Korea	Volume for the partnership with NGOs (USD Million Dollars)	25.82	27.69	34.58	38.57	38.32
	Proportion (%) of total ODA volumes	1.57	1.52	1.78	1.93	1.65

In addition, <Table 6.9> includes all categories of civil stakeholders including businesses, academia and civil society. Categorized statistics are needed through data segmentation to make a precise comparison.

<Table> KOICA private public cooperation projects (2012-2015)

	2012	2013	2014	2015
NGO aid volume(USD Million dollars)	27.48	32.85	32.85	45.80
Cooperation ratio (%) KOICA gross disbursements	6	7	6	8

## ② Lack of concrete plans for partnerships with civil society

The Korean government established a plan to render support to NGOs for development cooperation in the 26th meeting of the Committee for International Development Cooperation (CIDC) (May 2016). However, detailed plans were not set up, showing the government's limited awareness of civil society recognizing it as a beneficiary of its subsidy program and not as an equal partner.

Partnerships with civil society were made uncertain by the fact that KOICA private-public cooperation project system was moved from the Foreign Affairs Ministry subsidy program into the Finance Ministry subsidy in 2016 without consultation with civil society. It was again reassigned to the Foreign Affairs Ministry subsidy program after considering OECD DAC Peer Review and with the multilateral advocacy efforts of National Assembly, media and civil society; however, it has yet to be established as an equal partnership with civil society.

In the 2017 OECD DAC Peer Review, it was recommended that 'the Korean government should clarify and deepen its cooperation with civil society through establishing a regulatory scheme to admit the various roles of civil society as both an implementing partner and an independent active main role'.

The Korean government should establish a distinct vision and strategy toward cooperation with civil society, acknowledging it as playing an independent main role in international development. It should provide civil society enabling environment to be able to actively contribute to and with a framework to be able to extend cooperation and further strengthen the capacity building of civil society in developing countries.

Recently, the Korean government has begun to establish strategy and principle to

cooperate with civil society, led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Civil society urges the government to recognize civil society as an independent main actor and to set out clear strategies and vision for partnership with civil society. Based on this, it is hoped that civil society is able to actively contribute to international development cooperation and legal framework is established to enhance capacity building and increase cooperation with civil society in developing countries.

## **(2) Suggestions for indicators**

- ① Presence of a dialogue between the government and civil society and ratio of regular meetings
- ② Existence of a comprehensive policy document on partnerships with civil society
- ③ Ratio of government partnership projects allocated to each sector of non-governmental areas; NGOs, academia, private sector

## **(3) Actions by civil society**

The KCOC conducted advocacy against the government's policy change, which substantially damaged civil society partnerships and reduced aid effectiveness, by organizing a working group from 2015 to the end of 2017 for refunding subsidies. It held a discussion meeting with government officials and members of the National Assembly and submitted an opinion article aggregating civil society voices based on their respective cases.

In particular, the KCOC maintained media activities through publishing an opinion article and creating a media task force within the working group. It urged the government to create a partnership framework by including these media activities in the '2017 OECD DAC Peer Review Korean civil society report'.

It also concluded that the government should establish a mechanism in which various stakeholders participated over the course of establishing, implementing and assessing SDGs by participating in 'the Nation Assembly discussion seminar for SDGs Implementation'(2017.5.17) organized by the Korean SDGs civil net in cooperation with the government, the National Assembly, academia and civil society.

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## Cross-sector Review: Human Rights and Gender Equality

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### 1. Gender Equality

The most effective and efficient approach for the realization of the sustainable development based on the principle of SDGs such as 'No one left behind' is the equity-focused and gender responsive SDGs approach<sup>3)</sup>. However, the Korean government has not established the national-level SDGs fulfillment mechanism and the data collection and evaluation system focusing on the gender equality.

Out of the SDG No. 6, 7, 11, 12, and 15 that would be reviewed in the 2018 HLPF forum, two goals include the gender-related targets, and the SDG No. 11 is the only goal including the indicators just as shown below.

#### **SDG6 Clean Water and Sanitation**

- **6.2** By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations

#### **SDG11 Sustainable Cities and Communities**

- **11.2.1** Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities
- **11.7.1** Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities
- **11.7.2** Proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months

Therefore, this report aims to examine the current status of urban sustainability from the gender perspective, which is the goal of SDG No. 11 including the most gender-related indicators. Based on the national statistics, the main contents focus on the rapid urbanization, the rise of single-person household, and the women's safety issues in urban

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3) Michael Bamberger, Marco Segone and Florencia Tateossian, 2016, Evaluating the Sustainable Development Goals: with a 'No one left behind' lens through equity-focused and gender-responsive evaluations, P9-10.

areas shown in their lifetime. Especially, the safety issue in cities where more than 3/4 of the whole populations reside is not a personal problem, but rather it should be approached at the level of public policy. Thus, this report aims to understand the current status and limitations of gender governance in cities including Seoul, and the necessities for the implementation of SDGs in Korea.

The goal of SDG No. 11 is about making cities and residence inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. The safe and inclusive city and residence have huge effects on women's lives. Especially, it is essential to deal with the sustainability of safe city mainly focusing on the urbanization and the increase of single-person household. In 2016, about 92 percent of the whole population resides in urban areas<sup>4)</sup>. The ratio of single-person household was increased from 15.5 percent in 2000 to 23.9 percent in 2010, which was contrasted with the decrease of four-person household in the same period (from 31.1 percent to 22.5 percent).

According to the research on the single-person households of Korea in 2016<sup>5)</sup>, more than a majority (50.9 percent) of the whole women and 46.2 percent of single-woman household answered that they felt insecure in terms of social safety. On the other hand, only 36.2 percent of single-man household answered that they felt insecure, which showed that men and women would feel differently regarding the safety. There were also huge differences in the factors associated with insecurity in accordance with sex. The main associating factor for single-woman households' insecurity was the occurrence of crime (39.2 percent) while the main associating factor for single-man households' insecurity was the national security (16.9 percent). This must be related to the fact that the overwhelming percentage (88.9) of victims of violent crimes such as murder, robbery, arson, and sexual violence were women in 2015. Female victims of violent crimes have been increasing every year. Since 2009, the female victims have been increased by 4.5 times while the male victims have been increased by 1.4 times<sup>6)</sup>.

Women's insecurity in cities does not simply originate from the insufficient urban infrastructure or the high ratio of violent crimes targeting women. Throughout the whole lifetime, women face more vulnerable situations than men, and they are exposed to danger because of the unstable employment, vulnerable economic condition, and the selection of unsafe residence. Out of the female paid workers, about 41 percent is the temporary

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4) The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport•Korea Land & Housing Corporation(Government), 2017, 2016 The current status of urban planning, P3-4 in Korean

5) The National Statistical Office(Government), 2017, 2017 Women's lives in statistics, P10 in Korean

6) The National Statistical Office, The book mentioned earlier, P46.

position in 2016, which is about 630,000 more than men(26.4 percent)<sup>7)</sup>. The unstable employment is connected to the vulnerable economic condition. In 2016, the women's wage was no more than the 64.1 percent of men's wage<sup>8)</sup>.

The economic vulnerability is related to the safety of residence. The young single-woman households in Seoul cannot much consider their safety because of the unstable economic condition. For the selection of residence, the cheap cost(20 percent) is considered as the first priority instead of safety(6.2 percent)<sup>9)</sup>. Therefore, the percentage of residing in apartment which is a relatively safe residence for the young single-woman households in Korea is lower than the single-woman households in other generations. Instead, the percentage of residing in the residence besides housing is high<sup>10)</sup>. Also, regarding the percentage of residing in the 1st floor and basement/semi-basement, young single-woman households in Seoul, about 28.4 percent was shown to make less than 1.5million KRW a month on average, and about 13.9 percent was shown to make 3 million KRW or above. When the income was lower, they resided on the lower floors with a higher vulnerability against safety<sup>11)</sup>.

Even after entering middle age and old age, women are more exposed to the economic vulnerabilities and unstable housing. According to many research(Hong, Baek-Ui, 2005, Seok, Jae-Eun Im, Jeong-Gi, 2007), out of the female paid workers, the ratio of temporary position in their 40's or up is 65.2 percent<sup>12)</sup>), and the poverty ratio of elderly women was higher than the poverty ratio of elderly men<sup>13)</sup>. At the same time, elderly women are in the blind spot of social security system. Compared to the whole elderly population, the national pension recipients include 45.5 percent(men) and 20.3 percent(women) while the recipients of public occupation retirement pension include 13.2 percent(men) and 4 percent(women)<sup>14)</sup>, which showed huge differences in accordance to sex. The elderly women are placed in the cross discrimination of age, sex, and poverty<sup>15)</sup>.

Just as shown in the above statistics, even though Korean women experience the double anxiety about daily life and residence in accordance with the unstable employment and

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7) The National Statistical Office, The book mentioned earlier, P33.

8) The National Statistical Office, The book mentioned earlier, P35.

9) Jang, Jin-hee(Government), 2016, A study on young single female-headed households in Seoul and policy implication, Seoul Foundation of Women & Family, P82 in Korean

10) Jang, Jin-hee, The book mentioned earlier, P33.

11) Jang, Jin-hee, The book mentioned earlier, P92.

12) The National Statistical Office(Government), 2017, 2017 Women's lives in statistics, P33.

13) Chang, Mi-Hye, et al.(Government), 2013, The current poverty status of elderly women and coping policies, Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs, P18 in Korean

14) Chang, Mi-Hye, et al., The book mentioned earlier, P57.

15) Chang, Mi-Hye, et al., The book mentioned earlier, P80.

economic vulnerability by the discrimination throughout their lifetime, most of the young single-woman household in Seoul(81 percent) have no experiences in the safety education<sup>16)</sup>. The urban safety issue is in the structural problem that cannot be solved by individuals' effort or practice. The international society emphasizes that gender equality should be considered important within the urban governance as discrimination against women accelerates the danger<sup>17)</sup>. The UN says the comprehensive laws and system are needed to prevent and cope with sexual violence in public place, and also suggests the initiative for making safe cities<sup>18)</sup>.

As the provisions on women-friendly cities were added to the 「Framework Act on Gender Equality」 in 2015, policies for 'women-friendly city' has been implemented under a legal basis<sup>19)</sup>. In case of Seoul, diverse policies related to women are produced. In 2016, a total of 66 women-friendly cities have been designated and have been in operation<sup>20)</sup>. Seoul city is currently operating policies such as the supply of community house for single-person households, extension of street lamps & CCTVs, safe courier service, and safe home-coming scout(a escort to ensure the safety of young single women) for the safety of young single-woman households. However, the current women-friendly city policies of local governments or women policies of Seoul city have a problem of targeting only women and maternity simply focus on the expansion of facilities without considering vulnerable people such as immigrants, refugees, sexual minorities, people with disabilities, and North Korean women defectors.

According to the SDGs goal analysis and fulfillment monitoring project in the perspective of gender equality by the Korea Women's Associations United and Korean Institute Center for Sustainable Development in 2017<sup>21)</sup>, first, there are not sufficient domestic indicators reflecting the definition and indicators of SDGs goal that matches the international standard. Second, most of the indicator-related domestic statistics are the data of actual status research at the central government level, and the separately-produced statistics in each region are very rare, so it is difficult to understand the characteristics of each region. Third, there are not

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16) Jang, Jin-hee, The book mentioned earlier, P95 in Korean

17) UN Women(Government), 2016, Women and Sustainable Development Goals, P22-23.

18) UN Women(Government), 2017, Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces: Global Results Report, P1.

19) Jo, Joo-Eun and Kim Ye-Seong(Government), 2017, The current operation status of women-friendly cities and improvement tasks, NARS field survey report of the National Assembly Research Service, Edition No.50, P10 in Korean

20) Jo, Joo-Eun, Kim Ye-Seong, The book mentioned earlier, P13.

21) The project name is the 'National/local-level SDGs goal analysis & fulfillment monitoring project in the perspective of gender equality', and the relevant contents have referred to a result report, 'National-level SDGs fulfillment monitoring focusing on the main agendas of gender equality: Korea Women's Associations United' by Johan Chang-Hye(Private) in 2017 in Korean

sufficient statistics considering the characteristics of women in the vulnerable class such as the unmarried, immigrants, refugees, sexual minorities, people with disabilities and North Korean women defectors. For the successful fulfillment of SDGs, the government should establish indicators reflecting the perspective of the vulnerable, that is suitable for the domestic conditions. In order to achieve this, vulnerable people's participation should be guaranteed by establishing a partnership with the civil society. Also, to effectively utilize the SDG's goal as the global standard in the macroscopic and abstract level in Korea, it would be necessary to develop concrete indicators for analyzing and monitoring the means to fulfill the goal. To fulfill all of them, the government should guarantee successful fulfillment by securing a sufficient budget and professional human resources.

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## 2. Persons with disabilities

### 1. Right to housing

#### 1) Related targets of the SDGs

SDGs target 11.1 is a target ensuring access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services, and upgrade slums by 2030. In 2014, UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities had recommended that the Government of the Republic of



Korea to “Prepare a policy on community-based Deinstitutionalization for the persons with disabilities who are in the facility.”

## 2) Current status and challenges

**A. From institutionalization to deinstitutionalization:** More than among 251 thousand persons with disabilities is living in facilities. The persons with disabilities and their families had to choose physical and non-physical isolation due to the lack of infrastructure for the community-based independent living. For persons with disabilities, it is not unusual to reside in a facility for 20-30 years. In a large living facility, numerous human rights violation occasionally happens as well as being exposed to the community as the facility’s infrastructure has school, workshop, hospitals in its facility. Hence, a practical deinstitutionalization policy is necessary.

**B. Settling to the community:** Many persons with disabilities and their families are facing difficulties in the aspect of income, and it is affecting them on guaranteeing a reasonable housing. Compared to the families without disabilities, the families with disabilities have a higher percentage of residing in public rental housing. Notably, the percentage of long-term public rental housing and the burden of repaying the rental fee and mortgage is very high. 58.8 percent of the persons with disabilities answered they consider the housing without the burden of expenditure as their desired housing environment. It is necessary to prioritize persons with disabilities when providing the rental housing related to community-based housing. Activating the independent Living Housing project for deinstitutionalized persons with disabilities and activating ‘Assisted Housing’ Project is necessary as well. The Assisted Housing Project is currently in a trial period, which persons with disabilities can be a contractee and get a certain amount of assistance regarding housing.

## 3) Endeavors and activities

Eight persons with disabilities, who have lived in the institution for their lives but decided to deinstitutionalize themselves to have a life with dignity, was on a demonstration by being homelessness. Throughout 62 days of protesting, Seoul city established ‘Transition Service Center for Persons with Disabilities’ for independent living and announced ‘a five-year Plan for Deinstitutionalization in Seoul.’ Seoul city established a housing facility, where persons with disabilities, for settling persons with disabilities as assisting services and housing expenses was to be prepared for deinstitutionalization. Upon this opportunity, the Deinstitutionalization

Policy was established in the other areas as well. In 2018, establishing a support system for deinstitutionalization is also in discussion with a collaboration of the public and private sector.

#### 4) Suggestions

The essential part of the rights to housing is to establish infrastructure in the community for persons with disabilities, not in the facility. The Deinstitutionalization Policy, Community Based Settlement Program and Independent Living Policy is profoundly related. Hence, it is necessary to implement the followings. Establish Plan on Deinstitutionalization, provide Independent Living Housing; systemize Settlement Assistance Fund; adopt quota system for prioritizing rental housing to persons with disabilities in deinstitutionalization, and establish more housing facilities for transition; prepare support system for transition from deinstitutionalization to independent living; adopt program to manage the centers providing services to the persons with disabilities staying at home to promote their participation to the community and assisting their independent living.

## 2. Right to movement

### 1) Related targets of the SDGs

SDGs Target 11.2 indicates by 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with particular attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons. Throughout this target, it can escalate constructing community, where the participation to education, employment, leisure can be activated.

### 2) Current status and challenges

In 2014, UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was concerned that there are few accessible bus and taxi in the rural and urban area. The Committee also recommended that the Government of the Republic of Korea to revise the Public Transportation Policy to ensure persons with disabilities can use public transportation safe and conveniently regardless of the type of transportation.

**A. Bus:** There is an intra-city bus, shuttle bus, inter-city bus, express bus, wide-area bus, airport limousine, chartered bus in the Republic of Korea. However, among the transportations as mentioned above, only inter-city bus and express bus accessible as the

low-floor bus was partly adopted. The targeted penetration rate of the low-floor bus was 41.5 percent, but the rate was 19 percent in 2016. As a result of endeavor of disability field, rural bus and shuttle bus is going to be adopted to mid-size low-floor bus in the certain route since 2019. On the other hand, there is less than 20 accessible wide-area bus which is only one percent of the total wide-area bus. Also, express bus and intra-bus are not accessible to wheelchair users.

**B. Subway:** It is necessary to use an elevator to access the subway, yet many subway stations have a lift. Lift is not safe. There was one injury in Hyehwa station, one injury in Jongro3ga in 2000, two dead in Oido station and Balsan station in 2001. One injury in Seoul station in 2004, one dead in Incheon Sinsoo station in 2006, one dead in Hwaseo station in 2008, one dead in Singil station in 2017. The accidents mentioned above are what persons with disabilities have to face when using the subway.

**C. Specialty vehicle for persons with disabilities:** The operating system is different for Taxi cab for persons with disabilities nationwide due to the different operating companies. The waiting list is long or unpredictable. Sometimes the companies tend to restrict customers from using their service.

### 3) Endeavors and activities

Since the lift accident in Oido station in 2001, disability field has been conducting protest taking over the subway train lane, using the bus movement, lawsuit for compensation of damages on violating the right to movement. Throughout the activities mentioned above, The 'Act on Guarantee of Promotion of Convenience of Persons with Disabilities, the Aged, Pregnant Women, etc.' and the 'Act on Promotion of the Transportation Convenience of Mobility Disadvantaged Persons' was established. For the first time in the Republic of Korea, the low-floor bus was introduced, and 'the right to movement' was registered in a Korean dictionary. In 2018 June, Disability field formed a forum consisted of the public and private sector with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport of the Republic of Korea. Disability field is discussing amending legislation on mandating the replaced inter-bus to a low-floor bus; trial program for accessible intra-bus; operating a low-floor chartered bus; private ownership to public ownership of a specialty vehicle for persons with disabilities.

### 4) Suggestions

A practical and concrete National Plan for the infrastructure of the public transportation system is necessary. It has been on research and planning for a long time. To realize this

Plan, securing the budget, placing specialists on the transportation for persons with disabilities, establishing an ordinance is also necessary. Also, establishing a barrier-free transportation system, which wheelchair users can also use, is necessary immediately.

### **3. Hygiene for persons with disabilities in Rest Area**

#### **1) Related targets of the SDGs**

Access to drinking water, sanitation and hygiene are the most fundamental rights. SDGs Goal 6 indicates the accessibility to the drinking water and hygiene for all.

#### **2) Current status and challenges**

The right to access hygiene facilities for persons with disabilities is in accordance to the 'Act on Guarantee of Promotion of Convenience of Persons with Disabilities, the Aged, Pregnant Women, etc.', which is effective since 1998. Every five years, the facilities for persons with disabilities are surveyed nationwide. According to the 2013 survey, the total percentage of the facilities for hygiene in 22 types of buildings was 46.7 percent. The proper facilities were 38.3 percent.

However, the rest area, where average 150 thousand people visit a day, was not counted in the survey so that the accessibility to the hygiene facility was not accurate. It's because of the 'Act on Guarantee of Promotion of Convenience of Persons with Disabilities, the Aged, Pregnant Women, etc.' (Ministry of Health and Welfare) and the 'Ordinance on Promoting Convenience of People with limited Movement' (Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport)' does not indicate that facilitating accessible toilet for persons with disabilities is mandatory, yet it only narrates the structure and material when constructing. Besides, since the accessible toilet has changed to a multifunctional toilet, the toilet seat for children and diaper switchboard has been added to the toilet facilities. It frequently restricts wheelchair users to have access to the toilet seat.

#### **3) Endeavors and activities**

The forum consisted of 16 Executive Directors, 'Disability Legislation Improvement Solution' noticed that the access to a toilet is getting worse on 2018 March. Hence, the forum submitted a Letter of Suggestion to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport and the Korea Expressway Corporation to improve their policy.

The Korea Expressway Corporation admitted the issue and promised they would improve

the infrastructure within the consideration of wheelchair users. For practical conduct of infrastructure, the disability field will have Task Force Team with the Corporation, and proof the accessibility by the persons with disabilities. Also, the employees of the Corporation is planned to receive disability awareness education.

#### **4) Suggestions**

When surveying the accessible facilities, rest area should be included in the types of building. Also, an accessible facility, including the toilet, should regularly be monitored as well as meeting the requirements by the accessible toilet.

UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2014). Concluding observations on the initial report of the Republic of Korea. Accessibility (art.9) 17.

the same as above 18.

### **3. Youth's perspective on SDG 11**

#### **1. Introduction**

The city of modern society is over-populated and packed with too much infrastructure. As a result, the impacts of each element of society are intertwined in various ways, thus there are various problems such as accessibility to public transportation, discharge and recycling of waste, and lack of green infrastructure. In this respect, strong efforts are needed to enhance the stability of modern cities, and protect the environment.

The theme of the meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2018 will be "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies". We are youths who demand a sustainable and resilient society in the future, so we will evaluate and analyze some targets of SDG11 and the situation in the Republic of Korea, and make suggestions on the indicators and practical measures.

#### **2. Analysis of Indicators**

##### **1) Comprehensive Indicator Analysis**

The indicators of SDG11 are developed in order to establish sustainable cities and settlements that are inclusive, safe and resilient. In the case of SDG11, it consists of ten

targets. The detailed targets are a complex infiltration of the whole society to create sustainable cities such as housing, transportation, local cultural heritage, living environment, and public space.

## 2) Detailed Indicator Analysis and Suggestions

### ► Target 11.2 Sustainable Public Transportation and Road Safety

There is no proper indicator for Target 11.2. Although there is an indicator ‘Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities,’ it is difficult to measure and use it due to an ambiguous wording. However, many local governments are making efforts to improve access to public transportation. Especially, Seoul Metropolitan Government announced the ‘Action Plan for Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities’ in 2015 and has helped people with disabilities by installing elevators in subway stations, expanding the number of low-floor buses, and setting voice alarms around cross-walk. Also, they made children protection zones around schools for children to safely live in the city, and designed pink seats on subways for pregnant women and special seats for the old and persons with disabilities. In addition, they launched public bike-rental service named ‘Seoul Bike Ttareungyi’ to make the transportation environmentally sustainable. The series of efforts of Seoul Metropolitan Government show they concern about both access of vulnerable social groups to the city and environmentally sustainable public transportation.

### ► Target 11.6 Reduction of the Negative Environmental Impact of the City.

Target 11.6 is focused on the urban environment. It requires proper air quality and waste management in order to create sustainable cities and settlements. Especially, meaning of indicator 11.6.1 ‘Proportion of urban solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out of total urban solid waste generated, by cities’ refers to the treatment of the remaining non-recyclable wastes. Therefore, it is an indicator that deals with minimizing the consumption of natural resources by making an environment to recycle the waste generated in the city.

Indicators applied to the target 11.6 in the Republic of Korea are various national statistical indicators such as ‘Waste disposal and disposal status’ annually announced by the Ministry of Environment, ‘Landfill amount’ and ‘Waste incineration amount’.

However, when we look back at the recycling collection disturbance caused by China’s ban on waste imports, an indicator describing import and export of recycled waste is not clearly

included in the SDG indicator lists. It was only indirectly identified through 'Import and Export Trade Statistics' and 'Environmental Statistical Yearbook' that were published by the government. This means that the distinction between recycled waste handled domestically and exported and imported recycled waste is not clear. Therefore, it is necessary to complement the existing indicators so as to be able to take into account the imported and exported recycled waste.

► **Target 11.7 Safe, Inclusive and Accessible Green Infrastructure in South Korea**

Many social, economic, and ecological problems related to climate change, population growth, and biodiversity loss are increasing within cities, and these problems are intensifying in populated cities. As of 2016, 83% of the total population of Korea live in cities and 19% live in Seoul, a metropolitan city in South Korea (Statistics Korea, 2016; World Bank, 2016). As the population is concentrated, the problems of the city should be treated seriously and oriented toward sustainable development since cities are the core of sustainable development. In order to achieve this, it is essential to create green spaces in cities.

According to 'Sustainable Development Basic Plan of Seoul' published in 2015, the park area per capita is 16.37m<sup>2</sup> which is a good level thanks to Seoul Metropolitan Government's continuous efforts. However, the dissatisfaction percentage on the service on 'a park or green space within a 10-minute walk of home' is 40%. The Trust for Public Land (TPL), an organization in the United States of America, defines a 10-minute walk as the inhabitants must be able to reach the entrance to the city park within about 800 meters of the house. In other words, although the park area per capita is fairly large, the access to the park within 10 minute-walk is not easy. This is because the mountains are scattered in the northern and southern part of Seoul and the indicator to evaluate green space in city is done merely with a quantitative one, the park area per capita (Figure 1).

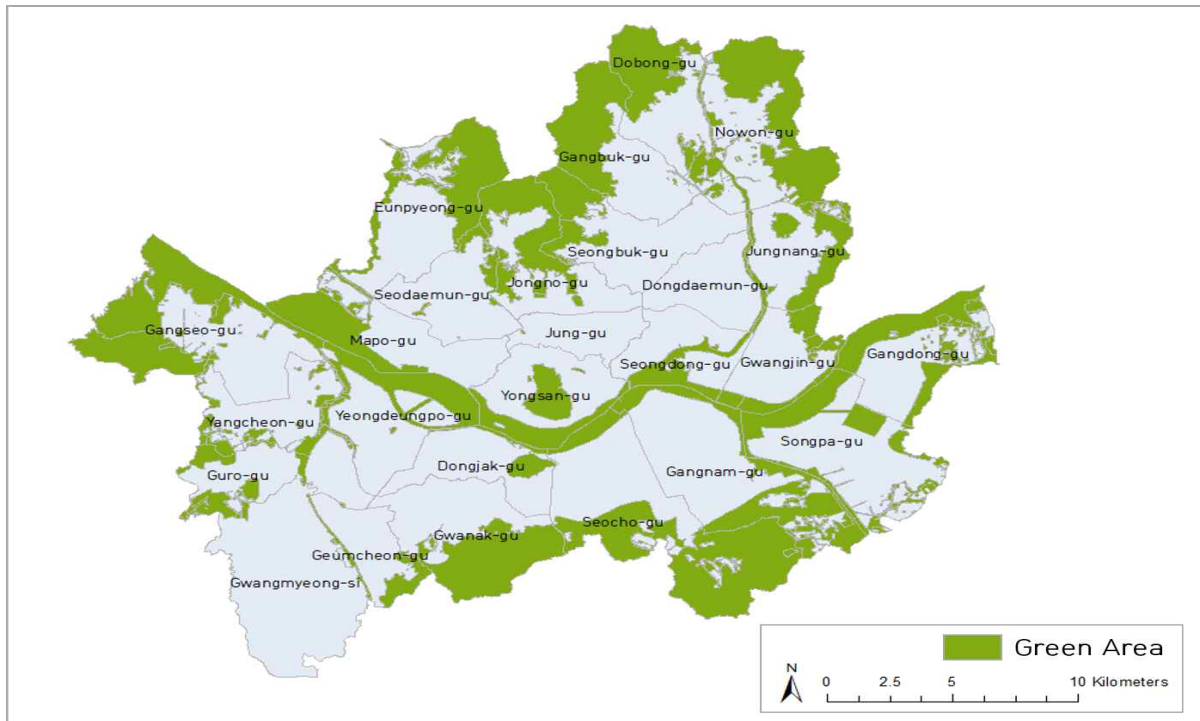


Figure 21. Map of Green Area in Seoul

The Target 11.7 is ‘By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.’ However, the agreed indicators of Target 11.7 are merely ‘Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities’ and ‘Proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months.’ In other words, there is no indicator to properly evaluate the green space. In addition to the quantitative aspect of evaluating the park area in urban areas, it is necessary to develop an indicator that can be evaluated in terms of qualitative aspect.

### 3. Current Status of Urban Issues of the Republic of Korea and Suggestions from Youths

#### 1) Public Transportation and Road Safety

##### ► Analysis of Current Situation

Target 11.2, ‘By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with



special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons,' is very important since every person should safely and sustainably live in a city. The point of the target is to let persons with disabilities access benefits of urban development and have the benefits of the infrastructure. Although there are many policies to meet the objective, it is difficult to evaluate it quantitatively due to the absence of indicators. Seoul Metropolitan Government autonomously made indicators including 'the number of subway stations with elevators,' 'the ratio of low-floor buses,' 'the number of call taxis for persons with disabilities' and 'the ratio of stations with audio guiding devices for persons with visual disability' in their 'Action Plan for Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities'. However, there is a need to develop an indicator at a comprehensive level to be able to evaluate the implementation of the SDGs.

The absence of indicators is a critical problem. We can solve it by developing indicators. However, if there is a problem with the target itself, it has to be modified. Target 11.2 should be elaborated more delicately and concretely. First, target 11.2 mainly deals with transport systems. Considering that SDG11 intends to make a city more sustainable, it includes letting every person benefit from cities. In this perspective, only considering transport systems is not enough. Thus, target 11.2 should be more concrete, to guarantee every person the access to urban space. For example, if a person with disability has to visit a building, he or she should be guaranteed to enter the building without inconvenience. However, if the person was able to go to the building he had to go with the public transportation but not able to enter the building, he or she is considered not having an actual access to the space. There should be automatic doors and elevators in the building for the person to have access to urban space. To meet its fundamental goal, target 11.2 should be modified to be more comprehensive.

Second, on the other hand, target 11.2 has too many content in a sentence. 'sustainable transport systems' can be interpreted as environmentally sustainable transport systems. However, stating both providing access rights to urban space and providing environmentally sustainable public transport systems in one target is considered too much. Although it is sure that we should achieve all of them, they should be separated into two targets to systematically achieve the goal and to accomplish the goal successfully. Guaranteeing accessible and safe urban space includes more than just guaranteeing access to public transport systems, but to make the transport environmentally sustainable.

### ► Suggestions from Youths

First of all, we need proper indicators to evaluate and achieve the target 11.2. Therefore, the indicators can include ‘the ratio of subway station with elevators’ and ‘the ratio of low-floor buses’. We can then evaluate if the persons with disabilities are accessible to transport systems. Also, we should separate target 11.2 into the target regarding ‘access to urban space’ and the target regarding ‘environmentally sustainable transport systems.’ Then, we can achieve the goals more effectively and more practically. Indicators like ‘the ratio of buildings with automatic doors and elevators’ could be included for the target regarding ‘access to urban space’ and indicators like ‘the number of eco-friendly fuel for subways and buses,’ ‘whether there is a bicycle-rental system for public transportation’ and ‘whether there is bicycle roads’ could be included for the target regarding ‘environmentally sustainable transport systems.’

## 2) Disposal of Recycled Waste

### ► Analysis of Current Situation

Currently, the disposal of household garbage and recycled waste is under the jurisdiction of the local governments since the introduction of the volume-rate garbage disposal system in 1994. According to the state of waste disposal and treatment in 2015, the treatment status of municipal waste is 64.4% for municipalities, 35.4% for private processing companies, and 0.2% for self-disposal (Table 1).

**Table 1. Status of municipal waste generation and disposal in 2015.**

Category	Amount	%	Landfill	Incineration	Recycle	Ocean discharge
Total	51,247	100.0	7,719	13,176	30,352	0
Municipality	33,016	64.4	6,978	12,154	13,884	0
Disposal company	18,131	35.4	738	1,006	16,387	0
Self-disposal	100	0.2	3	16	81	0

(unit : ton/day)

Most of the municipal wastes processed by private processing companies are generated from apartment complexes. In the case of apartment complexes, Jong-Ryang-Je, a garbage collecting system based on its weight and kind in the Republic of Korea, is entrusted to local governments, while recyclable waste is entrusted to private processing companies. The private processing companies collect recyclable waste, process the waste and export the recycled product.

In 2017, total export of recycled wastes was 190,000 tons, of which 120,000 tons are exported to China. However, in 2017, China declared a countermeasure against foreign waste to the World Trade Organization in January 2018, that in order to prevent pollutants generated during the recycling process of waste, they will stop importing 24 kinds of wastes such as low-grade plastics and unclassified waste paper. As a result, the demand for recyclable waste has been sharply reduced worldwide and the price of waste dropped. As the demand of import of recyclable waste from China has decreased, it caused a considerable problem that private processing companies refused to collect recyclable waste and also vinyl.

In addition, demand for ready-made food and instant food has increased rapidly as the number of single-person households has increased recently. This has resulted in the increase in packaging waste. Food delivery services are also becoming diverse, thus various food packaging materials are being used. With the increase in the use of these materials, plastics and vinyl wastes are increasing. According to the '2016 Environmental Statistics Yearbook' released by the Ministry of Environment, the amount of waste generated from 2013 to 2015 has been steadily increasing (Table 2).

Table 2. Annual waste generation from '2016 Annual Environmental Statistics'(Unit: ton/day)

Year	Total	Normal Waste			Designated waste
		Sub Total	Municipal waste	Workplace waste	
2010	374,642	365,154	49,159	315,995	9,488
2011	383,333	373,312	48,934	324,378	10,021
2012	394,510	382,009	48,990	333,019	12,501
2013	393,126	380,709	48,728	331,981	12,417
2014	401,663	388,486	49,915	338,571	13,177
2015	418,222	404,812	51,247	353,565	13,410

Most of these packaging materials are discharged without being washed out of residues such as food waste. Also, various kinds of composite materials are used, which leads to weakening of competitiveness in producing recycled products. It is also difficult to produce Solid Refuse Fuel (SRF) with a constant calorific value through collection of recycled products. As a result, about 2.3 million tons of high quality recycled wastes are imported.

#### ► Suggestions from Youths

Indicator 11.6.1 is aiming at reducing solid waste and increasing resource recycling rate for environmental protection. According to the environmental Statistics from the OECD, the

resource recycling rate in 2013 is estimated to be 65% in Germany and 59% in the Republic of Korea, which is estimated that Republic of Korea is regarded as being advanced in the resource recycling sector.

To create sustainable cities and settlements in the Republic of Korea, firstly, eco-design law should be enacted to unify recycled wastes composed of various colors, shapes, and composite materials. Secondly, local governments have to directly make a contract with recyclable waste collection companies, just to be on the safe side to hedge against the price fluctuation and to subsidize the collection company. 3) Plastic and vinyl production must be strictly regulated, and the producer must be imposed with the treatment fee on recycled waste. 4) Finally, all of our efforts are needed to prevent waste of tax from the additional costs such as cost from pollution washing.

### **3) Suggestion of the Direction of Development of Indicators through Analyzing the Status of Green Areas in Seoul**

#### **▶ Analysis of Current Situation**

Target 7 of the SDG 11 is focused on expanding and providing a common green space that is safe, inclusive and accessible to everyone, but the corresponding indicators are not actually related to the green space. Green spaces provide a variety of benefits to the community and the environment, such as restoring and regenerating the functions of urban ecology, mitigating natural disasters, linking fragmented habitats, increasing biodiversity, controlling climate and air quality, reducing carbon dioxide, creating urban landscape, improving quality of life and welfare, and bringing economic and cultural benefits through revitalizing urban communities. For these reasons, the goals and targets should aim to increase green spaces in the cities, to maximize the benefits from these and to transform into resilient cities.

According to 'The 3<sup>rd</sup> Basic Plan for Sustainable Development 2016-2035', the urban park area per capita is 8.6m<sup>2</sup> by 2014. When compared with other major cities of developed countries like the United States (New York), the United Kingdom (London), and France (Paris), the urban park area per capita in Seoul is less than that in the other cities. However, the urban park area per capita of Seoul was 16.48m<sup>2</sup> by 2016, and it increased from 13.76m<sup>2</sup> in 1993. Through continuous and constant efforts, the urban park area increased from 150,356,000m<sup>2</sup> in 1993 to 168,203,900m<sup>2</sup> in 2016 (Figure 2). Likewise, the green area, which was 8,185,144m<sup>2</sup> in 2004, has been doubled to 15,083,312.7m<sup>2</sup> by 2016 (Seoul statistic,

2017). In the future, the city plans to expand the green culture that citizens take care of, greenen and enjoy park green spaces, and plans to expand the natural ecological space in urban areas, such as the creation of new urban culture parks. The Seoul Metropolitan Government continued to make efforts to increase green space, but there is no indicator to evaluate it in terms of time and space. Likewise, the green area, which was 8,185,144m<sup>2</sup> in 2004, has been doubled to 15,083,312.7m<sup>2</sup> by 2016 (Seoul Open Data Plaza, 2017). In the future, the city plans to expand the green culture and natural ecological space such as the creation of new urban culture parks in urban areas. The Seoul Metropolitan Government continued to make efforts to increase green spaces, but there is no indicator to evaluate it temporally or spatially.

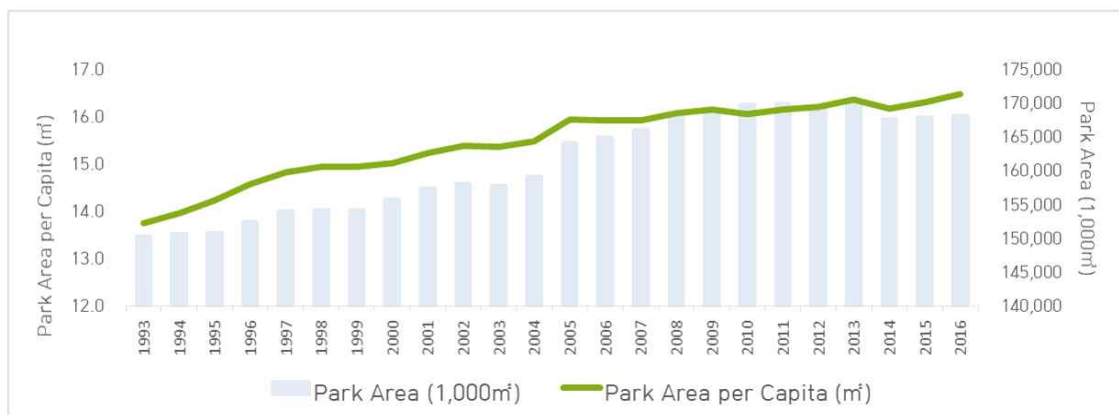


Figure 22. Area of parks in Seoul and per capita area of parks (Seoul Parks & landscape policy division, 2018)

Although the urban park area per capita of Seoul is much larger than other countries, it can not be concluded that there are many park areas that people can use, because the mountains are distributed widely in the north and south of Seoul and it is estimated that 40% is not satisfied with the access to the park within a 10 minute walking distance. Therefore, it is not possible to merely evaluate the green area in the city with the indicators of the green area or the park area per capita. It is necessary to develop indicators that can be evaluated in consideration of both quantitative and qualitative aspects.

In conclusion, it will be necessary to develop indicators that can reflect the continuous effort to increase green area, that can evaluate SDG11 in various aspects and that can assess both spatial and temporal aspects, taking quantitative and qualitative aspects into account.

In addition, SDGs should ensure universal, inclusive, predictable, just and formal participation under the vision "leave no one behind". In Finland, there is a long-term policy

coherence framework to ensure compliance with the promise of sustainable development through future government programs such as 'The Finland We Want by 2050'. Considering future generations, the 'SDS Sustainable Policy Guidelines' of Switzerland is emphasizing responsibility for the future. However, youths in the Republic of Korea usually are not included or embraced in the decision-making process. The green space has become an essential infrastructure for the welfare of the future generations as well as the older generation. If youths can not participate in the decision-making process related to green space, green space will have less consideration for future generations, and they will lose the right to decide on the green spaces they will possess in the future. Therefore, it is necessary to urge youths, who are the future generation, to participate in the decision-making process.

#### ► Suggestions from Youths

Target 11.7 aims to provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities. However, the indicators for evaluating these are merely on the average share of the built-up area of cities and the proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment. The absence of indicators that assess the efforts of the country to provide green space to anyone makes it impossible to appropriately assess the goal. The adequate indicators will lead to an integrated plan to connect and link the area through green spaces.

Therefore, it is necessary to develop indicators that quantitatively evaluates the green space of the city or the urban park area per capita. This will assess the human accessibility to the green space. In addition, in order to evaluate the ongoing national efforts, it is essential to identify time-series indicators such as green area growth rate, and Tier-3 indicators that reflects the level of ecological networks through spatially analyzing hubs, nodes, and links.

Green spaces are an essential infrastructure for future generations as well as older generations. Future generations should be able to act as the future owners of what they will possess, thus it is important that youths have the right to make decisions and take part and participate in the process. Therefore, we argue for the participation of youths in all decision-making processes from writing the proposal, planning of the indicator development for the implementation, monitoring to evaluation. We hope to have cities where people live with, where there is no alienation or exclusion, where people communicate with and where people want to live in.

## 4. Conclusion

The SDGs have much wider and comprehensive goals than the MDGs, and urban sustainability, which had less priority in MDGs, is one of the main goals. The Republic of Korea has a population structure in which the majority of population is concentrated in urban region. Therefore, SDG11, which is about sustainable cities and communities, will have a large effect on urban policies of the Republic of Korea. However, it is difficult to quantitatively evaluate whether the country is making efforts to meet the goals.

Although three years have passed after the SDGs were initiated, this uncertainty exists because the SDG indicators are somewhat ambiguous and we did not utilize the statistics collected and developed by the Korean government. For example, in the case of waste data, only a limited number of data is provided as statistics, and there are many concrete data reflecting the current situation of the data that each government department actually holds. We will be able to make meaningful and effective indicators by reorganizing and analyzing those data.

Also, there is a limitation that existing domestic policies were not set for achieving the SDGs. It is necessary to identify the shortcomings of domestic policies that do not adequately reflect the SDGs and to reflect the SDGs into the future directions and policies. Therefore, the government needs to disclose all available resources and policies to find policy directions, and to thoroughly understand the real meaning of the SDGs, which aims to include everyone and leave no one behind by including alienated and vulnerable people and encompassing economy, society and environment. In addition, active discussions should be held to fully reflect the opinions of youths who will be the future leaders of the world.

## Position on the Development of Korea SDGs and its Multi-stakeholder Engagement System in 2018

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Moon Jae In government newly launched in May, 2017 announced upgrading the status of ‘the committee of Sustainable Development’ currently under the Ministry of Environment and establishing ‘2030 National Sustainable Development Goals’ as a national agenda for the sustainability in the context of economic, social and environmental integration.

With the upgraded status of ‘the committee of Sustainable Development,’ the National Assembly members of the Democratic Party including Song Ok Joo put forward the motion to upgrade ‘the Sustainable Development Act,’ a sub-level law under ‘the Framework Act on Low Carbon, Green Growth’ to ‘the Framework Act on Sustainable Development,’ a high-level law in July, 2017, but it is still pending at the standing committee because of political confrontation between the ruling and opposition parties as of June 15, 2018.

Under the circumstance, the government announced the plan to establish ‘the National Sustainable Development Goals (K-SDGs)’ under the leadership of Ministry of Environment on Apr 20, 2018, aiming to develop and set up Korean SDGs within the framework of 17 UNSDGs this year (the Portal Site of Sustainable Development).

What is worth paying attention to is that more open and inclusive participatory system was built to overcome the limitation of SDGs and implementation plan set up by the government and experts alone

K-SDGs MGoS consistent with UN MGoS is to recruit major social actors including women, people with disabilities, NGOs, farmers, laborers, businesses, and academia and to incorporate their positions into the draft of K-SDGs drawn up by the government after reviewing the position documents submitted by those groups in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> half year each. For transparency and accountability in the process of collecting opinions, the government’s draft for K-SDGs and each group’s position documents are going to be stored in an open manner at the portal site of sustainable development (<http://ncsd.go.kr>). K-SDGs MGoS is supposed to work for one year, and contact points of each group are autonomously selected.

Differences between MGoS and the existing participatory systems are: 1) any individual or group can join 2) the participatory process is voluntary and autonomous, and each group’s



position is made public and systematically stored in an open and transparent manner on the government homepage. 3) the standard for inclusiveness, 'No One Left Behind,' determined by subgroups-women, children, teenagers, NGOs, farmers, laborers, enterprises, academia, local governments, people with disabilities and the elderly. Furthermore, the MGoS participatory process can enhance mutual understanding and integrated perspectives.

MGoS is a new participatory platform having been proposed since 2017 to complement the exiting opinion collection system such as the exclusive, expert-driven government committee and the ad-hoc, passive hearing. It is welcoming that the government introduces the platform inclusive of civil society in establishing K-SDGs.

UN SDGs recommend nations to introduce a MGoS participatory system for sustainable development governance. The SDGs civil network actively supports our government to take an initiative in adopting the MGoS system although most other nations adopt the government committee and public hearing,

This trend is not only in keeping with 'propping up citizen participation' of the current administration launched since candle revolution, but also a meaningful progress in that it can become a catalyst to move towards the citizen participation governance system and to pave the way for grassroots democracy of international society.

But SDGs civil network is concerned that the new participatory system may lack substance because the thorough preparation was not made in advance. Our concerns are as follows.

First, the nine-month period for 'establishing the Nation's SDGs' is too short to implement the core principle of SDGs, 'No One Left Behind.' SDGs become meaningful when as many people as possible execute the jointly established goals and share the values, not when people follow the goals set by others. As many people as possible should be able to understand the value of 'the establishment of the national SDGs' and make actual suggestions through proper promotion during an ample period of time. But the current process only allows the time for 'report' production, making it impossible to achieve a consensus and joint implementation of the nation's SDGs.

Second, the operation of K-SDGs MGoS, which was ambitiously introduced by the government, is crippled because of too short period given in establishing 'the national SDGs.'

The government recruited participants of K-SDGs MGoS only for nine days from Apr 30, 2018 to May 8, 2018 through 'the sustainable development portal site.' Unfortunately the portal site is not only less known to public, but rarely visited even by interest groups such as civil society organizations or businesses who are involved with sustainable development. An

additional recruitment is carried out but new application is barely made due to the lack of promotion.

On May 11, the meeting for MGoS participants was arranged for an orientation course and to select contact persons. But it was difficult for contact persons, who need to prepare for the position statement by group, to carry out subsequent activities because of insufficient discussion time to understand circumstances of each group without specific explanations given about the status, process, standard and role of MGoS in establishing the national SDGs.

The release of 'the draft of the national SDGs targets and indicators' by the government, which was to be scheduled on May 31, was delayed to May 31. What is worse, the draft was not final and working papers continued to be corrected and provided. Under the circumstance, MGoS was not able to draw up its position statements during the given period of May 14 to May 30. On the request of MGoS, the submission of the position statements was postponed to June 11. But it was impossible to fully reflect its original intent of MGoS system in the position statements with inadequate access to the government's draft and insufficient time given.

The government is planning to hold a citizen discussion to announce the national SDGs reflecting the MGoS position documents on Jun 21. But it is questionable whether the national SDGs prepared by the government at least can draw the consensus from participants.

Civil society participants engage in MGoS participatory system with expectation of future improvement despite many issues raised during the process because they give high evaluation to the system and highly regard the government's innovative and ambitious trial. But it will be inevitable for civil society to reconsider the MGoS participation unless the system sticks to its original intent and improves. In that sense, civil society asks the government to take the following into the consideration in implementing the national SDGs.

- 1) Provision of sufficient and easily accessible information on time
- 2) To give enough time, at least more than 4 weeks to draw up MGoS position statements
- 3) From the year of 2018, to prepare for rectification and supplementation of the national SDGs
- 4) From the year of 2018, to prepare proper standards and procedures for MGoS system building as an official participatory system for the national SDG implementation

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## Conclusion and Recommendation

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Major issues and suggestions about SDGs for the overhaul at 2018 HLPF can be summed up as follows.

### **SDG 6**

Major water issues in Korea are: 1) overdevelopment of dams 2) more than 70% of rivers are enclosed by banks blocking flow of water, which causes water pollution and destruction of fresh water ecosystem 3) bureaucratic water management policies excluding local residents.

In Korea where more than 90% of waterworks are supplied, water polices driven by demand and water quality management rather than supply are required. For that purpose, 1) measures to improve quality of water supply source need to be strengthened, water quality of branches and tributaries should be enhanced and supervision about release of harmful waste to public waters should be reinforced. That is, total volume-based system per pollution source needs to be introduced for water-quality management. 2) water circulation system connecting from cities to nature ecosystem must be put in place, tearing down structures to obstruct continuity of rivers and heightening the rate of urban permeability. 3) sub-basins not covered in the scope of national rivers/local rivers/small rivers are excluded in the policy context. but sub-basin management is required because most water pollution within watersheds occurs in these areas, thus community participation building and unified water management should be proceeded.

### **SDG 7**

In Korea, transformation of policy centering demand and efficiency management and renewable energy development rather than supply is required because access to the modern energy is ensured thanks to the intensive investment in energy infrastructure.

Korea shows a very high energy intensity as indicated by the current energy intensity of 0.25toe/\$1,000 as of 2013 whereas OECD average is 0.14toe/\$1,000 as of 2012. It is because the rate of electricity, which is the secondary energy source, is lower than that of the primary energy source. For instance, the use of electricity is dramatically increasing

because of its use as a heat-energy source. Energy efficiency is halved when electricity is used for heat energy. Thus, the energy pricing system needs to be restructured in the way that the electricity rate can be set higher than that of the primary energy source all the time.

Setting an appropriate energy price covering external costs requires a social consensus. External costs such as environmental or carbon tax should be considered in energy pricing to help people to reasonably choose their energy source, which will eventually become part of the nation's budget. The budget needs to be spent on mitigating adverse effects or damages caused by energy.

With regard to distribution of renewable energy, as of 2015, the proportion of renewable energy accounts for only 2.2% based on IEA standard. Despite that, the prospect is rosy because the current administration announced the plan to raise the proportion of power generation by renewable energy up to 20% by 2030.

## **SDG 11**

### **■ Housing**

Housing movement in Korea has had a paradigm shift from the movement against forced eviction of residents in the development zone in 1990s to the universal housing rights movement in 2010s. Expansion of public housing, private-housing market control, strengthening housing welfare have become buzzwords with various issues including the youth, tenants, women, children, homeless and the vulnerable raised.

Major issues in housing can be classified into two: 1) housing cost 2) quality of housing. 862,500 households, 44.5% out of the entire households do not have their own houses, and the proportion of the long-term public rental housing only accounts for 5% in the housing market. Under the circumstance, most houseless people are paying high rental cost in the private housing market. Instability and financial burden falling on the tenants solidify a vicious circle of poverty with a relatively short rental period of two years, no right to renew rental agreements and no control on the increase of rental fee.

New stay, a private rental housing is the large-company friendly project far away from the public interest even with injection of public resources, which have to be used for public housing projects, involving the release of green belt land, public housing lots and fund contribution. Besides, the rental fee is 90-95% of actual market price, and the units can be

sold after the short rental period of 8 years. To ensure the long-term rental, the amendment of the Housing Rental Protection Act is urgently required for stability of the rental market with the right to renew the contract and control on rent increase.

Informal housing (non-dwellings, places other than houses) in Korea means vinyl houses, shanties, containers, gosiwons, inns, multi-stores (pc rooms, comic book stores, coffee shops, etc), and residents living in such facilities or structures as well as the homeless epitomize the vulnerable in Korean society. The survey on the informal housing by Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport was carried out to the sample of 20,000 households. What is worse, non-dwellings such as vinyl houses or gosiwons were excluded in the sample because they are no houses. This means more than 2 millions, who should be the subjects of housing-welfare benefits, were left out by the government. Official statistics generated by the government needs to improve to establish a realistic housing welfare policy,

#### ■ Universal Public transport

11.2 is about 1) universal 2) affordable 3) convenient 4) environmentally friendly transport, and universality of transport system focusing on mobility of persons with disabilities is going to be covered here.

There are seven different kinds of buses run as public transportation-the city bus, the village bus, the intercity bus, the express bus, the red bus, the airport bus-but low-floor buses are introduced to the city bus and red bus in part. As of 2016, the distribution rate of low-floor bus is only 19%.

Only small number of buses and taxis are available to persons with disabilities in the agriculture and fishing areas and urban areas, and their right to move is seriously infringed. One in twenty in Korea is a person with disabilities. Persons with disabilities are structurally deprived of opportunities for active economic and social activities and become the vulnerable being alienated in the society.

The transport system for persons with disabilities like low-floor buses can enhance transport accessibility and convenience for various classes of the elderly, children and pregnant women, thus the perspective of persons with disabilities should be reflected in establishing the transport and infrastructure policies.

### ■ Participatory urban planning

Public hearing, the official opinion collection system was only superficial, and citizen participation is not ensured in urban planning. Recently, some changes take place for better opportunities in citizen participation such as the citizen-participating budget system, the citizen-participating urban planning and the citizen-participating urban planning committee. What is required for such positive changes to take firm root is the systematic participatory urban planning, 'the mobile budget school' for active and actual citizen participation, the appropriate financial and human resources for information supply and deliberation processes.

### ■ Urban safety

Regarding the urban safety from the female perspective, 46.2% of single-female households feel insecurity about the safety of society, and their major concern is the crime (39.2% of crime rate). This seems to be associated with the fact that women account for 88.9% of victims of violent crimes such as homicide, robbery, arson and sexual violence as of 2015.

The female-friendly city policy of municipalities or the female policy of Seoul city is problematic, being centered on expansion of facilities without considering the vulnerable such as migrants, refugees, sexual minorities, female defectors from North Korea.

The lack of disaggregated statistics generated by region makes it difficult to set up customized policies, thus regional disaggregated statistics should be generated to create urban spaces with everyone benefited and no one left behind.

## SDG 12

### ■ The strategy for resource circulation and circulating economy (waste management)

There is no plan for resource circulation encompassing the entire product cycle from production to consumption. Products and packaging need to be designed to use less material and to be recycled at the final cycle.

For better quality of reused products, waste separation and collection at the final disposal stage should be carried out in a better manner. Thus, the measures for waste collection need to be taken in the product manufacturing, sales, use and disposal stages.

Small packaging for food, order-based side dishes and total volume-based system per pollution source need to be introduced for fundamental waste reduction. Compared to the

international standard, there are no sufficient policies and management to safely treat harmful waste, thus strengthening the relevant standard is required.

Guidelines to assess sustainability and incentives for good packaging should be offered in order for businesses to perform zero emission or recycling through quality improvement in that businesses should play a vital role for successful resource-circulating economy.

### ■ SDGs and sustainable production and consumption from the perspective of social economy

‘Social economy’ covers all the economic activities in the private sector to produce, distribute, exchange and consume goods and services pursuing common interests and social purposes for community members on the basis of reciprocity and solidarity. It is an autonomous activity to build a happy society along with communities. Its mission is to innovate businesses toward public good and to resolve social issues such as poverty, welfare dead zone and environmental problems, and is closely linked with the economy pursuing sustainable consumption and production.

The social economy in Korea can be categorized into three: cooperatives and village projects, self-support programs and social enterprises certified by the government or municipality. These social-economic organizations carry out their activities in almost every sector except the finance and insurance.

All 17 SDGs as well as SDG 12 for consumption and production are closely related to social economy, but the social economy in Korea is not approached from the SDGs perspective. Thus, the parties of social-economy, the government and civil society need to recognize the close connection between the activities of social economy and SDGs. To this end, the current state, activities and outcome of social economy in the SDG-related areas should be surveyed and analyzed from the SDGs perspective.

## SDG 15

With regard to terrestrial ecosystem, major issues in Korea are expansion and restoration of protected areas and can be summarized as follows: 1) protection of endangered species and habitats by designating and expanding protected areas through citizen participation 2) restoration of Mt Gariwang having been destroyed due to Pyungchang Winter Olympics 3) restoration of forests in North Korea.

The protected area in Korea accounts for 11.57% of the entire land, and the government aims to reach 17% by 2021 through new designation and expansion of the reserves.

Hwapo wetland in Bonghwa, Gyeongnam Province, a habitat of an Oriental white stork-1st grade of endangered species, Natural monument No 199, the IUCN red list species-was designated as a wetland protected area. Despite the opposition of local residents at the initial stage, a fruitful outcome was produced as the result of continuing communication among the central government, local government, local environmental organizations and residents.

On the other hand, the construction of Alpine ski slope at Mt Gariwong typifies the case completely against 'halting the loss of forest' under SDG 15. 55% of the area where the ski slope was built used to be a protected area for forest genetic resources, and the areas rated as above the 2nd grade from ecological zoning map and above 8th grade from degree of green naturality amount to 70%. However, with emerging local interest groups which demand utilizing the installed facility rather than restore the area, a strong policy for protected areas should be established to prevent a recurrence of the same case as Mt Gariwong together with a robust restoration plan at the government level.

Restoring forests in North Korea is important in relation to peace building on the Korean Peninsula. Most mountains in North Korea adjacent to the border are grassland, and trees including shrubs rarely exist, which raises the potential disaster risk. In the past, active discussions were held as part of exchange between North and South during the Kim Dae Jung and Roh Moo Hyun administration. Thus, resuming a dialogue to restore the forest in North Korea is going to be a critical touchstone for restoring forests on the Korean Peninsula.

## **SDG 17**

In relation to 17.2: expanding official development assistance to developing countries, the following has been criticized: 1) lack of comprehensive and transparent information about development cooperation 2) the percentage of ODA/GNI lower than that recommended by UN and of the OECD average 3) the high proportion of credit assistance and low proportion of grant aid. Lack of equality in public-private partnership is pointed out concerning 17.17.

Although Korean government promised raising the financial transparency of development cooperation and expanding the information release of international assistance, it is still difficult to grasp the current state of international development cooperation in a comprehensive manner. Even the information about executing agencies such as KOICA and EDCF is inadequate. Furthermore, the percentage of ODA/GNI in Korea is 0.14%, the same as that of 2015 lower than 0.7% recommended by UN as well as the DAC average of



0.3%. Even worse, 40% of Korean ODA is credit assistance, which is much higher than 10% of OECD DAC members, and is divorced from the international trend of increasing grant aid.

OECD DAC member nations cooperate with civil society for 10% of ODA budget, compared to 2% of Korea (2011~2016). Besides, civil society is considered not an equal partner but the subject of project support and monitoring. Considering 'partnership' is the core of SDGs implementation, the government should change its perception and prop up the cooperation with civil society.

### **Position on the Development of Korea SDGs and its multi-stakeholder engagement system in 2018**

Civil society welcomes that the government ambitiously introduces the innovative participatory platform, the Major Groups and Other Stakeholders (MGoS) system in establishing the national SDGs as proposed by civil society.

However, we are concerned that it is difficult to adhere to the core principles of SDG implementation, 'no one left behind' and 'an integrated approach' encompassing economic-social-environmental-institutional perspectives in only nine months in order to establish 'the national SDGs.' Under the circumstance, it is unfortunate that K-SDGs MGoS is operated against its original purpose and is worrisome whether 'the national SDGs' established through such a process can gain a universal support.

To establish 'the national SDGs,' which can be agreed by various actors under the MGoS participatory system, the improvement is required in the following area:

- 1) Provision of sufficient and easily accessible information on time
- 2) To give enough time, at least more than 4 weeks to draw up MGoS position statements
- 3) From the year of 2018, to prepare for rectification and supplementation of the national SDGs
- 4) From the year of 2018, to prepare proper standards and procedures for MGoS system building as an official participatory system for the national SDG implementation

In sum, since the regime change in 2017, the policies for water, energy and resource circulation have been in the face of a turning point, an opportunity to shift the policy direction from quantitative growth and management to qualitative growth and management.

But the policies to guarantee and protect human rights are still problematic in terms of housing rights, universal mobility and safety of the socially vulnerable. The policy for protected areas is unsettling because of its susceptibility to development and conflicting local interests.

Recently, the MGoS that introduced by the government in the process of establishing ‘the national SDGs’ is operated against its original purpose because of the government’s tendency to focus on project outcomes rather than a political consensus.

The core principle of SDG implementation, ‘no one left behind’ is stressing the process of political consensus among various actors beyond considering the socially vulnerable a subject in policy making. This is consistent with the national agenda of the current government stressing citizen participation. Besides, the fundamental principles of SDGs such as ‘the precautionary principle,’ ‘the principle of common but differentiated responsibility’ and ‘the principle of integrated decision-making,’ which are universal principles agreed by 193 nations in the world to achieve sustainable development, should be reflected in the future policy-making process.

**For policies to be sustained regardless of regime change, universal principles for sustainable development should be reflected in each individual policy making. To this end, the open, transparent, formal and systematic participation process in which various actors can take part must be built from policy making to evaluation.** For voluntary and active participation, information supply and promotion should be carried out in advance. In other words, **the administration-driven governance should be transformed into the participatory governance.**

It is not too much to say that sustainable development in Korea depends on the success of ‘MGoS’ pursued by the government this year. Civil society hopes that the government effort in the process of establishing ‘the national SDGs’ is meaningful and we can give a positive evaluation about the outcome in the 2019 civil society report.

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## Appendix 1 | List of authors of the draft and translators

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### <Authors>

■ **Summary/Introduction/Conclusion and Recommendation/Position on the Development of Korea SDGs and its multi-stakeholder engagement system in 2018**

: Denise K.H. YOON, the Korea Center for Sustainable Development(KCSD)

■ **SDG 6** : Sookhee AHN, Korea Federation for Environmental Movements(FoE Korea)

■ **SDG 7** : Kidon YOON, Green Korea United(GKU)

■ **SDG 11**

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■ **Youth** : Keon-woo PARK, Sangjun YOO, Su-hyun LEE, Sea-jin KIM, Green Environment Youth Korea(GEYK)

### <Translators>

• Jean HUR(FoE Korea/KCSD) : Summary/Introduction/Conclusion & Recommendation/Position on the Development of Korea SDGs and its multi-stakeholder engagement system in 2018/SDG 6/SDG 12 Resource Circulation/SDG 15

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• KWAU : Gender Equality

• Sujin KANG(Freelancer) : Persons with Disability

• Keonwo PARK, Sangjun YOO, Suhyun LEE, Seajin KIM(GEYK) : Youth

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## Appendix 2 | List of Organizations who sign on <Korean Civil Society Report for 2018 HLPF>

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- Women (3) Kyunggi Women's Associations United, **Korea Women's Associations United(KWAU)**, Korea Women's Hot Line
- The Disabled (3) Open Network, **Korea Differently Abled Federation(KDAF)**, **Korea Disabled Forum(KDF)**, **Solidarity Against Disability Discrimination(SADD)**
- Youth (2) Green Environment Youth Korea(GEYK), Global Citizen Leadership Academy
- Economic area (1) **Korea Social Economy Network(KSEN)**
- Social area (4) **CIATE KOREA**, PEACEMOMO, Korea Center for City and Environment Research(KOCER), **Korea Health Welfare Social Cooperative Federation(KHWSCF)**
- Environmental area (5) Green Korea United(GKU), Korean Women's Environmental Network(KWEN), Ulsan's Network for River and Watershed, Korea Federation for Environmental Movements(FoE Korea), Citizen's Movement for Environmental Justice(CMEJ)
- Governance area (1) The Korea Center for Sustainable Development(KCSD)
- International Cooperation area (2) **The Korea NGO Council for Overseas Development Cooperation(KCOC)**, **Korea Civil Society Forum on International Development(KoFID)**

※ *Those in bold are the nationwide NGO networks(total 368 member organizations)*

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## Appendix 3 | The introduction of Korean SDGs Network

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To respond to ‘2016 Voluntary National Review (VNR),’ 9 civil society organizations formed SDGs civil network on June 14, 2016, and the number of participating organizations was expanded. The founding assembly was held on April 6, 2017 with 21 civil society organizations and nationwide networks in various areas including economy·society·environment·governance·international development cooperation.

### A. Name : Korea SDGs Network

### B. Purposes of activities

- 1) Strengthening the responsibility of the government to achieve domestic and international SDGs and implementing them
- 2) Capacity building of civil society in the context of SDGs policies
- 3) Information exchange and cooperation related to SDGs among participants

### C. Basic principles

- 1) Sustaining critical thinking to embody the original purpose of SDGs
- 2) The activity-driven network operation

### D. Major activities

- 1) Discussions at the National Assembly and the government
- 2) Drawing up and submission of Korea Civil Society Report on SDGs to UN
- 3) Position documents/statements on SDGs announced by Korea civil society
- 4) SDGs seminars/workshops
- 5) Cooperation with UN and other SDG-related international organizations

### E. Major activities

- 1) ‘Korea Civil Society Report for 2017 HLPF’ submitted to UN: April, 2017 (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/majorgroups/hlpfresources>)
- 2) Capacity-building seminars by SDGs civil network: November, 2016~June, 2018 (6 times)

### 3) Policy actions

- The position statement of civil society for 2016 Voluntary National Review (July 1, 2016)
- A speech made by the delegation of Korean Civil Society at 2016 UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) (July, 2016)
- The side event held by the delegation of Korean Civil Society at 2017 UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) (July, 2017)
- The meetings between SDGs civil network and the government/national assembly (from September of 2016 until now)
- Establishing the 2018 national SDGs and MGoS participatory system (May~June 2018)

## F. Operation

- General Assembly: annually held in the first half year
- The operating committee: appointed at the general assembly, two-year term, less than 10 members and co-chairs(co-chairs are elected among members)
- Audit : appointed at the general assembly, two-year term, an auditor
- The secretariat : appointed at the general assembly, an organization among SDGs network members

### ※ 2017-2018 Steering Committee Members and Secretariat

- Co-chairs(2): Ms. Choony KIM, the Deputy Secretary-General of Korea Federation for Environmental Movements(FoE Korea), Ms. Eunsoon CHOI, President of Korean Women's Association United(KWAU)
- Members(5): Mr. Moonhee LEE, Deputy executive director of Korean Differently Abled Federation(KDAF), Ms. Rina LEE, Director General of Korea Disabled Forum(KDF), Mr. Wonho LEE, Director General of Housing Network, Mr. Kidon YOON, Campaigner of Green Korea United(GKU), Ms. Denise K.H. YOON, Executive Director of the Korea Center for Sustainable Development(KCSD)
- Auditor (1): Mr. Jaekwang HAN, President of PIDA
- Secretariat: the Korean Center for Sustainable Development(KCSD)

사. **Members (as of May 30, 2018) : 28 organizations and individuals**

- Women (3) Kyunggi Women's Associations United, **Korea Women's Associations United(KWAU)**, Korea Women's Hot Line
- Persons with disabilities (5) Open Network, **Korea Differently Abled Federation(KDAF)**, **Korea Disabled Forum(KDF)**, 장애인차별금지추진연대, 한국신장장애인협회
- Youths (2) Green Environment Youth Korea(GEYK), Global Citizen Leadership Academy
- Economy (2) Korea Fair Trade Organization, **Korea Social Economy Network(KSEN)**
- Society (5) **CIATE KOREA**, PEACEMOMO, Korea Center for City and Environment Research(KOCER), **Korea Health Welfare Social Cooperative Federation(KHWSCF)**, Korea Human Rights Foundation
- Environment (8) Green Future, Green Energy Strategy Institute, Green Korea United(GKU), The Energy and Climate Policy Institute for Just Transition(ECPI), Korean Women's Environmental Network(KWEN), Ulsan's Network for River and Watershed, Korea Federation for Environmental Movements(FoE Korea), Citizen's Movement for Environmental Justice(CMEJ)
- Governance (1) The Korean Center for Sustainable Development(KCSD)
- International cooperation (2) **Korea NGO Council for Overseas Development Cooperation (KCOC)**, **Korea Civil Society Forum on International Development Cooperation (KoFID)**
- Individuals (3)

※ *Those in bold are the nationwide NGO networks*

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*Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies*



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