

Summary of the Expert Meeting on the “Transformation of the ROK’s Development Cooperation”

Monday, 23rd November 2020

**Jointly organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea
and UNDP Seoul Policy Centre**

In 2010, the Republic of Korea (ROK) became a member of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The OECD-DAC membership symbolized the fundamental transformation that the ROK had achieved in transitioning from a recipient to a donor of Official Development Assistance (ODA). Same year also represented a significant milestone for UNDP in Korea, as it closed its country office and agreed on establishment of the UNDP Seoul Policy Centre.

In recognition of this anniversary, the UNDP Seoul Policy Centre (USPC) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea co-organized an expert dialogue on “The Transformation of the ROK’s Development Cooperation”. The event was one in a series of events organized to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the ROK’s DAC membership. In view of the COVID-19 pandemic, the hybrid event combined the traditional roundtable format (in line with social distancing regulations) with online participation. Accordingly, four panel sessions were held to facilitate the exchange of insights among representatives of several government organizations, civil society, academia, research institutions, and international organizations. The first session was dedicated to the ROK’s bilateral approach to development cooperation while the second was dedicated to similar issues at the multilateral level. The third session discussed the ROK’s role in global debates on effective development cooperation. Lastly, the fourth session was dedicated to the future of development cooperation and its implications towards the ROK. The agenda, along with the list of participants of the event can be found in the annex.

Throughout this event, a diverse range of views were expressed by various experts. This report provides a non-exhaustive review of the insightful discussions. It aims to provide “extracted views” on some of the main aspects of the discussion. None of the “extracted messages” can be attributed to any of the panelists individually. Similarly, none of the topics or views mentioned reflects official position of the co-organizers. Rather, the main purpose of this paper is to benefit from the stimulating discussions that took place in a brainstorming format.

1) Bilateral cooperation:

Over the years the ROK’s bilateral cooperation improved through institutional reform, policy framework and more effective priority setting. The ROK’s ODA has increased steadily since joining the DAC. It has succeeded in creating a comprehensive ODA system that meets and often, exceeds the high standards expected of OECD-DAC members.

Development is a continuous process of learning and partner countries welcome increased knowledge sharing with the ROK that is in a unique position to share lessons with countries in many stages of development due to its experience with its rapid development trajectory within a relatively short period. It has demonstrated the path to become a model of economic growth and prosperity. The rich lessons of knowledge, experience, and technology can be shared with partner countries and this can significantly enrich the ROK's programmatic approach and development effectiveness. The ROK's competitive advantage in terms of technological innovation and its relatively successful response to COVID-19 have increased the demand for its knowledge sharing.

At the institutional level, additional improvements could also be made to empower a 'whole-of-society' approach that can account for the increasing number of actors in the ROK's development cooperation ecosystem including the non-state actors, private sector, civil society and the non-government organizations to combine the variety of the instruments such as grants, loans, the knowledge and the volunteers to achieve common goals. Especially the work with the private sector, which is much interested in aligning their investment towards the agenda 2030, could be prioritized and explored.

2) Multilateral cooperation:

The ROK has not only been continuously committed to strengthen its bilateral contributions to development cooperation, but also became an effective supporter of and even sometimes a 'trend-setter' in multilateral cooperation, especially in environmental aspects. It is becoming a leader in multilateral environmental ODA with its green ODA model which is aligned with the Paris Climate Agreement and the SDGs. It has demonstrated international leadership in this area through its engagements in multilateral initiatives such as hosting the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and cooperating closely with The Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI).

The ROK has been playing an important role in promoting the key development cooperation issues through various international channels of the United Nations. At the same time, the ROK is taking a leading role in the establishment of new multilateral groups. This holds true in the thematic sense, as the ROK has impacted the formation of platforms and organizations such as MIKTA in 2013, which is a consultative network composed of middle-income countries such as Mexico, Indonesia, the ROK, Turkey, and Australia. Through such active engagements in multilateral cooperation, the ROK has used its position as a middle power to guide global partnerships on specific sectoral issues such as green growth. During this unprecedented period, the members of MIKTA, including the ROK, have demonstrated the potential to further stimulate and strengthen multilateralism. There is a much stronger role of MIKTA not only in sharpening global discourses, but also brokering between the Global South and the Global North.

3) Normative Contributions to Global Debates:

The ROK's role as a normative 'bridge' between developed and developing countries has been well recognized and this role has been used to sharpen various debates in a positive way. It

facilitates relevant discussions and debates on key topics through a plethora of different platforms. Through this brokering role, the ROK contributes to the discussion of effective development cooperation. Having hosted the Busan Fourth High Level Forum on Development Effectiveness in 2011 (HLF-4), the ROK set a milestone in development effectiveness at the global level. The HLF-4 brought together traditional donors and the emerging economies like China and various countries from the Global South, which marked a turning point from the aid effectiveness to development effectiveness. In this critical time, the COVID-19 pandemic makes the effectiveness of development cooperation more urgent than ever. Therefore, there is a need for “Busan No.2” to provide the venue to discuss innovative approaches for deepening the debates on development effectiveness. Since Busan in 2011, we have a better understanding of multilateral processes and how to organize them in an inclusive way. Lessons learnt from other processes, including the Paris Agreement, can be applied to moving the Development Effectiveness Agenda forward in the spirit of inclusion.

4) Future of Development Cooperation:

Without doubt, the pandemic has had a significant impact on the narrative of development cooperation. According to some experts due to the widespread effect of COVID-19, the profile of ODA is likely to change towards a significant focus on health as well as on agriculture, trade, food security and poverty. As the crisis unfolds and deepens, the value of knowledge-sharing among countries has been becoming increasingly evident. Additionally, the importance of digitalization and the environment have been accentuated through calls for building back better and greener. The ROK promotes relevant policies to support developing countries focusing on the advancement of the ICT infrastructure and low-carbon economies.

The ROK could further contribute to the global aid architecture by including principles such as sustainability, inclusivity, and effectiveness into its ODA approach to address the unprecedented set of global and country-level challenges. As the response to support the country’s recovery from the pandemic and leading the global action against structural changes with the international community, the ROK’s Green and Digital New Deal plan to advance the investment in digital ecosystems and boost the public private partnerships between development cooperation providers and tech-based startups. In this context, Korean development cooperation will play a key role in advancing a more innovative, inclusive and tech enabled development cooperation due to its reputation as a global innovator and tech leader.

Conclusion:

The 2030 Agenda and the SDGs set the framework for actions and identify respective tasks. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda helps to mobilize financial resources to achieve the SDGs. However, they are not yet grounded on clear burden-sharing agreements (BSA). Lack of agreement on BSAs, may stem progress towards collective production of public goods. The intersection between vulnerability, inequalities and unsustainability will define the future course of development. The global platforms to tackle global challenges like climate change, loss of biodiversity, global inequality and the COVID-19 are needed more than ever. There is a

rising need for the multiplication of global public goods which require collective action. Global cooperation and leadership are needed to solve those critical development challenges rather than working in isolation. The global dialogue on the development cooperation agenda should be facilitated at an international, national, regional and sub-regional level. The governments and their respective development agencies need to demonstrate through words, actions and investments that development cooperation is fit to tackle 21st century challenges and open to working with diverse actors to achieve long-term results. This global crisis can only be solved effectively through global cooperation. First and foremost, in order to defeat the virus, we need to share information and a spirit of global cooperation and trust.

The expert meeting has highlighted that the ROK has successfully completed its transition process. However, the role of development actors in general is a continuous and permanent transition. The current circumstances accentuate and demonstrate the need for transformation within and among all development cooperation providers. The ROK has a unique role due to being the only DAC member that was a former G77 member and South-South Cooperation provider, which can be further explored and utilized in order to contribute to multilateral cooperation. The Development Effectiveness Agenda in this context is as important as ever. Lastly, the importance of knowledge and knowledge sharing has been highly emphasized. Knowledge plays a significant role for all actors in bilateral and multilateral cooperation. The Strategies for recording, codifying, and sharing knowledge should respond to existing challenges.

Expert Meeting Agenda (Seoul time)

Time	Programme
11:30	Registration and Lunch (Offline)
13:00	<p>Opening Session</p> <p>Welcoming Remarks Stephan Klingebiel (Offline), Director of UNDP Seoul Policy Centre (USPC)</p> <p>Keynote Speech Yeong-moo Cho (Offline), Director-General for Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea</p>
13:30	<p>Session 1: The ROK's Bilateral Approach to Development Cooperation</p> <p>Moderator: Artemy Izmistiev (Online), Policy Specialist, USPC</p> <p>Guiding Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How has the ROK's bilateral cooperation evolved during the past decade? What were the most important achievements and challenges during this time? What might be a strategy for the next decade? 2. What role does knowledge exchange play in development cooperation, especially in the post COVID-19 era? How has the ROK contributed to knowledge exchange? What are some challenges and lessons learned? <p>Presenters: Annalisa Prizzon (Online), Senior Research Fellow in the Development and Public Finance programme at the Overseas Development Institute Rahul Malhotra (Online), Head of Division at the OECD Development Cooperation Directorate Sanghoon Ahn (Offline), Executive Director at Korea Development Institute's Center of International Development</p> <p>Commenters: Moon Suk Hong (Offline), Evaluation Sub-Committee Member of the Republic of Korea's Committee for International Development Cooperation Rolando Tungpalan (Online), Former Under-Secretary of Philippines' National Economic and Development Authority</p>

15:00	Coffee Break
15:15	<p>Session 2: The ROK as a Multilateral Actor in Development Cooperation</p> <p>Moderator: Sarwat Chowdhury (Offline), Policy Specialist, USPC</p> <p>Guiding Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the ROK’s role in multilateral cooperation? What are the strengths and weaknesses of the ROK’s approach? How can the ROK fulfill its role in sharpening the multilateral development cooperation system? 2. What are the ROK’s contributions towards ‘environmental multilateralism’? What are the challenges that it must overcome? How can the ROK prevent, mitigate, and overcome these obstacles? 3. What are options for using regional and sub-regional institutions and platforms for development cooperation? What are its achievements and limitations? How can these mechanisms be strengthened? <p>Presenters:</p> <p>Debapriya Bhattacharya (Online), Distinguished Fellow at the Center for Policy Dialogue Laurel Patterson (Online), Head of SDG Integration Team at UNDP Oyun Sanjaasuren (Offline), Director of External Affairs of the Green Climate Fund Nobuko Najiura (Online), Sustainable Development Officer at UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific</p> <p>Commenters:</p> <p>Jaesung Kwak (Offline), Professor at Kyung Hee University Chencho Norbu (Offline), Executive Director at Asian Forest Cooperation Organization</p>
16:45	Coffee Break
17:00	<p>Session 3: The ROK and the Global Development Cooperation Agenda</p> <p>Moderator: Ana Fernandes (Online), Head of the Foresight Outreach and Policy Reform Unit in the OECD Development Cooperation Directorate</p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How has the ROK contributed further to global debates on development cooperation? How has the ROK’s approach changed since the Busan forum? 2. What role can the ROK play in promoting effective development cooperation platforms, models, and norms in the future? 3. How can the ROK contribute to joint debates between DAC donors and South-South Cooperation providers?

	<p>Presenters:</p> <p>Ana Fernandes (Online), Head of the Foresight Outreach and Policy Reform Unit in the OECD Development Cooperation Directorate</p> <p>Gerardo Bracho (Online), Senior Expert Fellow of the Center for Global Cooperation Research</p> <p>Kim Taekyoon (Offline), Professor at Seoul National University</p> <p>Commenters:</p> <p>Jiwon Jung (Offline), Head of Policy Analysis Team at the Korea Institute for International Economic Policy</p> <p>Li Xiaoyun (Online), Director of Research Centre for International Development at China Agricultural University</p> <p>Paulo Esteves (Online), Director of the BRICS Policy Center</p>
18.30	Dinner (Offline)
20:00	<p>Concluding Session: The Future of Development Cooperation and the Implications for the ROK</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <p>Stephan Klingebiel (Offline), Director of UNDP Seoul Policy Centre</p> <p>Guiding Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How might the future of development cooperation change in a Post COVID-19 era? 2. What implications does this pose to the ROK? 3. How can the ROK sharpen the debate on the future of development cooperation? <p>Presenters:</p> <p>Kang Joo-Yeon (Offline), Deputy Director-General for Development Cooperation at Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea</p> <p>Ulrika Modeer (Online), Assistant Administrator & Director at UNDP’s Bureau of External Relations and Advocacy</p> <p>Jorge Moreira Da Silva (Online), Director of the OECD Development Cooperation Directorate</p> <p>Huck-ju Kwon (Offline), President of the Korean Association of International Development and Cooperation</p> <p>Priyanto Rohmatullah (Online), Deputy Director at BAPPENAS (Indonesian Ministry of National Development Planning)</p> <p>Da Woon Chung (Offline), Senior Program Officer with the Fragility, Conflict and Violence Group of the World Bank</p>

Annex 2: List of Participants

Sanghoon Ahn	Korea Development Institute's Center of International Development
Debapriya Bhattacharya	Center for Policy Dialogue
Gerardo Bracho	Center for Global Cooperation Research
Woosup Cho	UNDP Seoul Policy Centre
Yeong-moo Cho	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea
Sarwat Chowdhury	UNDP Seoul Policy Centre
Da Woon Chung	Conflict and Violence Group of the World Bank
Yasemin Derebasi	UNDP Seoul Policy Centre
Paulo Esteves	BRICS Policy Center
Ana Fernandes	OECD Development Cooperation Directorate
Minhyuk Hong	UNDP Seoul Policy Centre
Moon Suk Hong	Republic of Korea's Committee for International Development Cooperation
Sanghee Hong	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea
Artemy Izmistiev	UNDP Seoul Policy Centre
Hyon Soo Jeong	UNDP Seoul Policy Centre
Jione Jung	Korea Institute for International Economic Policy
Joo-Yeon Kang	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea
Taehun Kim	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea
Taekyoon Kim	Seoul National University
Stephan Klingebiel	UNDP Seoul Policy Centre
Jaesung Kwak	Kyung Hee University
Huck-ju Kwon	Korean Association of International Development and Cooperation
Xiaoyun Li	Research Centre for International Development at China Agricultural University
Rahul Malhotra	OECD Development Cooperation Directorate
Ulrika Modeer	UNDP's Bureau of External Relations and Advocacy
Jorge Moreira Da Silva	OECD Development Cooperation Directorate
Nobuko Najiura	UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
Chencho Norbu	Asian Forest Cooperation Organization
Seon ah Oh	UNDP Seoul Policy Centre
Jieun Park	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea
Laurel Patterson	SDG Integration Team at UNDP
Annalisa Prizzon	Overseas Development Institute
Priyanto Rohmatullah	BAPPENAS (Indonesian Ministry of National Development Planning)
Oyun Sanjaasuren	Green Climate Fund
Rolando Tungpalan	Philippines' National Economic and Development Authority

Chanmi Yoo	UNDP Seoul Policy Centre
Chris Ziegler	UNDP Seoul Policy Centre