

# Partnership with Korea on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

UNDP Seoul Policy Centre's  
**Development Solutions Partnerships** to Convey Korea's Policy Experience



Korean policy experiences on anti-corruption, public construction management, and the fight against GBV are shared with developing countries. (photos: USPC)

**Donor partner:** The Development Solutions Partnerships have been possible because of the generous support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea to the UNDP Seoul Policy Centre.



## Who We Are

### United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The SDGs came into effect in January 2016, and they will continue to guide UNDP policy and funding for the next 15 years. As the lead UN development agency, UNDP is uniquely placed to help implement the Goals through our work in some 170 countries and territories.

Our strategic plan focuses on key areas including poverty alleviation, democratic governance and peace-building, climate change and disaster risk, and economic inequality. UNDP provides support to governments to integrate the SDGs into their national development plans and policies. This work is already underway, as we support many countries in accelerating progress already achieved under the Millennium Development Goals.

### UNDP Seoul Policy Centre

For more than 40 years (1963-2009), UNDP has supported the people and Government of Korea, delivering 270 projects in 20 areas mirroring Korea's development path. UNDP closed its Country Office in 2009, as Korea joined the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC), affirming its status as a significant contributor of development aid. In this context, the UNDP Seoul Policy Centre (USPC) was established in 2011, with the objective of brokering new partnerships between Korea and the developing world through UNDP networks. USPC is co-funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea and UNDP.

As one of the six UNDP Global Policy Centres, USPC is tasked with:

- Representing UNDP in Korea
- Working with Korea on international issues
- Sharing Korea's development experience with other countries



## What is "Development Solutions Partnership" (DSP)?

DSP is a key part of USPC's programme to share Korea's development experience and innovative policy tools through a wide UNDP network. It seeks to help countries apply and adapt Korea's policy tools to achieve their priorities for sustainable development.

*There is a high demand among developing countries for Korea's know-how:  
"How did Korea manage to achieve its remarkable socio-economic development?  
We want to know how Korea did it and make it happen in our country too."*



## Why DSP?

- From Korea's experience of transitioning from a recipient country in the aftermath of the Korean War to a donor country, Korea has rich and practical experiences and knowledge to share with developing countries.
- Yet, extensive background work and concrete partnerships are needed to turn the inspiration to implementation on the ground. It takes concerted effort to capture, share, and apply policy innovations in concrete ways.
- Going beyond "lost in translation" requires a lot of behind-the-scenes work. This is not only a linguistic translation. It takes systematic and sustained collaboration among real people at working level to explain, connect, and share in meaningful ways.

*Knowledge is not power automatically. It's only potentially power.*

*With country-level presence around the world, UNDP has strategic advantages in facilitating not only dynamic exchanges of development knowledge and experience, but also country-level adaptations and applications of good practices, as appropriate to particular local contexts.*



## SDG 16 & DSPs

SDG 16 is about peace, justice and strong institutions for sustainable development. The targets contained in Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals are "a real breakthrough" for accountability and the rule of law. Alongside its rapid socio-economic development, Korea has implemented effective and successful initiatives that have helped reduce corruption across the public sector and reduce various forms of violence. Now through the UNDP Seoul Policy Centre, Korea shares this experience to support countries in achieving SDG 16. Since early 2015, USPC has developed the following three DSPs:

(1) Anti-Corruption Initiative Assessment (AIA) of the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission (ACRC) of the Republic of Korea

➔ **DSP on Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Systems**

(2) Clean Construction System (CCS) of the Seoul Metropolitan Government (SMG)

➔ **DSP on Open Data and Public Construction Management**

(3) Korea's policies and experiences on fighting Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

➔ **DSP on Gender-Based Violence**

These three DSPs are directly linked to the following targets of SDG 16.

**16.1** Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

**16.2** End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children

**16.5** Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms

**16.6** Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

**16.10** Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements



## How DSPs work

**Modality:** Triangular cooperation among Korean Government institutions, UNDP (USPC together with the UNDP global teams), and partner countries (UNDP country offices and their partner Government institutions).

**Components:** Identification and “translation” of Korea’s policy innovations through knowledge products, dynamic exchanges of experiences, peer-to-peer mentoring, channeling of seed funding and advisory support through UNDP Country Offices’ existing project facilities, and on-the-ground partnerships for national adaptation and utilization of the policy tools and shared knowledge at the country level.

### 1. DSP on Anti-Corruption Monitoring and Evaluation Systems

The first DSP on Korea’s Anti-Corruption Initiative Assessment (AIA) was an innovative policy tool that garnered great interest from numerous international participants at USPC’s Seoul Debates Meeting on 29-30 January 2015. In response to the demand for further sharing, this DSP was developed in close partnership with the Anti-Corruption and Civil Right Commission (ACRC) of the Republic of Korea, the UNDP Global Anti-Corruption Initiative (UNDP GAIN) Program, and UNDP Country Offices.

AIA has been an annual exercise for corruption prevention in the Republic of Korea since 2002 and now covers more than 250 public institutions. It assesses the effectiveness of Korean public sector organizations in implementing the government’s anti-corruption policies and initiatives. Every year, all assessment scores are publicized and organizations are ranked. AIA in Korea has been an effective motivational tool of the heads of public institutions to put in place and improve institutional measures that prevent corruption.

Following a Call for Expressions of Interest (Eoi), Vietnam was selected as the DSP pilot country for 2015-2016 to share AIA. Implemented by the UNDP Vietnam Country Office and the Government Inspectorate (GI) of Vietnam, the DSP-supported project aimed to apply strategic elements of Korea’s AIA in Vietnam’s anti-corruption monitoring and evaluation system, in order to increase Vietnam’s capacity, efficacy and political will to monitor institutional measures for corruption prevention in the public sector.

In 2015, USPC and ACRC co-authored a publication detailing the AIA methodology and its lessons learned, and conducted a three-day workshop on AIA with over 60 Vietnamese government officials. Thereafter, in 2016, USPC, together with UNDP Vietnam and ACRC supported GI in modifying and piloting their new assessment methodology called “Provincial Anti-Corruption Assessment (PACA)” in Vietnam’s 63 provinces. In March 2017, GI and UNDP organized a national workshop in Hanoi to review the 2016 PACA results and discuss how to improve and sustain this new mechanism.



*(Left) Working group discussions for designing a roadmap on anti-corruption development solutions at the 2015 Seoul Debates;*

*(Right) ACRC Vice-Chairperson discusses anti-corruption assessment in Vietnam (photos: USPC)*

### 2. DSP on Open Data and Public Construction Management

The second DSP shares the Seoul Metropolitan Government’s (SMG) Clean Construction System (CCS), which was also presented at the 2015 Seoul Debates and drew great interest from participants. Introduced by the Seoul Metropolitan Government (SMG) in 2011, CCS consists of two major components:

- One Project Management Information System (One-PMIS), a transparent and efficient system used by all parties involved (i.e. Seoul government manager, contractors and supervisors).
- Construction Information Disclosure System (“Allimi” in Korean) which releases in real-time about 80% of all information in one-PMIS directly to the citizens.

On 2-4 December 2015, USPC and the Seoul Metropolitan Infrastructure Headquarters co-organized an international training workshop, entitled “International Workshop for Public Construction Transparency: Sharing Korea’s Clean Construction System and Initiatives around the World.” After the workshop, the participants strongly expressed their desire for pragmatic partnership to learn more about CCS and to apply elements from CCS to improve their own construction project management system. In response, USPC together with the Seoul Government selected partner countries on a competitive basis and provided advisory support, together with seed funding, to Vietnam, Thailand, Ukraine, Jordan and Uganda.

## UNDP Seoul Policy Centre's Development Solutions Partnerships to Convey Korea's Policy Experience

USPC and the SMG co-authored the Resource Book for Practitioners to document the technical details, policy implications, and guidance for application. In order to disseminate this knowledge effectively, USPC worked with the Country Offices to translate this book into English, Arabic, Vietnamese, Thai, Russian, Ukrainian and Spanish. To provide in-depth technical support to country partners, USPC, together with Seoul government, also organized webinars as well as technical workshops, both in Korea and in partner countries.

Out of this DSP, Ukraine, Vietnam, Thailand and Uganda have already designed CCS-like systems that fit their own context and needs to enhance efficiency and transparency in their own public construction management.



(Left) Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between the Mayor of Seoul, Mr. Won-soon Park, and the Minister of Infrastructure of Ukraine, affirming their mutual interest in sharing Korea's experiences on enhancing efficient and transparent public construction management with Ukraine. (Right) Seoul and Thai government discuss open data in the construction sector to fight corruption (photos: UNDP Ukraine and USPC)



### 3. DSP on Gender-Based Violence



Participants at the 2017 Seoul Debates discuss Korea's experiences in fighting GBV (photo: USPC)

On 20-21 April 2017, in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family of the Republic of Korea, the USPC hosted the "2017 Seoul Debates" to identify effective ways to address Gender-based Violence (GBV) by sharing lessons learnt from Korea and around the world. Over 100 participants gathered at the 2017 Seoul Debates, a third of whom included overseas senior government representatives, UNDP practitioners and civil society leaders from around the world. Experts from UNICEF, UN Women and UNFPA also took part in the discussions. The event facilitated peer-to-peer policy dialogue and thematic discussions among representatives from 12 countries: Albania, Bangladesh, Colombia, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Myanmar, Rwanda, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Turkey and Vietnam.

As of July 2017, USPC has already documented key takeaways and policy lessons from the 2017 Seoul Debates along with an extensive Resource Book that compiled various experiences that were shared at the meeting. In order to take these lessons to the country level, USPC announced a Call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) to selected DSP partner countries. Under the new DSP on GBV, USPC will work with Korean partners to share Korea's concrete experiences in fighting GBV, such as effective one-stop support mechanism for GBV victims, sensitization and capacity building of police officers, as well as a comprehensive policy framework to create safe cities for women.



#### Contact Us

UNDP Seoul Policy Centre  
Korea University 4F, Division of International Studies  
145, Anam-Ro, Seongbuk-Gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Tel: +82 2 3290 5202 – 9

Fax: +82 2 3290 5210

  @UNDPSPC

<http://www.undp.org/uspc>