

**Closing Remarks by
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OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
AT THE DCF REPUBLIC OF KOREA HIGH-LEVEL SYMPOSIUM
Incheon, Republic of Korea, 10 April 2015**

Mr. Wu Hongbo, Undersecretary General for UNDESA,
Mr. Martin Sajdik, President of the ECOSOC,
Ambassador George Talbot,
Mr. Kajara Aston Peterson, State Minister of Finance of Uganda,

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

The 2015 DCF ROK High-Level Symposium with your valuable participation over the last three days has finally come to an end.

I would like to thank all the presenters, two most excellent moderators, Ms. Melinda Crane and Mr. Henry Bonsu, panelists, contributors, as well as UNDESA and MOFA of Korea for their hard work in making this Symposium a great success. The eager involvement and fruitful discussions of the participants all throughout the meeting were truly satisfying to see and experience firsthand.

Having participated in the post-2015 development agenda discussions over the past few days, personally I have had the opportunity to compare today's times with the 1960s when development flared up as one of the top global agendas.

At the time, newly independent countries joined the UN, thereby changing the demographics of the UN membership. Eradication of poverty and economic growth emerged as core agendas. The UN General Assembly defined the 1960s as the first 'UN Development Decade' and designed concrete steps to establish development objectives.

Soon after, many UN affiliated organizations such as, UNCTAD, and the UNDP were established to boost development efforts at the global level. Numerous policy recommendations were made on development, trade, investment, and agriculture, among others, to help developing countries to expand their economic growth.

Today, we still share a similar longing for development cooperation. However, we cannot remain simply hopeful.

Rather, just as the expression "a burning heart and a cool head" goes; it is time to simultaneously pursue both high ambitions and rational thinking.

Surely, the post-2015 agenda draws upon idealistic images of humanity, and therefore, must be revolutionary.

To make this ambitious goal an achievable one, and not to let our joined efforts over the last half century go to waste, there is a dire need to pool all of our wisdom to the greatest possible extent.

In this vein, I believe that this High-Level Symposium brought us a step closer to our mutual goal, one small feat at a time.

Over the last three days in a search of the answers to “What will it take for development cooperation for people and planet?”, we dealt with realistic issues related to the implementation of the new development agenda.

The talks included multi-stakeholders in development cooperation; commitments and financing; improved ODA allocation, which very much heated this room; aligned partnership among means of implementation; enabling environment for development cooperation actors to realize universality of post-2015; ways to utilize new means of implementation; and monitoring and mutual accountability– all of which were concrete and practical.

We have discussed these issues intellectually and closely for three days. The result of the discussion is building blocks for the answers to the question “What will it take?”.

One of the most frequent answers may be “mind-set change”, as all of us have agreed. Changing the mindset of people, particularly political leadership, and bringing everyone on board will dramatically enhance PPP, not ‘public-private partnership’, but ‘people, planet partnership’.

At the last session, I heard the brief exchange of opinions on the Korean model between Mr. Wellington Chibebe and Mr. Juan Manuel Valle Pereña. I have lived through the same period after the Korean War, like my Foreign Minister Yun, who delivered his speech yesterday, as well as Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

It is an open secret that the core essence of the Korean model is this mind-set change. Korea promoted the idea of the ‘Can-do Spirit’ to most of the Korea population to move our stage of development from underdeveloped or developing to a much more advanced stage.

There is some progress and achievement in the field of economic development as well as the improvement of human rights together with democratization in the past decade. At the same time, we still have some problems. We admit there are still many tasks to enhance the quality of life. We are struggling to resolve and address issues like inequality, polarization of society, some basic rights of labors and workers, and a social safety net. These are current and very pending issues.

In that context, we still experience growing pains in developing into the next stage. Korea's ODA policy also aims to share its positive lessons, not the negative aspects of the past. We will continue to contribute to joining, helping and arranging broad development cooperation with other friend countries in other regions as a modest middle power in Asia. In addition to this we will continue our work by attending the World Water Forum this weekend in Daegu, Korea. Next month we will have another big conference, the World Education Forum. These activities and events will eventually contribute to all of us having our common agenda post-2015 improving the quality of the people's lives. They will also boost sustainable development for the planet altogether with other of members of the United Nations.

As Undersecretary General Wu Hongbo mentioned, Korea and UNDESA will share our meaningful deliverable of this Symposium on various occasions including the 2nd Drafting Session of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development to be held in New York next week.

This Symposium will not only contribute to the discussions of the implementation of the post-2015 agenda, but also enhance the reliability of the DCF as the UN's development policy forum.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The IMF's 2015 economic outlook report published last November has a rather literary subtitle that reads 'legacies, clouds, uncertainty'.

It implies that a number of measures taken by each country during the 2008 financial crisis still remain today as legacies, further amplifying uncertainties in the global economy.

However, I hope the opposite is true for global development cooperation.

Our discussions on the post-2015 agenda will come together in full circle. Global efforts to join the alliance will be enhanced to make the post-2015 global development cooperation more clearly defined and certain.

I am extremely pleased that the ideas and wisdom overflowing from this DCF High-Level Symposium will serve as stepping stones for the joint efforts to build the post-2015 era.

Once again, I would like to thank all of you here who have actively participated in the constructive discussions during the symposium. As a member of the DCF, I hope that you will hold great pride in fulfilling the new development goals towards the post-2015 UN Summit and beyond.

I thank you and hope to see you in Kampala, Uganda in November and in Brussels next year. Enjoy your remaining time in Korea and I wish you all a safe return home. Bon voyage. Thank you.