



# THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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**Statement by H.E. Mr. Yu Myung-hwan  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
UN High-Level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs  
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**Distinguished co-chairs,**

I would like to begin by expressing my deep appreciation to President D'Escoto Brockmann and Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon for the crucial leadership role they have played in promoting the cause of Africa's development. This meeting is timely indeed as we have just passed the midpoint towards the MDG target year of 2015.

While fully sharing the concerns of the international community over the mixed picture of Africa's performance in achieving the MDGs, I would like to point out that we should not downplay what Africa has achieved so far. Rather, Africa deserves the recognition of the international community on the progress it has made, especially in recent years, despite a number of challenges such as on-going conflicts and pandemic diseases.

Apart from these, the triple crises of food, energy, and climate change are now affecting Africa more seriously than anywhere else. In this age of globalization, not only Africa but also the world at large will have to face the dire consequences of failure. As such, collective interests as well as moral imperatives have dictated our choice of standing in solidarity with Africa in addressing these immense global challenges. This is why our gathering here is important as we lay out our next course of action to deliver on the promises of supporting Africa for the attainment of the MDGs.

As a relatively new donor which was once a war-torn and impoverished nation, Korea is exerting utmost efforts to increase its ODA and to further the partnership for international development. For instance, the volume of Korea's ODA last year was triple that of 2000. We plan another three-fold increase by 2015 for our aid volume to reach \$3.3 billion a year. Africa is the region where a larger share of our increased assistance finds its new destination.

Under Korea's Initiative for Africa's Development that started in 2006, we have tripled our ODA to Africa and it will be further scaled up. Moreover, we introduced an "air ticket solidarity levy" in 2007, the funding of which is primarily earmarked for the eradication of diseases in Africa. And, the Korea-Africa Forum was created as a channel of cooperation for governments, businesses, and the civil society of Korea and Africa.

However, aid alone is not the answer. Korea's development experience illustrates that trade and investment are powerful engines for development by enabling economic growth and poverty reduction. Accordingly, we promote investments in Africa by the Korean private sector through relevant trade policies. In conjunction with continued support for trade capacity building, Korea strives to further expand duty-free and quota-free access for imports from the least developed countries in Africa.

We are also exerting efforts to address Africa's "development divide" by contributing to human resource development through training, exchanges of experts and students as well as the dispatch of volunteers.

**Distinguished co-chairs,**

The challenges facing Africa are multi-dimensional and complex. It seems more realistic to admit that we do not have a 'cure all' solution at hand. What we need to do is to replicate what has worked for Africa and continue our fight against the scourges of poverty, diseases, and conflicts on all fronts through concerted and better coordinated efforts. I would like to reaffirm Korea's willingness to work together with the international community in accelerating such efforts. Thank you.