

Chair's Remarks on Session I : Sustaining Peace

by H.E. Chung Eui-yong

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea

2021 Seoul UN Peacekeeping Ministerial

December 7, 2021

Ministers and Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to open the first session on sustaining peace.

Five years ago, the United Nations adopted resolutions in the Security Council and the General Assembly respectively, emphasizing a comprehensive approach toward consolidating peace, reducing poverty and preventing countries from relapsing into conflict.

Unfortunately, the sad reality is that, we continue to witness ongoing conflicts and violence around the world that affect many lives and livelihoods.

Against this backdrop, we are now focusing on achieving a long-term, sustainable peace and addressing the root causes of conflict, as the U.N. and the international community place greater emphasis on the role of PKOs in sustaining peace.

Anchored in the 2016 twin resolutions and the Action for Peace (A4P) initiative, sustaining peace is a comprehensive approach that aims to foster peace in all phases of the peace continuum from conflict prevention and peacekeeping to peacebuilding.

I would like to highlight three ways we can translate our deliverables to bring about real impact on the ground.

First, all PKO missions from the very beginning must be adequately prepared to achieve sustaining peace. All missions should be ready for drawdown and transition from the moment the first boots hit the ground.

From the planning stage, the mission mandate should be designed to help institute rule of law, reform of security sector and protection of civilians led by the host government, so that important prerequisites for sustaining peace can be met.

Second, the inclusion and participation of diverse stakeholders in the entire peace process is essential.

We can start by involving national governments to take up necessary roles for establishing peace in their countries. People from all walks of civil society, especially women and youth, must have their voices heard in the peace process for peace to have any chance in taking root.

Moreover, all relevant actors within the U.N., including the Security Council and Peacebuilding Commission(PBC) must cooperate and coordinate on sustaining peace, to achieve a more effective outcome for the U.N. as a whole.

Last month, I met Foreign Minister Tangara from Gambia. We discussed how Korea as a PBC chair in 2017, helped push forward Gambia's efforts for sustaining peace.

After the democratic transition in 2017, Gambia is expanding the freedom of its media and enhancing the protection of human rights. Also, as a young nation with unlimited potential, a growing number of Gambian youths are joining in the political and economic processes. Gambia's success story for peacebuilding reminds us of PBC's role as a convening body to galvanize solidarity for peace.

Third, our efforts for peace should go hand in hand with human rights and the development sector if the hard-won peace is to be self-sustained and long-lasting.

Strengthening the Humanitarian-Development-Peace(HDP) Nexus can reduce people's unmet needs, risks and vulnerabilities, thereby addressing the root causes of conflict.

An integrated effort is therefore crucial to help conflict-affected countries build resilience and eventually move towards good governance.

Distinguished Delegates,

The Republic of Korea pledges to remain a staunch supporter of sustaining peace in all regions of the world.

As a long-standing member of the PBC and having assumed its chairmanship in 2017, we have been calling for the importance of conflict prevention and emphasizing the link between peace and development.

Korea stands firmly together with the U.N., ensuring adequate and sustained financing for bringing peace, and will significantly raise contributions for next year to further support the U.N.'s efforts for sustaining peace. We will triple our funding for the PKO Trust Fund to 3 million dollars, and make donations of 2.5 million dollars each to the Peacebuilding Fund(PBF) and the DPPA's Multi Year Appeal.

At this moment, 582 Koreans are donning the blue helmets, proudly working in five PKO missions to deliver peace.

Our troops continue to engage actively with local communities to include them in the peace process, for example by providing vocational and engineering training in South Sudan and Lebanon.

Distinguished Delegates,

I will now invite member states to share their insights and commitments for sustaining peace and look forward to hearing concrete strategies and innovative suggestions.

I have 18 distinguished representatives who wish to speak on the agenda. /END/