CONCEPT PAPER

Korea-UN 30th Anniversary International Forum
- “Fostering Peace with the UN: Towards Another 30 Years”

Background

The year 2021 marks the 30th anniversary of Korea’s membership in the United Nations. On September 17, 1991, near the end of the Cold War, South and North Korea were simultaneously admitted to the UN under UN General Assembly Resolution 46/1. For a country whose contemporary history is intertwined with the UN, but was not allowed membership until then, the entry into the UN was indeed an epoch-making event in Korea’s diplomacy.

During the last three decades, the Republic of Korea, as a full-fledged member, has played major roles in and made vast contributions to the UN, in efforts to foster peace in the international society. It served on many principle organs, twice in the Security Council (1996-97, 2013-14), and produced high ranking UN officials including the President of the General Assembly (during the 56th session) and the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon. Korea is increasing its financial contributions to the UN and Peacekeeping Operations budgets, currently ranking 11th and 10th respectively among the UN member countries. Korea also has deployed more than 18,000 peacekeeping personnel since deploying its first engineering troops to UNOSOM II in Somalia in 1993.

Meanwhile, the United Nations is at a juncture in which the demand for its role in fostering peace in the international society is higher than ever while its effectiveness and relevance are being challenged. UN’s role in maintaining international peace and security is no longer simply confined to conflict management. New and rising global challenges such as human rights, development and climate change are all intertwined to the peace and security agenda. The UN is struggling to cope with these challenges through a more connected and inclusive multilateralism under global solidarity and cooperation.

Against this backdrop, among a series of events in commemoration of the 30th anniversary of ROK-UN relations this year, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea plans to hold a 30th Anniversary Commemorative International Forum that will examine the role of the UN in the peace and security agenda, and how the Republic of Korea can expand its role and contribution looking ahead to another 30 years of its membership in the UN.

Both looking back at the footsteps of the last 30 years and also looking towards further deepening relations with the UN, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea wishes that this forum will be an opportunity to draw inputs from esteemed scholars and distinguished guests. Also we look forward to exchange views in analyzing the challenges the UN and the multilateral system currently faces and suggesting Korea’s foreign policy options preparing for the next generation seeking new opportunities amidst the current challenges.
Date and Venue

- June 17th, 2021
- Four Seasons Hotel, Seoul, Korea / On-Offine Hybrid (TBC)
- Due to COVID19 restraints, speakers and panelists residing outside Korea will join online via videoconference, and those residing in Korea will join offline.

Tentative Program

The Forum will be comprised of the following sessions. Session 1, on the subject of UN’s current efforts and future goals for peace, will consist of two presentations and a facilitated discussion among a panel including distinguished guests from the UN. Session 2 will be a round table of former Republic of Korea Ambassadors to the United Nations. Finally, Session3, with 2 presentations and a discussion among esteemed scholars and former leaders of international organizations, will focus on Korea’s role in the UN.

The working language is Korean and English. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

09:10-09:30 Opening Session (Seoul Time, UTC +9h)

■ Opening Remarks
■ Congratulatory Remarks

09:30-11:30 Session 1: 「UN’s Efforts for Peace in a New Era」

■ Presentation 1: The 76 Years Journey of UN’s Peacemaking, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding
■ Presentation 2: The Challenge of Multilateral Cooperation in an Era of Great Power Strife
■ Panel Discussion (4 Panelists)

11:30-13:00 Lunch Break

13:00-14:30 Session 2: 「Korea in the UN: An Odyssey for Peace」

■ Round Table of former Ambassadors to the UN
As of June 2021

- 14:30-15:00  Coffee Break

- 15:00-16:30  Session 3: 「Fostering Peace with the UN: Preparing for the Next Generation」
   - Presentation 1: Priorities of Korea’s UN Diplomacy in the Peace and Security Agenda
   - Presentation 2: Korea’s Better Coordinated Approach to Global Issues
   - Panel Discussion (4 Panelists)

- 16:30-16:40  Seminar Wrap-up

**Administrative Matters**

**o Hospitality**
- Honorarium will be paid to those participating in the seminar as moderator, speaker, or panelist.
- Links and details regarding videoconference will be provided as soon as possible.

**o Focal Point**
- The focal point at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is Mr. Yoon Kyum KIM, Second Secretary of the United Nations Division(Tel: 82-2-2100-8422, Fax: 82-2-2100-7932, E-mail: vkykim18@mofa.go.kr)