

Republic of Korea

Positions for General Assembly Plenary

I. Non-Traditional Approaches to Peacebuilding in Post-Conflict Areas

As President Park asserted in her “Leaders in Peacekeeping” speech, “Korean peacekeepers have long been guided by the belief that genuine peace stems from the minds of the people.”¹ Hence, their distinctive focus on cementing bonds with local communities, whether in Lebanon, Haiti, South Sudan or elsewhere. The joint efforts of the community and the government are at the root of success to help find peace in areas across the world.

The Republic of Korea is deeply involved in peacebuilding not only with more than 600 troops deployed in post-conflict areas and supporting United Nations Mission for the Referendum in West Sahara (MINURSO), United National Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), and United Nations Mission in the Republic South Sudan (UNMISS), but also through activities in the UN’s Peacebuilding Commission and serving as the president of the UN Economic and Social Council. Since 2009, we have continued to establish the foundation for more involvement in UN peacekeeping projects. This includes passing the Law on Participation in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and the 2010 establishment of the Onnuri Unit—a 1,000 strong military unit designated for overseas deployment that is streamlined for peacekeeping operations. Furthermore, our commitment to peacebuilding extends to the gradual increase in the Republic of Korea’s financial contributions to the UN’s present peacebuilding activities. Additionally, the Republic of Korea is the third largest donor among the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development members. The Republic of Korea believes that UN approaches to peacekeeping have neglected root causes in conflict countries’ issues, resulting in problematic relapses, and holds the tradition that peace comes from the minds of the people.

As a devoted supporter to peace in areas of post-conflict, The Republic of Korea promotes establishing the Country Sponsorship Program (CSP). Recognizing and respecting national sovereignty, the CSP would be a voluntary program to countries in the UN. The program would function as a subcommittee of the Peacebuilding Commission. Countries in the same geopolitical area would mentor a country recovering to maintain peace and establish a firm government. It is our hope that the mentor country, being in the same geopolitical area as the recovering country, would have experience with the issues that can arise with ethnic conflict, environmental concerns, etc, and assist the conflict country in adopting new policy. The mentor’s job would entail helping the conflict country’s government establish a functioning political system, advising the conflict country on the allocation of money by determining which programs need the most funding, using trade connections to help build the conflict country’s economy, and helping navigate political and economic issues that may arise. The mentor country’s advising support would address the allocation of funds and where they are most needed based on the needs of the conflict country. An annual application process to find countries willing and able to participate in the program, either for a mentor position or as a conflict country, would be required. The PBC would review the applications and accept or deny regarding each country’s economic and political status in the past five years. An annual review process would also take place to review the status of the conflict country’s path to recovery. The CSP would save future conflict by establishing strong relations between neighboring countries, not only politically, but also potentially economically for both the conflict country and the country acting as mentor. The Republic of Korea believes that the creation of the CSP would embolden the unification of local communities because of the mentor country’s experience with similar ethnic groups in the geopolitical area. The joint efforts of the community and the government are at the root of success of our proposal to help find peace in areas across the world.

¹ Tack-whan, Wi and Chang lou-chung, *President backs Efforts to Boost UN Peace Operations*, 30 September 2015 < <http://m.korea.net/english/NewsFocus/Policies/view?articleId=130162>>.

I. The Impact of Early and Forced Marriage on the Rights of a Child

The Republic of Korea's President, Park Geun-Hye, spoke at the 2015 UN Summit for Sustainable Development stating, "Providing health care and education service to future generations, including girls, would be the most certain investment that could guarantee a sustainable future."² The Republic of Korea emphatically believes that it is essential to support women in their journey to an education and that the future will reap many benefits for areas that support them.

In 2013, the Human Rights Council, of which South Korea is a member, adopted a first-ever resolution on the urgent need to address child, early and forced marriage in international forums. In June of 2015, South Korea, along with Human Rights Watch, analyzed specific areas in need of improvement in Bangladesh, regarding the prevention of child marriage specifically, to continue their financial aid. In the next year, South Korea intends to launch the program "Better Life for Girls," an organization to advocate the education of girls and expand health services in 15 countries, including Senegal, Nepal and Bolivia over the next 5 years.³

In our rise to support the education and rights of children, especially in that of females, the Republic of Korea recommends forming a five step program entitled **A.R.I.S.E.** which would be monitored and coordinated by the UN Committee on the Rights of Children. **A.R.I.S.E.**'s mission is to ensure that children's rights are being upheld in UN members. As a grassroots program, **A.R.I.S.E.** would commence with training a regional leader of whose country has evidence of relapsing with following the UN bylaws regarding the rights of children in accordance with the UN Articles of Children's Rights. Training would not only broach the UN Articles of Children's Rights, but also on how these statutes affect the country's respective religions, how to promote children's rights, and how to continue the education of children, even if married, in addition to the prospective issues in children's mental and physical health. The presentation would also encompass non-profit organizations and other programs that may be able to sponsor these smaller communities. The UN would then recruit a team of trained experts in that respective country. The steps are as follows. **Arrange a meeting:** The newly trained leaders are encouraged to return and give a similar presentation to their village and local leaders, at which point those interested parties would receive more training on how to inform their community on these issues. **Relate message:** The local leaders will then share the message with their community to see if it is a supported program. **Integrate community:** The community will then try to root these different things in their lifestyle, whether it be postponing marriages or the allowance of schooling to girls who were married young. Some communities could opt for a smaller scale integration with just the allowance of girls to have female role models. **Spread awareness:** As this program begins to take root in a community, neighboring communities might be influenced by the programs and follow in their footsteps. **Empower:** The most vital part of this program is that it empowers girls and children to pursue education and not be held back by a marriage that might produce harmful effects on their education and mental or physical states. The Republic of Korea will effectively reform these communities to abide by the UN Articles of Children's Rights. Together, these communities shall **A.R.I.S.E.**

² Yonhap News, *S. Korea to donate US\$200 mln in aid to poor countries*, 28 September 2015 <<http://www.korea.net/NewsFocus/Policies/view?articleId=130131>>.

³ Ibid.