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Statement submitted by Korean Association for Supporting the SDGs for the UN (ASD), a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Statement

With the launch of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a UN-led development agenda in 2015, there has been much progress in every area of 17 goals around the world. Nevertheless, inequality across the regions, social classes, gender, and generation is still widespread and the global environment is suffering from many problems such as climate change, desertification, and plastic waste. While the United Nations with 193 member states and MGoS have succeeded in creating the SDGs implementation system, they still face many of these challenges.

The biggest challenge to implement the SDGs is its difficulty to raise funds. For example, about \$ 3.3 trillion to \$ 4.5 trillion of an annual budget is required to fully implement the SDGs. However, the SDGs budget promised by each country is often rejected by the National Assembly in many countries. The reason is that the budgets for the SDGs implementation have a lower priority than the budgets needed for an internal situation in the countries. This is why the participation of corporates that directly influence the regions, classes, and gender in the financial aspect is essential.

Corporates build infrastructures around the world to produce and distribute goods and services, which make an impact on both mankind and the global environment. In order for the corporates to participate in the SDGs, an accurate analysis is first required to determine how the corporate will participate in accordance with the characteristics of each entity.

The Korean Association for supporting SDGs for the UN, a non-governmental organization with consultative status with the Economic and Social Council established Sustainable Development Goals Business Index (SDGBI) to closely analyze the environmental, social and economic sectors of the enterprise. It also has analyzed and published the practical effects that corporate can have when participating in the SDGs with regard to the current business environment. Based on the SDGs, SDGBI not only provides concrete data on how sustainable management influences consumers and society but also gives direct feedback on management strategies. Guidelines for reducing plastic waste and fine dust are also included in the data. SDGBI, announced in 2016, has affected the sustainable management of 500 major corporations in Asia. SDGBI has become an important management strategy source and supported 20 major corporations such as South Korea's largest 5G telecommunications company KT, global steel company POSCO, the global food culture and bio company CJ CheilJedang as well as Samsung Electronics. These corporations now spend \$ 61 million on sustainable management every year. To pursue sustainable management and participate in the SDGs, SDGBI is successfully taking a role as a bridge between the corporates and the United Nations.