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**Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and
the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:
priority theme: strategies for the eradication of poverty to
achieve sustainable development for all**

Statement submitted by the 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 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Statement

In the Republic of Korea, a special project to eradicate poverty has been undertaken. It is mainly about creating jobs for people, which is a model to help people live financially independent. To carry out strategies for the eradication of poverty to achieve sustainable development for all, the role of global corporations is highly significant.

One of the major causes of poverty is that people cannot have decent-quality jobs, and employment cannot lead to sustainable employment. On this issue, governmental efforts on a policy level are crucial to achieve sustainable employment. The United Nations member states and their National Assembly create many policies to provide decent quality of jobs and opportunities for proper education

However, corporations should strive for job creation and transform business environment for sustainable employment since they are the ones fulfilling and actualizing the policies. Core of these efforts require understanding of CEOs about corporate sustainability management, and active participation of the labour union. The labour union as an important pillar of the corporation is an organization representing rights and profit of labourers. More than that, it is also seen as a big body of jobs. Therefore, it is required to contribute not only to home country but also to global society as well.

Korean Association for Supporting the SDGs for the UN (ASD) as a special consultative body of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC) established Union Corporate Committee (UCC) with the global telecommunication company KT which is one of the largest companies in the Republic of Korea. The Union Corporate Committee (UCC) was jointly organized by KT and the labour union of KT to raise funds for solving environmental and poverty issues and providing proper education. They also started voluntary service as one of the major activities of the Union Corporate Committee (UCC). When the Union Corporate Committee (UCC) was founded in 2011, several corporations located near the centre of KT's head office joined in the Union Corporate Committee (UCC). Now, 20 corporations across the Republic of Korea are actively taking in the Union Corporate Committee (UCC), and about one hundred thousand jobs are created from here.

As this project provides people in poverty with more opportunities to work, it has been a new model to change a structure of society and economic environment. Especially, labour and management of 20 corporations in the Union Corporate Committee (UCC) announced to involve in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) from 2013. In 2014 and 2016, major leaders from the Union Corporate Committee (UCC) visited the UN Headquarters in New York and had a long talk with key leaders of labour sector including the UN Secretary-General. From these talks, The Union Corporate Committee (UCC) reinforced activities and works for environment and eradication of poverty.

For the last five years, the Union Corporate Committee (UCC) has provided aid to the poor in many countries of Southeast Asia including Vietnam. They built and repaired houses of local communities, and improved medical facilities and treatment with participation of medical professionals. Moreover, they utilized advanced telecommunication facilities to help families who live far away meet on video-calls. Contributions for job creations and eradication of poverty were reflected in government policy. As a result, Ministry of Employment and Labor and Ministry of Gender Equality and Family officially recognized and awarded to achievement of the project.

The Union Corporate Committee (UCC) has been a major partner in Action Initiative for Youth and Women on SDGs #SDGAction11348 on the UN Partnerships for SDGs Online Platform. In the last six years, more than 30,000 people took part in activities such as medical services for paediatric patients and rural area, volunteer services for people who are disabled, neglected, and sight-disabled child, and educational aid for students in poverty.

This activity of labour and management can be a role model for other UN Member states, and all global corporations can join together. Korean Association for Supporting the SDGs for the UN (ASD) intends to invite corporations in Asia to the Union Corporate Committee (UCC) first, and then to bring five hundred corporations and labour and management from all over the world into the Union Corporate Committee (UCC). By inviting more corporations and labour unions, three million decent-quality jobs are expected to be created, and more than twelve million people in poverty are expected to have new opportunities for jobs.

Although it is very rare for corporations other than food corporations to directly take part in eradication of poverty, more and more corporations will make large contributions to children, youth, women, environment improvement and eradication of poverty from this project. Furthermore, we are planning to develop this project into an initiative of Asia and Global society, and provide opportunities and benefits for more and more people.

Current member corporations of the Union Corporate Committee (UCC) are KT, KTTU, Seoul National University Bundang Hospital, Seoul National University Bundang Hospital Labor Union, Korea Employment Agency for the Disabled (KEAD), Korea Employment Agency for the Disabled Labor Union, Korea Land & Housing Corporation (LH), Korea Land & Housing Corporation Labor Union, Korea South-East Power Corporation (KOEN), Korea South-East Power Corporation Labor Union, Korea Rural Community Corporation (KRC), Korea Rural Community Corporation Labor Union, Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power (KHNP), Korea National Park Service (KNPS), Korea National Park Service Labor Union, Seoul Housing & Communities Corporation (SH), Seoul Housing & Communities Corporation Labor Union, Kyongnam Bank, Kyongnam Bank Labor Union, Kwang Ju Bank, Kwang Ju Bank Labor Union, Daegu Bank (DGB), Busan Bank, Busan Bank Labor Union, Jeonbuk Bank, Jeonbuk Bank Labor Union, Jeju Bank, Korea Consumer Agency, Korea Agro-Fisheries & Food Trade Corporation, Jeju Free International City Development Center, Korea University of Technology and Education, and Gyeonggi Urban Innovation Corporation.