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The 2021 Diplomatic White Paper summarizes Korea's foreign policy and diplomatic activities in 2020.

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Minister's Message



2020 was a year in which the Korean people and the entire international community faced great challenges amid the COVID-19 pandemic. With countries around the world closing borders and focusing on domestic measures against the pandemic, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) actively responded to the rapidly changing environment both at the domestic and international levels and strived to protect the interests of the Republic of Korea and safeguard its people.

The primary objective of MOFA and our activities is to protect our citizens and their daily lives and livelihoods. Under this mission, MOFA in 2020 fully mobilized the capabilities of its Seoul headquarters and diplomatic missions abroad. As a result, in 2020, around 50,000 Koreans who had been stranded in some 120 countries due to COVID-19 quarantine measures returned home safely. Moreover, about 23,000 Korean businesspeople were able to continue their economic activities abroad through special entry permission agreements with other governments.

In addition, the Korean government played a leading role in the efforts by the global community to overcome COVID-19. Korea made significant contributions to shaping the dialogue and discussions on joint response to pandemics in multilateral organizations such as the UN and WHO. We launched the Northeast Asia Cooperation for Health Security following the proposal made by President Moon Jae-in. We also increased our support for developing countries, which are particularly vulnerable to crises, to overcome COVID-19 and pursue sustainable development.

2020 was a time of high uncertainty in the international situation, including that on the Korean Peninsula. As countries around the world focused on their response to the health crisis and North Korea completely shut its borders to guard against COVID-19, the Korean government, based on close cooperation with the US, continued to engage in untiring efforts to improve inter-Korean relations and advance the Korean Peninsula peace process through dialogue and diplomacy. While managing the situation on the Korean Peninsula in

a stable manner, Korea continued to work with the US to nurture a mutually beneficial and comprehensive Korea-US alliance. At the same time, we engaged in sincere endeavors to further strengthen bilateral relations with countries such as China, Japan, and Russia.

Meanwhile, this administration's continued effort for diplomatic diversification also yielded meaningful results. Korea upgraded its New Southern Policy to New Southern Policy Plus and deepened the ties of partnership with ASEAN countries in all fields, ranging from political and security to economic and social. With the year 2020 marking the New Northern Cooperation Year, Korea has been developing substantive cooperation with Russia and Central Asian countries through concrete projects. We have also continuously expanded our diplomatic horizons to Europe, Latin America, Africa, and the Middle East and fostered cooperation in various fields such as in energy, resources, science and technology, climate, and environment.

Many countries around the world are struggling with the unprecedented pandemic crisis. By sharing with the international community Korea's experience and achievements from our own COVID-19 response, which was rooted in the principles of openness, transparency, and democracy, Korea is playing a leading role in shaping an inclusive and sustainable new international order for the post-COVID-19 era. These remarkable outcomes were realized thanks to the Korean public who demonstrated resilience and strength in the times of crisis. The 2021 Diplomatic White Paper offers an overview of the results of our initiatives, obtained based on the invaluable support of the Korean people.

Looking ahead, MOFA will continue to strive and serve to closely communicate with the people so that our diplomacy reflects the will of the people.

December 2021

Chung Eui-yong

Minister of Foreign Affairs

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I

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World Trends in 2020

- 008 — **Section 1**
Developments in the International
Political Landscape
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Korea's Foreign Policy



Section 1 **Developments in the International Political Landscape**

1 Overview

In 2020, the international order was heavily influenced by the global outbreak of COVID-19. By the end of the year, there were more than 84 million reported cases of COVID-19 and over 1.8 million deaths, a rude awakening to the fact that countries, as well as the international community as a whole, lacked capacity to fight back the pandemic. In the early stages of the pandemic, countries tried to handle the situation individually. However, as such individual efforts had limitations in containing the global spread of the disease, they began to seek international cooperation and solidarity. The COVID-19 crisis worsened regardless due to globalization and close interdependency, and some feared that the world was standing at a crossroads between globalization and deglobalization.

Due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the restriction on cross-border movements, diplomacy came to a near-halt. However, with the pandemic lasting longer than expected, non-contact diplomacy appeared as a means to carry on with diplomatic activities. As a result, major international meetings such as the UN General Assembly and the meetings of APEC, the G20, and ASEAN were held by video conference.

The key events and developments that shaped the global political and economic landscape under such circumstances in 2020 are as follows. First, the US-China strategic competition or conflict continued in the areas of high-tech, human rights, the South China Sea, and cybersecurity and over pinpointing the origin of COVID-19. Second, the signing of the Abraham Accords improved the Arab-Israel relations and pointed to the possibility of cooperation between the two sides. However, the tensions between Iran and the anti-Iran coalition were heightened. Third, Joseph R. Biden Jr. was elected as the 46th US president. After his election, Biden publicly announced that he would pivot from the “America First” foreign policy to strengthening US engagement with its allies and partners and bolstering international cooperation. Fourth, the UK officially left the EU on January 31, after more than three years since the Brexit referendum took place in June 2016. The negotiations on the EU-UK future relationship started in March 2020 and a deal was reached on December 24. Brexit was concluded with the end of the transition period on December 31. Now that the UK is no longer a member, the EU faces the challenge of setting a new direction for its integration and its external relations.

The global economy slowed in 2020 due to the negative impacts of COVID-19 on production and consumption, the global supply chain, and international movements. Despite aggressive stimulus measures, the global economy contracted sharply by 3.3%. The GDP of the US and the EU shrank by 3.5% and 6.6%, respectively. Amidst the global economic downturn, Korea recorded a -1.0% growth rate as a result of its efforts to minimize the negative effects of the pandemic on the economy. In the meantime, 15 countries — ASEAN members, Korea, China, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand — signed the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership in November to continue to promote free trade in the region.

2 Regional Overview

2.1 US

Republican candidate President Donald J. Trump and Democratic candidate former Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. ran for the presidential election in November 2020. Biden was elected as the 46th president of the US, and Senator Kamala Harris was elected as the first female vice president in US history. Under the campaign slogan “Build Back Better,” President-elect Biden announced COVID-19 response, economic recovery, racial equity, and climate change response as four priorities. He also promised to actively pursue economic policies including the revitalization of manufacturing, investment in green infrastructure, and restoration of the middle class and working families.

Meanwhile, as a result of the congressional election in 2020, the Democratic Party had the majority in both the Senate and the House, making the party in control of the White House and Congress for the first time in 12 years. Four Korean American candidates, Andy Kim, Marilyn Strickland, Young Kim, and Michelle Park Steel, were elected to the US House of Representatives. This is the largest number of Korean Americans ever elected to Congress.

The Trump administration had maintained its geopolitical rivalry with China, continuing its “America First” and “Peace Through Strength” policies as the pillars of American foreign policy. The new Biden administration is pursuing the restoration of America’s global leadership through cooperation with allies and partners while maintaining the competition with China, under the slogans of “America is Back” and “Diplomacy is Back.” Also, the Biden administration is expected to adopt a diplomatic strategy that emphasizes universal values such as democracy and human rights, pursue a foreign policy reflecting domestic interests including COVID-19, technology, and jobs, strengthen the supply chain, and respond to global issues such as climate change and health, through multilateral cooperation.

2.2 China

COVID-19, first reported in Wuhan, China, in December 2019, rapidly spread throughout the country. As the situation got aggravated, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak of COVID-19 as a global pandemic. In the early stage, China suffered from difficulties caused by the epidemic spread of COVID-19. After a while, however, China worked to normalize its state administration and achieved progress in the prevention of COVID-19 through community quarantine in select localities and controlled regulation. At the Two Sessions, China’s most important annual political event, which was unprecedentedly delayed to May 2020 due to the outbreak of COVID-19, the Communist Party of China (CPC) has passed a fiscal stimulus measure to recover from the aftermath of COVID-19, a bill regarding the enactment of the draft National Security Law for Hong Kong, and a draft of the Civil Code. At the fifth plenary session of the 19th CPC Central Committee meeting held in October 2020, the CPC adopted the CPC Central Committee’s proposals for the formulation of the 14th Five-Year Plan for 2021-2025 for National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035 and expressed its position on China’s continuous development and reform.

In the foreign policy arena, the global debate surrounding the origin of COVID-19 contributed to the escalation of conflict between the US and China amid their growing tensions in the spheres of economy, technology, and national security. Meanwhile, China exhibited an assertive style of diplomacy based on its achievement of being the only major economy in the world that recorded positive economic growth of 2.3% and successfully controlled the novel virus. It continued to push forward its Belt and Road Initiative and donated vaccines and other medical supplies to developing economies. Furthermore, China took an active stance on regional and global affairs through cooperating with WHO on virus containment, pledging to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060, and signing the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership trade deal on November 15.

2.3 Japan

In 2020, a new prime minister was elected in Japan after the resignation of former Prime Minister Abe Shinzo, the longest-serving prime minister in Japan's constitutional history, after seven years and eight months in office. Japan's Diet elected Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga Yoshihide as the new prime minister in September. The Suga cabinet followed the major policy directions of the previous cabinet in terms of constitutional amendment and the issue of Japanese citizens abducted by North Korea, among others, while focusing on policies that impact daily lives, such as regulatory and administrative reform and digital transformation.

As for its foreign policy, Japan continued its efforts to strengthen the US-Japan alliance and expanded its cooperation with other nations to promote the Free and Open Indo-Pacific vision. It made particular efforts to strengthen relations with ASEAN countries, shown by Prime Minister Suga's choice of Viet Nam and Indonesia as destinations for his first official overseas visit as prime minister. On October 6, the second Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held in Tokyo. Meanwhile, the 2020 Tokyo Olympics was postponed to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and Japan's real GDP growth rate for the fiscal year 2020 was -4.6% according to the Cabinet Office.

2.4 Russia

In 2020, President Vladimir Putin appointed Mikhail Mishustin as prime minister and launched a new cabinet. In a referendum held in July on constitutional amendments to presidential terms, among others, 78% of the voters supported the reform bill, which would allow President Putin to run for the next presidential election. In September, the ruling party, Unified Russia, won the national elections and the Putin government secured a driving force for continuing stable administration.

Russia developed its COVID-19 vaccine, Sputnik V, in August. While focusing

on preventing the spread of COVID-19 within its borders, the Russian government concluded contracts with more than 50 countries to supply Sputnik V, as of December 2020. Meanwhile, as the global economy contracted due to the pandemic, the demand for raw materials decreased and the Russian economy recorded a negative growth rate in 2020.

Externally, Russia's conflicts with the West including the US intensified, and its relations with China continued to strengthen. In the field of disarmament, its cooperation and communication with the US were insufficient due to differing views over the withdrawal of the US from the Treaty of Open Airspace and the extension of the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty. Tensions were escalated over suspicions of the attempted murder of Alexey Navalny with poison and cyberattacks.

Meanwhile, Russia deepened cooperation with China in military, security, the economy, energy, and health even amid the COVID-19 situation, based on their "comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for a new era." Russia focused on achieving regional stability by managing concurrent crises in neighboring regions, such as protests against the presidential election results in Belarus and the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. In addition, Russia held a video summit as the rotational chair of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and BRICS to confirm its stance of supporting multilateralism, rejecting unilateral protectionism, and emphasizing the principle of non-interference in internal affairs and to strengthen unity among member countries.

2.5 Southeast Asia

In 2020, some countries in Southeast Asia experienced political changes such as government transitions. However, most countries maintained continuity and remained focused on responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In Malaysia, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad resigned at the end of February and Muhyiddin Yassin took office on March 1 as the eighth prime minister of Malaysia.

The Muhyiddin administration concentrated all its efforts into fighting the spread of COVID-19 and, at the same time, successfully hosted the APEC Summit via videoconference as the APEC Chair.

In Singapore, the central ruling party, People's Action Party, won the general election in July with the majority of votes, continuing to hold power since the country gained independence in 1965. Singapore formed a new cabinet focusing on continuity and experience, aiming for stability amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Philippines announced that it would terminate the Philippines-United States Visiting Forces Agreement to protest against the actions that the US had taken to address human rights issues in the Philippines. But with tensions with China rising over the South China Sea, the Philippines suspended scrapping the agreement and continued pursuing a balanced and pragmatic diplomacy.

In Viet Nam, the collective leadership of the Communist Party led by Nguyen Phu Trong, the general secretary of the Communist Party and president, and Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc remained stable. Despite the COVID-19 situation, Viet Nam successfully hosted ASEAN-related summits as the ASEAN chair for 2020.

In Thailand, the constitutional court's decision to dissolve the third opposition party, Future Forward Party, coupled with the growing discontent over the government since the military coup in 2014, triggered anti-government protests. The protestors called for the prime minister's resignation, constitutional amendment, and monarchy reform. The deadlock between the government and protestors lasted throughout the year while the country remained under a state of emergency due to COVID-19.

In Myanmar, general elections were held in November, and the ruling National League for Democracy party, led by State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, won a landslide victory and secured 396 of the 476 directly-elected seats in the Assembly of the Union.

2.6 Europe

In 2020, the European Union encountered many internal and external challenges and difficulties. First, the UK officially left the EU in January, reducing the number of EU member states to 27, and discord among member states surfaced on the issue of refugees. Moreover, Europe was severely hit by the COVID-19 pandemic from the beginning of the year. Large outbreaks of COVID-19 hit Spain and Italy first, then it soon spread all over Europe. COVID-19 caused an enormous death toll, and due to numerous lockdowns imposed by governments, key EU members posted serious negative growth: Spain at -11.5%; Italy at -8.9%; France at -8.2%; and Germany at -4.9%.

In the face of the pandemic, the EU strived to overcome internal strife and strengthen the union. First, recognizing that responses by individual member states have a limited effect on curbing the pandemic, the EU centered its efforts on joint purchase and accumulation of medical supplies, emergency assistance to member states, and preemptive purchases of vaccines.

Moreover, in an effort to minimize the negative impact of the pandemic and revitalize the economy, the EU launched an economic assistance package of €540 billion and established an economic relief fund amounting to €750 billion.

External difficulties were not any easier to handle. Discord among Atlantic allies was evident, and tension with Russia continued. With the competition between the US and China becoming more intense, Europe continued its search for the most suitable role and strategy in the global arena.

In response to such external changes and challenges, the EU set strategic autonomy as its top priority and made efforts to reinforce its role in the international community while securing its economic interest. To this end, the EU agreed to conclude, in principle, its negotiations with China on the Comprehensive Investment Agreement in December. It also decided to devise a EU-level strategy for the Indo-Pacific region, following France announcing its strategy in 2019 and Germany and the Netherlands in 2020.

2.7 Oceania

In Australia, the government and the ruling party led by Prime Minister Scott Morrison maintained relatively high approval ratings, backed by proactive efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19 and large-scale stimulus measures. In addition, Australia recorded –1.1% economic growth rate in 2020, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, making it the country with the fastest economic recovery among major countries in the world.

In New Zealand, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern's Labour Party, which had gained confidence for its response to COVID-19, was victorious in the general election in October 2020, winning the overall majority of seats in the House of Representatives. Prime Minister Ardern's second cabinet, formed in November 2020, reflects diversity by having women, indigenous people, and sexual minorities as cabinet members.

2.8 India

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's second term continued and he pursued his Act East Policy, strengthening cooperation with Korea, Japan, and ASEAN countries as well as with the US and Australia. The US President Trump made a state visit to India on February 24-25, and the US Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo and Secretary of Defense Dr. Mark T. Esper visited India on October 26-27, holding the US-India 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue and a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. India participated in the Quad Ministerial Meeting on October 6 and invited Australia to the Malabar 2020 Naval Exercise in November in which India, the US, Japan and Australia participated. India also took part in summits and foreign ministers' meetings of the SCO and BRICS, continuing its communication with China and Russia.

To prevent the spread of COVID-19, the Indian government imposed a nationwide lockdown, which contributed to the 23% decrease in India's economic growth during the second quarter of 2020. However, thanks to the government's large-scale

economic stimulus package, its economy gradually recovered, recording –7.5% growth rate during the third quarter, according to the Ministry of the Statistics & Programme Implementation.

2.9 Central Asia

After the first COVID-19 case was reported in Central Asia in March 2020, countries in the region declared a state of emergency and made efforts to overcome the difficulties caused by the novel virus through regional cooperation such as providing humanitarian aid to one another.

In 2020, the Central Asian region saw active operation of "C5+1" consultative bodies, consisted of the five Central Asian countries and one country from other regions. In February, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo visited Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan for the first time in five years as US secretary of state and, in June, held a C5+1 foreign ministers' video conference. The EU, Japan, Russia, and India also held a virtual C5+1 foreign ministers' meeting with the Central Asian countries to strengthen regional cooperation and address common challenges and threats, including the fight against the spread of COVID-19. In July, China held its first C5+1 foreign ministers' meeting online, furthering its cooperation momentum created from multilateral cooperation with the Central Asian region including through the SCO. Korea hosted the 13th Korea-Central Asia Cooperation Forum face-to-face in November by inviting foreign ministers and vice ministers from the five Central Asian countries to Korea despite the COVID-19 situation.

In Kyrgyzstan, President Sooronbay Jeenbekov resigned in the wake of anti-government protests prompted by the general election in October 2020. Prime Minister Sadyr Japarov resumed the role as acting president and led the discussions on constitutional amendments from a parliamentary system to a presidential system.

2.10 Middle East

The worldwide spread of the COVID-19 pandemic did not spare the Middle East region. The pandemic-induced slowdown of the economy led to a plunge in oil prices, which was detrimental to the economy of the Middle East region. In addition, major events were interrupted by the pandemic; for example, the Expo 2020 Dubai had to be postponed and the G20 Summit was changed from an onsite event in Saudi Arabia to a virtual event.

The tension between the US and Iran continued in 2020 as well. In particular, due to the US air strike on January 2, Ghasem Soleimani, the commander of the Quds Force of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, died. In response to this, Iran suspended additional obligations under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), while carrying out ballistic missile attacks against two US army bases in Iraq. The maximum pressure policy of the US was sustained, which led to unilateral sanctions on Iran, and the assassination of Iranian nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh on November 27 further elevated the regional tension.

On January 28, the Trump administration announced the Middle East peace plan regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which did not gain much support from Palestine or other Arab countries. On August 13, the UAE and Israel announced the normalization of diplomatic relations, which was mediated by the US. This was the first measure taken in 26 years since the normalization between Jordan and Israel in 1994, and the international community highly appreciated this achievement as the proactive step towards peace and stability of the Middle East region.

After the announcement of the normalization between Bahrain and Israel on September 11, the UAE, Bahrain, and Israel signed the normalization agreement, Abraham Accords, in Washington, DC, on September 15. Afterwards, normalization agreements between Sudan and Israel and Morocco and Israel were announced on October 23 and December 10, respectively. As Joe Biden from the Democratic Party won the US presidential election in November, change seemed to be forthcoming

in major Middle Eastern issues such as policy towards Iran including JCPOA renegotiations, policy towards Yemen, and Israeli-Palestinian issues.

2.11 Latin America and the Caribbean

The COVID-19 outbreak hit Latin America relatively later than other regions, with the first confirmed case reported in Brazil on February 26, 2020. However, by the end of 2020, Latin America became one of the most affected regions in the world, accounting for 19.0% and 28.2% of the global COVID-19 cases and deaths, respectively. The region experienced multi-layered political, economic, and social impacts of the rapid spread of COVID-19, and the political landscape was further complicated due to regime changes and the spread of anti-government protests.

Countries in the region showed distinctions in government approval ratings according to their response policy against the pandemic. While approval ratings were high in countries that introduced strong disease control measures in the early days of the COVID-19 outbreak, such as El Salvador, Peru, and Uruguay, the ratings were lower in countries that took less intensive measures or saw spikes in confirmed cases. Meanwhile, all four countries in which a presidential election took place, namely, the Dominican Republic, Bolivia, Guyana, and Suriname, experienced a change of government. In Mexico, Colombia, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Argentina, local elections were canceled or postponed due to the severe COVID-19 situation.

In Venezuela, the Nicolás Maduro administration pushed ahead with parliamentary elections following the end of the parliamentary term on December 6. As a result, the administration won 92% of the seats and thus took control of the National Assembly, which had been led by the opposition. The approval ratings of Speaker of the National Assembly Juan Guaidó, who served as the interim president and was the central figure of the opposition parties, went down contrary to expectation, leaving the situation in Venezuela prolonged.

The Latin American economy had been struggling with low growth since 2014 and

it suffered a further decline in growth in the wake of the spread of COVID-19, showing the growth rates of –8% to –9% in 2020. The global health crisis and the subsequent economic downturn added to the challenging macroeconomic fundamentals of Latin America, which were weakened due to the region’s protracted economic recession. Meanwhile, cooperation among Latin America’s regional organizations was somewhat discouraged due to conflicts of interest caused by differing political views of each government and a slowdown in cooperation dialogue after the COVID-19 outbreak. Despite such a trend, some regional organizations made efforts to jointly cope with the COVID-19 crisis by holding video conferences.

2.12 Africa

There were some concerns that Africa would be most vulnerable to COVID-19 due to poor health and sanitation systems, but each country implemented swift and comprehensive border closures and travel restrictions, and a joint response effort was made at the continental level, centering on the affiliated African Centers for Disease Control and Prevention under the African Union.

Despite the COVID-19 crisis, the 2020 presidential elections were held as scheduled in 10 sub-Saharan African countries. In particular, Seychelles achieved democratic and peaceful regime change for the first time in 43 years, and in Malawi, the Constitutional Court ruled against fraudulent elections in 2019 and realized democratic regime change through re-election. The international community highly praised this achievement amid concerns over the decline of democracy in general in Africa.

Meanwhile, security instability has intensified due to terrorism and armed clashes by Islamic extremist militants across Africa.

While terrorist attacks from extremist militant groups such as Boko Haram and Al-Shabaab continued in the Sahel, Lake Chad, and Horn of Africa regions, the number of civilian casualties and displaced persons also increased rapidly in the Cabo Delgado region of northern Mozambique due to the attacks by Islamic terrorist groups.

In November, in the Tigray region of the northern Ethiopia, humanitarian crisis intensified, including a large-scale refugee crisis due to an armed clash between the federal government and the Tigrayan People’s Liberation Front, raising concerns in the international community.

The economic situation in African countries was hit hard by the spread of COVID-19. The financial situation of most countries worsened due to increased fiscal spending and reduced tax revenues due to COVID-19, and in November 2020, Zambia faced a default situation. As a result, African countries demanded repayment delay and remission of debt to offshore creditors.

Meanwhile, trade under the agreement to establish the African Continental Free Trade Area, which was scheduled to begin in July 2020, was postponed to January 2021 in consideration of various circumstances.

3 Situation on the Korean Peninsula

Following the worldwide spread of COVID-19, North Korea closed its border throughout 2020 to keep the virus at bay, which led to a halt in inter-Korean exchanges and cooperation. The Korean government, even under such circumstances, continued its efforts to bring North Korea back to dialogue and conveyed consistent messages about advancing inter-Korean cooperation and the Korean Peninsula peace process on major occasions. In his New Year’s address and addresses on Independence Movement Day on March 1 and Liberation Day on August 15, President Moon Jae-in expressed his firm willingness to achieve peace and co-prosperity on the Korean Peninsula by implementing inter-Korean agreements and cooperation projects.

At the 75th session of the UN General Assembly on September 22, President Moon stressed the need for cooperation in infectious disease control and public health in the Northeast Asian region, including both Koreas. President Moon also requested

the international community to support the End-of-War Declaration that will help open the door to denuclearization and a permanent peace regime on the Korean Peninsula. Furthermore, through his keynote speech at the 2020 Annual Gala of Korea Society on October 8, President Moon emphasized that the End-of-War Declaration will mark the beginning of peace on the Korean Peninsula and reiterated the Korean government's consistent resolve to pursue the peace process on the Korean Peninsula. President Moon called for the international community's support on this front. The Korean government made every diplomatic effort to improve inter-Korean and the US-North Korea relations in a mutually reinforcing manner by sending continuous and consistent messages on various occasions.

Since the US-North Korea working-level negotiations ended without an agreement, the dialogue between the US and North Korea continued to be in the mire. At the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea on December 28-31, 2019, North Korea heralded that the US-North Korea negotiations would be prolonged and demanded a change in the US attitude toward North Korea. Also, North Korea declared a "frontal breakthrough" against sanctions. The US continued its efforts to engage with North Korea, reiterating its readiness to resume dialogue with North Korea through various channels. However, as North Korea did not respond to the US's proposal and only insisted on a change in the US attitude, no further contact was made between North Korea and the US. However, the leaders of the US and North Korea exchanged personal letters and North Korea did not completely shut the door to dialogue, thereby maintaining the possibility of dialogue.

Meanwhile, North Korea declared further acceleration of its defense construction and its development of strategic weapons at the Fifth Plenary Meeting. In March, it continued armed protest in the name of strengthening self-defense capabilities by launching four short-range projectile tests. In addition, it showed a new type of ICBM and SLBM during the parade celebrating the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Worker's Party on October 10, reaffirming its policy to bolster war deterrent. The Republic of Korea (ROK) emphasized that the Inter-Korean agreements should be

implemented faithfully to prevent mutual armed conflict and war and urged North Korea to participate in dialogue promptly.

North Korea continued to make efforts to maintain traditional friendly relations with major countries such as China and Russia despite the restriction in various exchanges due to COVID-19.

North Korea's leader exchanged verbal correspondence with the Chinese president regarding COVID-19 in May and on the occasion of the 71st anniversary of the founding of China in October. A congratulatory message was sent to the Russian president to mark the 75th anniversary of the Victory Day, reaffirming North Korea's commitment to developing friendly relations between North Korea and Russia.

Relations between Japan and North Korea continued to be strained amid tensions over North Korea's firing of missiles, and North Korea did not respond to Japan's willingness to improve bilateral relations.

Section 2 Korea's Foreign Policy

In 2020, the unprecedented global public health crisis caused by COVID-19 placed a heavier responsibility on governments to protect their people's lives and safety and heightened the call for a diplomacy which is centered on people and national interests. In addition, the continued spread of COVID-19, as well as the intensified US-China competition and the US presidential election in November, made the international order more volatile than ever. Against such a backdrop, the Korean government set protecting the lives and safety of the Korean people; achieving complete denuclearization and permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula; enhancing cooperation with the four neighbouring countries; diversifying Korea's diplomacy to broaden its horizon; and promoting middle-power diplomacy for bridging developed and developing countries as its foreign policy objectives and pursued them vigorously.

1 Protecting the Lives and Safety of People

The COVID-19 crisis was indeed an opportunity to test the people-centered

diplomacy that the Korean government has been pushing for as the top priority of its foreign policy. When countries started to close borders to contain the spread of the virus, the Korean government quickly dispatched chartered and military planes to safely bring back those abroad and provided medical and disease-related assistance to overseas Koreans. The government also strived to help companies faced with difficulties such as suspension of operation or disruptions in parts supply and actively negotiated with countries that are top destinations for business trips on allowing exceptional entry permits for businesspeople. Such efforts led to the introduction of a fast track system with five countries, including China, Japan, and Viet Nam.

In addition to handling COVID-19 matters, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) worked on strengthening its response to incidents and accidents abroad and promoting contactless consular services. MOFA's Rapid Deployment Teams were dispatched to all parts of the world, from Nepal's Annapurna where a Korean went missing while trekking to the sea near Togo where Korean people were abducted. MOFA also improved the quality of e-government services for overseas Korean nationals by launching the mobile app of Consular Services 24 and starting the online service for the reissuance of passports.

2 Achieving Complete Denuclearization and Establishing Lasting and Permanent Peace on the Korean Peninsula

The Korean government's efforts to advance the peace process on the Korean Peninsula were also affected by COVID-19, as diplomatic activities with major countries such as face-to-face consultations became restricted and North Korea blocked its borders.

In spite of these unfavorable circumstances, the Korean government made continuous diplomatic efforts to stably manage the situation on the Korean Peninsula

and maintain the momentum for dialogue with North Korea, standing by its position that substantial progress in the complete denuclearization and permanent peace of the Korean Peninsula can only be achieved through dialogue and negotiation.

Based on its robust alliance and close cooperation with the US, the Korean government responded firmly against North Korea's actions that heightened tensions on the Korean Peninsula — such as the launch of short-range missiles, the bombing of the Inter-Korean Liaison Office, and the killing of a Korean by North Korean soldiers in the West Sea — and managed to prevent the situation from entering a downward spiral. At the same time, the government continued to engage with North Korea to set the tone for the resumption of inter-Korean dialogue on issues such as health and disease control cooperation and humanitarian aid.

The Korean government also cooperated and communicated with major countries such as China, Japan, and Russia to advance the peace process on the Korean Peninsula and worked together with key regional and international organizations such as the UN, the EU, and ASEAN to increase understanding and interest in Korean Peninsula issues and secure strong support for the peace process on the Korean Peninsula.

3 Enhancing Cooperation with the Four Neighboring Countries

Despite challenging circumstances, including the spread of COVID-19, the Korean government maintained strategic communication with the four neighboring countries by utilizing both face-to-face and non-face-to-face means of diplomacy in order to strengthen cooperation in health, disease control, and the economy.

The Korea-US alliance is the buttress of Korea's diplomacy, and the two countries have forged a comprehensive and mutually beneficial relationship. In 2020, Korea and the US maintained close communication through three phone calls between the

leaders and three face-to-face foreign ministerial meetings.

Even before the beginning of the Biden administration, the two countries communicated closely at all levels, and President Moon made a congratulatory phone call to President-elect Joe Biden just four days after his election. The Korean government also provided medical supplies such as diagnostic kits and masks to the US at its request in the early days of the COVID-19 breakout.

Meanwhile, Korea continued to communicate with China to discuss ways to strengthen bilateral relations and the way forward through active face-to-face and non-face-to-face high-level exchanges, including two phone calls between the leaders and the visit to Korea by Chairman of the State Council Yang Jiech and Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

Amid the global trade slowdown on account of the COVID-19 pandemic, Korea and China were the first to introduce a bilateral fast track system and the two countries worked together to minimize the damage to companies by holding the 24th Meeting of the Korea-China Economic Cooperative Committee and the Korea-China Economic Ministers' Meeting.

As for Japan, Korea maintained its two-track approach that separates historical issues from future-oriented cooperation. When a new cabinet was launched in Japan for the first time in seven years and eight months, Korea stepped up its efforts to create a favorable environment for improving Korea-Japan relations. Cooperation between the two countries revolved around practical areas such as consular coordination to provide flights to overseas nationals who wanted to return home. The Korean government, however, took stern measures against Japan's words and actions that contained distorted historical views. During their phone call on September 24, the leaders of Korea and Japan agreed to establish a future-oriented relationship and reaffirmed their commitment to increasing dialogue and communication to resolve pending issues between the two countries. This created a momentum for improving Korea-Japan relations, as manifested by the launch of the Korea-Japan special entry procedure and the increase in economic and political exchanges.

Celebrating the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations in 2020, Korea and Russia worked together closely in practical areas through active high-level exchanges such as the phone call between President Moon and President Putin. The two countries signed the 9-Bridge Action Plan 2.0 to lay the institutional basis for expanding concrete cooperation and utilized various platforms to broaden the scope of bilateral cooperation into industrial complexes, shipbuilding, Arctic affairs, and COVID-19 response.

In addition, the celebrations for the Korea-Russia Year of Mutual Exchange, a year for commemorating the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, were extended until 2021 in consideration of the COVID-19 situation.

4 Diversifying Korea's Diplomacy to Broaden the Scope

In 2020, the Korea government produced tangible results in diversifying its diplomacy, which had been a top priority since President Moon took office, and successfully raised the level of cooperation with its partners. Firstly, the government announced the launch of the New Southern Policy Plus, a step up from the New Southern Policy to reflect the changes in the international environment caused by COVID-19. The announcement took place at the ASEAN-ROK Summit on November 12, and ASEAN leaders expressed their full support. At the Mekong-ROK Summit on November 13, the leaders agreed to upgrade Korea-Mekong relations to a strategic partnership and further deepen cooperation. Even amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, there were active face-to-face and non-face-to-face exchanges between Korea and ASEAN countries, including the Special ASEAN Plus Three Summit on April 14, the Cambodian prime minister's visit to Korea on February 3-5, phone calls between the leaders of Korea and India on April 9 and October 21, and the Korean foreign minister's official visit to Viet Nam on September 17-18. Furthermore, in November, the Korean government signed the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership agreement,

the world's largest free trade deal participated by 15 Asia-Pacific economies including ASEAN members, China, and Japan.

In celebration of the New Northern Cooperation Year in 2020, the Korean government worked on developing a friendly and cooperative relationship with Russia and the five Central Asian countries to deliver concrete outcomes in the New Northern Policy. Even in the face of COVID-19, the government solidified trust with these countries through non-face-to-face diplomacy such as summit calls; strengthened cooperation in priority areas such as shipbuilding, energy, and infrastructure; and expanded cooperation areas to include innovation, public health, and the environment.

In addition, the Korea-Central Asia Cooperation Forum, an annual meeting launched in 2007 under the leadership of Korea, was upgraded to minister-level, providing an opportunity for Korea-Central Asia relations to take a leap forward.

5 Leading Multilateral Diplomacy to Strengthen Global Solidarity and Cooperation

The Korean government carried out active diplomacy to lead the multilateral efforts for strengthening global solidarity and cooperation against COVID-19, a common challenge for humanity. MOFA established the COVID-19 New International Cooperation Task Force in April to systematically respond to the demand for international cooperation on COVID-19 and institutionalize international cooperation in the field of health and security.

Furthermore, the Korean government played a leading role in launching a group of friends in health and security within the UN, WHO, and UNESCO in May. The government also established a development cooperation initiative called "ODA KOREA: Building TRUST" and provided approximately \$160 million to help developing countries respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and strengthen their resilience.

In his keynote speech at the 75th session of the UN General Assembly in September, President Moon expressed the Korean government's strong will to actively take part in the global response to COVID-19 and climate change, as well as in the global efforts to revitalize the economy, and suggested establishing a Northeast Asia Cooperation for Health Security (NEACHS). After close consultations with neighboring countries, Korea hosted a meeting at the end of December to launch NEACHS together with the US, China, Japan, Russia, and Mongolia.

Meanwhile, in order to contribute to international cooperation on the global green transition and climate change response, the Korean government announced the Green New Deal in July and worked together closely with the international community for its effective implementation.

Korea also cemented its position as a global leader in climate change response and reaffirmed its strong commitment to climate action by declaring to go carbon neutral by 2050 in October and submitting its long-term low-carbon development strategy and a renewed national greenhouse gas reduction target to the UN in December.

II

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Diplomacy for COVID-19 Response

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Section 1 Protecting the Life and Safety of Korean Nationals

1 Supporting the Repatriation of Overseas Korean Nationals

In the wake of the worldwide spread of COVID-19, countries took preventive measures such as entry restrictions on foreigners, complete suspension of international flight operations, and border shutdowns. Korean nationals across the globe were affected by such measures and some were left stranded, not being able to return home. On March 19, 2020, MOFA set up a task force headed by the second vice minister of foreign affairs, to work to ensure swift and safe repatriation of overseas Korean nationals. The task force provided assistance by sending government-chartered aircrafts and having consultations with governments and airlines of other countries. As a result, a total of approximately 52,000 overseas Korean nationals safely returned home as of the end of December 2020. After their return, they were placed in temporary living facilities, jointly operated by MOFA and other related ministries, in consideration of the incubation period of COVID-19 and its asymptomatic infection.

1.1 Support for Repatriation through Government-chartered Aircrafts and Military Aircrafts

(1) Wuhan, China

In January 2020, the Chinese government shut down the city of Wuhan due to the spread of COVID-19, rendering Korean nationals residing in the city isolated. Around that time, some countries had taken measures to impose entry ban on people who departed from the Chinese city. The Korean government held a meeting with related government agencies and decided to send chartered aircrafts to Wuhan. On January 29-30, a joint Rapid Deployment Team headed by the second vice minister of MOFA was dispatched to the city along with the first batch of chartered aircraft. A total of 848 overseas Koreans who were staying in Wuhan safely returned to Korea on charter flights in three rounds of repatriation operation. These operations were the first case in which the government sent chartered planes to protect overseas Korean nationals from the risks of an infectious disease and to support their repatriation.

(2) Yokohama, Japan

In February, the government sent Korean Air Force No. 3, a presidential jet, to Yokohama in Japan. As the number of COVID-19 cases increased on the cruise ship *Diamond Princess* anchored at Yokohama Port, the Korean government decided to help 14 overseas Koreans aboard the vessel — nine passengers and five crew members — to disembark and return home. On February 19, all 14 Korean nationals left the ship, and the MOFA Rapid Deployment Team returned to Korea on the presidential plane with seven overseas Koreans who wished to be transported to Korea. This case shows the efforts of the Korean government, which places the highest priority to the lives and safety of the Korean people, to employ every available means to support their return home.

(3) Iran

In Iran, flight operations with its neighboring countries were virtually suspended due

to the spread of COVID-19, and proper medical services could not be provided because of the international sanctions imposed on the country. For the Korean nationals in Iran who wished to return to Korea but was not able to find available flight tickets, the Korean embassy in Iran had negotiations with Iran Air to send a chartered plane and transported 80 Korean people from Teheran to Dubai on March 19. From there, the Korean nationals were safely repatriated to Incheon in Korea on a government-chartered plane.

(4) Peru

The government of Peru declared a state of emergency on March 15, 2020, and closed the borders in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19. As the Peruvian government prohibited not only the entry into Peru of all flights but also movement within its borders, Korean nationals traveling in Peru were stranded in several parts of the country. The Korean government had consultations with the Peruvian government to provide assistance for the repatriation of the stranded Koreans. The plan was to first gather the Koreans across the country to Lima, the capital of Peru, by transferring them by bus or via LATAM Airlines, then repatriate all of them to Incheon through Mexico via Aeromexico Airlines. The Korean embassy in Peru actively supported the repatriation by organizing the Team Korea with the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) and the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). As a result, 198 Korean nationals safely returned home on March 26.

(5) Italy

In the early stage of the global pandemic, Italy saw a sharp increase in the COVID-19 cases and its fatality rate. Korean nationals residing there were facing great uncertainties and growing risks of contracting the virus. The Korean community in the country looked into how many Korean people wished to return to Korea, and MOFA signed a contract with Korean Air to charter its planes. The government sent the chartered planes to Italy to transport Korean nationals for two times, on April 1 and 2, and brought a total of 514 Koreans back home.

(6) Ethiopia

Korean nationals across Africa were safely brought back to Korea thanks to close collaboration between government ministries. The Korean government decided to repatriate those stranded in Africa on the plane that the Ministry of National Defense (MND) had chartered to transport the 12th batch of Korea's Hanbit Unit to South Sudan. The initial plan of the defense ministry was adjusted accordingly, and the plane carried the troops to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia then they transferred to an Ethiopian Airlines plane headed to South Sudan. Meanwhile, a total of 60 Koreans from Ethiopia, Ghana, Sudan, and Kenya arrived in Addis Ababa to board the charter flight for Incheon, Korea. The Korean government task force for supporting the repatriation of overseas Korean nationals decided to offer a 50% discount on the airfare for those who had to travel from Ghana, Sudan, and Kenya to Addis Ababa, as part of the government's efforts for proactive administration.

(7) Iraq

MOFA worked together with international organizations and several embassies of other countries to provide support for the repatriation of Korean workers in Iraq. While the Korean government prohibits travel to Iraq, more than 1,000 Korean people were working for Korean companies in the country in 2020. If the Iraqi government was to decide to close its borders to prevent the spread of COVID-19, those Korean workers would have had no choice but to be isolated in Iraq and exposed to the disease without access to proper medical services. In the earlier stage of the COVID-19 outbreak, Baghdad International Airport had been closed from March, leaving no commercial flights running. However, the Iraqi government began to permit operation of some flights for special purposes in May. Swiftly, the Korean embassy in Iraq started negotiations to arrange seats for Korean workers on the planes prepared by the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) and the Embassy of the United States in Iraq. As a result, a group of Korean workers could return home first on a US military plane in May, and the rest on the planes offered by UNAMI in the span of two months from

May to July. MOFA cooperated with the MND to provide two air force tanker planes for the repatriation of 293 Korean workers from Iraq.

1.2 Support for Repatriation through Other Means

In addition to sending chartered aircrafts, the Korean government provided assistance in various ways to help overseas Korean nationals return home safely. For example, the government worked to provide information on special or alternative flights and help overseas Korean communities in chartering special flights themselves. Also, it negotiated with other countries to have overseas Korean nationals repatriated aboard the planes sent by foreign governments to import Korea's personal protective equipment and helped the disembarkation of Korean nationals isolated on ships. Furthermore, MOFA worked to ensure a smooth repatriation process by collaborating with other countries in asking for overflight permits for Korea's repatriation flights, permission for overseas Koreans to move to the airport amid lockdowns, and swift issuance of transit visas.

(1) Securing Special or Alternative Flights

For those overseas Koreans whose return flight had been canceled or who could not find available flight tickets to Korea, MOFA worked to find alternative or special flights. It provided information on special flights scheduled by airlines or other countries' embassies on its missions' websites and social media channels and to emergency contact numbers. For those stranded in such regions as Africa and South America where it was hard to assign special flights because the number of overseas Koreans was too small, MOFA negotiated with foreign countries to allow Koreans to board the planes their governments had chartered to transport their own people. For example, a total of 66 Korean nationals arrived in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire, Senegal, Guinea, Sudan, Kenya, and Ghana on Japanese charter flights to return to Korea.

(2) Helping Overseas Korean Communities Charter Flights

Overseas Korean communities also sought to charter flights themselves after examining the number of Koreans who wanted to return to their home country. MOFA played a bridging role between such Korean communities and airlines in their host country and provided support to ensure their host country's government approve of opening the airspace. In addition, MOFA helped those Koreans in overseas countries where a complete lockdown had been in place or flight operation had been suspended due to COVID-19, by asking the government of their host country to grant permission for them to move to a neighboring country or region to get to the international airport so that they could return to Korea.

(3) Having Korean Nationals Board the Flights that Foreign Governments Sent to Import Korea's Medical Supplies

When foreign governments sent aircrafts to Korea to import Korea's personal protective equipment or invite Korean medical advisors to their countries, Korean diplomatic missions consulted with the host country to have overseas Korean nationals repatriated aboard the planes departing for Korea. For example, the Moroccan government provided support in repatriating Korean people from Morocco on the aircraft of Royal Air Morocco assigned to transport the test kits the country purchased from Korea.

(4) Helping Korean Nationals Isolated in Ships

COVID-19 also prompted situations where cruise ships and deep-sea fishing vessels were stranded at sea, not being welcome to berth or disembark their passengers. Korean crew and passengers were also among those confined to their cabins on board for days or weeks. Korean diplomatic missions in countries where vessels were anchored still carrying passengers, including Uruguay, the Philippines, Singapore, and Portugal, had consultations with the shipping company and the authorities of the host country to receive approval for the disembarkation of Koreans. MOFA arranged return flights for the disembarked Koreans and helped them return home safely by asking their host country to issue a pass so that they could go to the airport.

1.3 Operating Temporary Living Facilities

In addition to supporting safe transport of overseas Koreans from countries with high risks of COVID-19 infection, MOFA worked with other ministries to arrange and operate temporary living facilities for them. Those who returned to Korea on government charter flights in the early stage of the pandemic were placed in these temporary living facilities for 14 days in consideration of the incubation period of COVID-19 and its asymptomatic infection, and MOFA provided assistance during their quarantine period in the facilities. Later on, as the government introduced special entry procedures, those who entered Korea via the new measure were placed under self-quarantine.

(1) Temporary Living Facility for Koreans Returned from Wuhan

After China took the lockdown measure in Wuhan, 848 Korean expats in the city returned to Korea on government-chartered planes in three rounds of repatriation operation. As little was known about the novel virus at that time, many people in Korea voiced concerns over the risk of domestic spread of COVID-19 as a result of the repatriation. Accordingly, the Central Accident Response Headquarters decided to arrange a temporary living facility for those returning from Wuhan so that they could stay in the facility for 14 days after their arrival, the number of days known as the incubation period of COVID-19. The Ministry of the Interior and Safety formed a government joint support group whose mission was to ensure safety and convenience of the returning Koreans during their quarantine period. When they arrived in Korea, the group transported them to the designated facility; provided necessary goods and food, interpretation services, and medical and psychological counseling support; and ensured sanitation in the facility. MOFA dispatched interpreters to the support group.

(2) Temporary Living Facility for Koreans Returned from Iran

By the time Korean nationals in Iran returned to Korea on a government charter flight, it was difficult to operate a separate temporary living facility for returning Koreans

because hospital beds were in short supply. MOFA turned the KOICA Training Center into a temporary living facility and had those returned from Iran quarantine there. The ministry made best efforts to ensure the safety and convenience of the Korean nationals and provided goods and food for the 14 days of quarantine period. On the final day of their stay, all 79 of them tested negative for COVID-19 and returned home.

2 Support for Korean Nationals Staying Overseas

2.1 Providing Medical Support

As the COVID-19 outbreak developed into a pandemic, Korean nationals across the world also contracted the virus. The first such case was confirmed in Vancouver, Canada, on January 29, 2020. Following this case, MOFA started to provide online medical consultation services in partnership with the Health Service Command ROK Armed Forces and provided information about the emergency medical services that the National Fire Agency provided for those who lacked access to proper medical services in foreign countries.

In addition, diplomatic missions made efforts to negotiate with their host country to ensure that Korean patients receive appropriate medical treatment there and provided necessary consular assistance in a timely manner by identifying Korean patients' needs. Korean diplomatic missions have been committed to ensuring that there are no overseas Koreans who feel marginalized and kept monitoring the developments in overseas COVID-19 situations.

2.2 Supporting Korean Expats' Return to Overseas Countries

With the COVID-19 pandemic prolonged, Korean expats who had been repatriated

to Korea hoped to return overseas to continue their businesses and studies, but they were faced with various difficulties. In the 52nd Task Force Meeting, MOFA decided to support their return. Following this decision, MOFA worked to arrange special repatriation flights, negotiate with other countries to ease entry restrictions on Korean nationals, and help Koreans have their visa issued. As of the end of December 2020, a total of 14,756 Korean people returned to 44 overseas countries where they had been based in before the pandemic.

2.3 Making Efforts at High-levels

High-level officials in Korea were also committed to protecting Korean nationals staying in overseas countries from COVID-19 infection. Government leaders including the president and ministers spoke on the phone and exchanges correspondence with their foreign counterparts to discuss bilateral and multilateral cooperation and held video conferences with Korean diplomatic missions to ask for their active support for the protection of overseas Korean nationals as well as for close communication with their host country.

On January 28, 2020, when COVID-19 began to spread around the world, Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha had a conference call with Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and asked for China's continued cooperation to ensure the safety of Korean nationals in China including support for their repatriation. Minister Kang promised that the Korean government would also cooperate with China on this matter.

On July 24, 2020, MOFA held the First Video Conference with Overseas Koreans, presided over by President Moon Jae-in, to discuss COVID-19 situations in India, New York, Viet Nam, Wuhan, Japan, Thailand, and other regions and to raise spirits of the participants going through the difficult time. Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Kyung-wha held meetings with heads of mission frequently since the COVID-19 outbreak and asked them to put the safety of Korean nationals first and closely communicate with the government of their host country.

Section 2 Identifying Difficulties in Doing Business Abroad and Supporting Businesses to Solve the Difficulties

1 Dealing with Disruptions in Supply Chains and Supporting Korean Companies Abroad

As countries around the world imposed restrictions on the movement and activity of people to control the spread of COVID-19, companies began to experience difficulties such as disruptions in procurement of parts and materials and shutdown of operations. MOFA endeavored to actively support those affected by such situations.

In January 2020, China extended the Lunar New Year holidays that was due to end on January 30 to February 9 and placed restrictions on the movement and activities of people across the country. This affected the operations of Korean companies as well as their local partners because such measures as temporary shutdowns were enforced. For instance, disruptions in the import of the wiring harness, a key component in manufacturing cars that is mainly sourced from China, led to inventory shortages, and subsequently to production halts in Korea's automobile manufacturing industry. To support those affected, MOFA, together with the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE) and the Korean missions in China, requested cooperation of relevant provincial governments for the early resumption of wiring harness production. Once

production was back up and running, MOFA worked to minimize the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic to domestic industries by setting up a support network among local factories in China, diplomatic missions there, and KOTRA to ensure smooth movement of goods.

As COVID-19 spread to Southwest Asia in March, the central government of India implemented a lockdown across the country on March 24, which was extended to May 3 on April 14. The central government of India announced that it would ease the lockdown beginning from April 20 for some industries, including healthcare, agriculture and fishery, export manufacturing, finance, and logistics, that meet certain preconditions, fearing that the prolonged lockdown could aggravate the country's economic situation. Nevertheless, the state government of Tamil Nadu unilaterally decided to extend the existing strict lockdown until May 3. Production shutdown in Tamil Nadu caused difficulties for Korean companies procuring intermediary goods from manufacturers in India. MOFA and the Korean consulate general in Tamil Nadu responded quickly and obtained permission from the Tamil Nadu state government for production resumption, thereby avoiding further supply chain disruptions.

Furthermore, the Korean diplomatic missions in India conducted a survey on the Korean firms in India on April 12 to identify difficulties caused by the Indian government's quarantine measures and resolve them at the early stages. Based on the survey results, the missions requested cooperation from the relevant Indian authorities including the Ministry of External Affairs, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs to ensure smooth customs procedures, resumption of operations, and issuance of passes for transportation during lockdown. This contributed to making significant progress in resolving the difficulties faced by Korean firms operating in India.

2 Supporting the Procurement of Quarantine Products

Faced with continued shortages in meeting domestic demand for face masks and the highest level of Infectious Disease Risk Alert following a surge in the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases, the Korean government placed export restrictions on medical-grade face masks. On March 5, the Korean government expanded the export restriction to include all types of face masks and implemented the five-day rotation face mask distribution system. On the same day, the Special National Assembly Committee on COVID-19 Response urged the government to support the import of medical-grade face masks to tackle domestic shortages.

China had listed face masks and its manufacturing materials on the government procurement and stockpile list since February 7. To support the stabilization of domestic supply and demand, MOFA discussed with China through diplomatic channels the importation of face masks. On March 9, the Chinese government informed the Korean government of their decision to export five million face masks to Korea.

3 Special Entry Procedure for Businesspeople

3.1 Case by Case Entry Negotiation for Businesspeople

As COVID-19 started to spread worldwide since February 2020, a number of countries imposed restrictions on visitors from overseas including Korea. Such restrictions made business trips as well as corporate activities abroad difficult.

On February 29, the Central Disaster Management Headquarters decided to facilitate the entry procedures for those with medical certificates traveling for business purposes in order to support Korean companies' activities abroad. Subsequently, MOFA directed its missions in 27 trading partner countries to negotiate with their host country to allow Korean businesspeople to enter the country with exemption from local mandatory quarantine.

On March 3, the Office for Government Policy Coordination, the prime minister's secretariat, launched a task force and prepared a guideline for systemic division of work among different ministries to help Korean businesspeople enter foreign countries where entry restriction against foreigners were put in place. Accordingly, ministries including the MOTIE, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, and the Ministry of SMEs and Startups (MSS) looked into businesspeople's concerns over entering overseas countries and selected priority cases for consultation. The selected cases were then transferred to MOFA through the task force, after which MOFA directed its missions in concerned countries to consult with the host government. The missions consulted with their host country's authorities in charge of foreign affairs or border security and, to minimize extra burden on the host country's fight against COVID-19, suggested country-specific and tailored conditions to permit Korean businesspeople's entry.

When a foreign government accepted Korea's suggestion and allowed special entry for Korean businesspeople, those travelling for business purposes were required to inform the responsible Korean ministry of their travel schedule. Upon receipt of this information, the ministry requested the businesspeople to receive a medical certificate issued by a medical facility designated by the Ministry of Health and Welfare (MOHW) one or two days before departure. Consequently, as of December 2020, the task force assisted a total of 23,905 businesspeople to enter a total of 23 countries with exemption from local mandatory quarantine measures.

3.2 Negotiating a Special Entry Procedure to Viet Nam for Business Travelers

As the cases of businesspeople from large companies using chartered planes to enter other countries for large-scale investment and major projects went successfully, the need was raised to arrange special entry procedures for the essential travel of small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). It became necessary to come up with a solution to support SMEs facing difficulties that directly threatened their business

survival such as operational disruptions or unpaid receivables due to not being able to conduct field testing of delivered orders overseas. In response to the needs of SMEs, MOFA decided to create a package program for special entry, ranging from the recruitment of essential business travelers to the arrangement of chartered planes to infectious disease control and quarantine measures.

To implement this program, the Korean embassy in Viet Nam held close and constant discussions with both the central and local governments in the country. The central government's approval for special entry was necessary, and detailed measures needed to be discussed with respective local governments that had jurisdiction over arrival ports and quarantine hotels. In mid-April, the Vietnamese government, taking into account close economic cooperation between the two countries, permitted the entry of the special group of Korean business travelers. The consensus shared between the leaders of the two countries through a phone conversation on April 3 and the ASEAN+3 Virtual Summit on April 14 on the necessity of ensuring the movement of essential travelers and their economic activities played an important role in this process.

In March 29, a group of 345 business travelers from 144 SMEs were allowed entry into Viet Nam. With this project marking the beginning, MOFA, by operating special flights on demand, supported special entry into Viet Nam of over 20,000 Korean nationals including business travelers as of the end of 2020, while Viet Nam's entry restriction remained in place.

3.3 Institutionalizing Special Entry Procedures for Businesspeople

(1) Introduction of Korea-China Fast Track Procedures for Businesspeople

While negotiating the special entry of overseas travelers on a case-by-case basis, the Korean government also proceeded with institutionalizing the special entry procedure for business travelers. The first outcome was the Korea-China fast track procedure, which minimized the entry requirements for business travelers between the two countries.

Korean companies faced difficulties in carrying out business activities when China,

due to the spread of the novel virus, temporarily prohibited foreign nationals from entering the country and reduced international flights to one schedule a week per airline. In addition, the 14-day quarantine period that had to be carried out either at their residence or at a designated facility upon arrival further burdened business travelers.

Korea and China formed a consensus on the necessity of ensuring essential cross-border travel under mutual compliance of infectious disease prevention and control guidelines of the respective countries, through a series of high-level exchanges such as the phone call between the leaders, the ASEAN+3 Virtual Summit, and the Korea-Japan-China foreign ministers' meeting. Against this backdrop, MOFA communicated closely with related ministries including MOTIE, the MSS, the MOHW, and the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency and started discussions with the government of China.

Through the implementation of the Korea-China fast track procedure for business travelers, Korean travelers were able to carry out essential business activities following a minimal period of quarantine after entering China. MOFA monitored the operation of the fast track procedure regularly through the diplomatic channel with China and continued to make improvements in the procedure based on user feedback.

(2) Expansion of Fast Track Procedure

After the implementation of the Korea-China fast track procedure for business travelers, the Korean government began to pursue similar schemes between countries with high demand for business travel. As a result, Korea reached agreements with the UAE on August 5, Indonesia on August 17, Singapore on September 4, and Japan on October 8 to implement fast track procedures. On December 4, it was agreed with Viet Nam to begin the fast track procedure from January 1, 2021.

Through these procedures, over 16,000 Korean business travelers were able to enter five countries including China as of the end of December. In the case of Japan, an agreement was reached to include those Korean nationals who were newly hired by Japanese companies but had been unable to enter the country due to restrictions in the scope of eligible travelers to use the Korea-Japan special entry procedure.

Special entry procedures for business travelers made cross-border travel more convenient, which contributed to Korean companies expanding their overseas markets and exports. It was discussed in multilateral meetings such as the G20 and APEC meetings as an exemplary case for movement of essential personnel in a pandemic situation.

4 Exporting Medical Devices for COVID-19

As overseas demand for domestic medical supplies spiked during the pandemic, a systematic support at the government level was required. Accordingly, an Inter-Ministerial Task Force for Export of Medical Devices was established on March 24. The TF held eight meetings, presided over by the deputy minister for economic affairs, and reviewed the support requests submitted by other countries through diplomatic channels. It provided support in information-sharing among related ministries and addressing difficulties concerning contracts and delivery and assisted the sending of Korean-made medical supplies overseas.

4.1 Support for Exporting Testing Kits

In response to the demand for testing kits around the world, the Korean government supported the export of testing kits, taking into consideration each country's degree and effect of damage. In response to the request from the US, the UAE, and Indonesia, the Korean government communicated with relevant companies and provided active support in securing supply and resolving delivery difficulties. As a result, 750,000 testing kits were delivered to the US Federal Emergency Management Agency, while 500,000 were delivered to the state government of Maryland, and 300,000 to the Colorado state government. Moreover, 650,000 testing kits were delivered to the UAE, and 465,600 to Indonesia in business-to-business arrangements.

As testing kits were delivered rapidly to the US federal and state governments, the US expressed its gratitude for the Korean government's support for the export of testing kits, through various channels including a Korea-US presidential phone call, a letter from the Maryland governor to the Korean president, the US ambassador to Korea's expression of gratitude, and a letter from the assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs to the Korean ambassador to the US.

Meanwhile, in response to a global surge in demand for Korean-made testing kits, the Korean government provided contact information of manufacturers to foreign governments via embassies and consulates in Korea and Korean missions overseas. The Korean government supported other governments to directly negotiate with Korean manufacturers and successfully sign contracts. In this process, the Korean government monitored the negotiating process and provided indirect support towards signing of contracts between Korean companies and foreign governments, through measures such as resolving delivery difficulties, asking for relevant agencies' cooperation, and holding meetings with foreign ambassadors in Korea. Additionally, the Korean government drew up guidelines on its support for the export of medical supplies and, when requested, provided the guidelines along with the contact information of the manufacturers of medical supplies to embassies and consulates in Korea as well as Korean missions overseas. As a result, as of December 2020, Korean companies exported approximately 2.851 billion dollars-worth testing kits to more than 170 countries.

— Guidelines on the Korean government's support for the export of medical supplies —

- The Korean government does not control or allocate the quantity of testing kits by country or by company.
- The Korean government does not negotiate for any side, as the price and quantity of medical supplies should be determined by contract between the buyer and the supplier.
- The Korean government does not guarantee that the performance and the quality of supplies befit the standards of the buyer, including the accuracy of performance test, despite the rendered support for the whole procedure. All issues related to product requirements should be managed and checked according to the agreement between the buyer and the supplier, or according to the import permit (marketing permission) of the importing country.

Meanwhile, to promote the export of Korean medical supplies, MOFA inquired of the UN about the purchase demand for COVID-19 testing kits manufactured by Korean companies in March 2020, and in response to the inquiry the United Nations Procurement Division (UNPD) requested a list of Korean companies and their contact information. MOFA delivered the information on the Korean manufacturers of testing kits to the UN and emphasized how significant and meaningful it would be for the manufacturers on the list to participate in the UN procurement market. It also encouraged the Korean manufacturers to check and reply to the e-mail sent by the UN if they wished to participate in the UN procurement market in the future.

Also, MOFA established a cooperation system with the Public Procurement Service and the MOHW and helped Korean companies participate in the UN procurement market by supporting registration as vendors in the UN procurement system and providing consultation related to overseas certification applications. After having discussions with the UNPD on price and quantity, one Korean company was finally selected as a supplier for COVID-19 testing kits, and a total of 150,000 test kits were delivered subsequently.

4.2 Support for Exporting Face Masks

In the wake of the global spread of COVID-19, a number of requests were made from March through Korea's diplomatic channels for the export of face masks. However, mask export was banned in Korea following a notification of the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS), and the government task force for the stabilization of mask supply gave exceptional approval of mask transportation for Korean nationals residing abroad. As the domestic spread of COVID-19 was contained later on and mask production increased, mask supply and demand in Korea became stabilized. Accordingly, the government decided to expand its humanitarian support for the international community from May 7, and MOFA started to work on supporting mask export. The Korean government approved B2G export upon requests from foreign

governments and, from June 1, it allowed B2B export as well.

For B2G export support, the government set up a task force led by the MFDS and participated by MOFA, the MOTIE, and the Korea International Trade Association (KITA). First, MOFA reviewed purchase requests made by foreign governments and asked for export approval from the Korean government’s task force for the stabilization of mask supply. Following the approval, the MOTIE and KITA matched foreign governments to Korean suppliers who could export the requested amount of face masks.

B2G Export Procedure

| Support for Prior Approval | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| MFDS | Exportable Quantity Report by Suppliers |
| MOFA | B2G Prior review & Consultation Request |
| MOTIE | Humanitarian Purposes Review & Agenda Proposal |
| MASK T/F | Validity Review |
| MFDS | Export Pre-approval |
| Support for Export | |
| Mask Export Support T/F | Export Support, Supplier Matching Support, etc. |
| Support for Customs | |
| Supplier & Korea Custom Service | Export Declaration & Inventories Management |

Among the countries that requested support, MOFA shortlisted a priority group of 38 countries based on their COVID-19 situations and diplomatic relations with Korea. The task force focused its support on this group first to match up with capable Korean mask suppliers according to their demand.

From June, Korean diplomatic missions in 34 countries, including the US, countries in the EU, Russia, Brazil and India, collected necessary information to help Korean companies enter the overseas markets for B2B mask export. MOFA shared this

information with related organizations such as KITA and KOTRA. In addition, the Korean government came up with plans to create demand in case there was a surge in mask production and inventories.

Such government-wide activities to support mask export was an important part of Korea’s effort to cooperate with the world on disease prevention and control while keeping domestic mask supply and demand stable.

Section 3 Promoting International Cooperation and Solidarity

1 Overview of Diplomatic Activities for Responding to COVID-19

To systematically cope with the growing demand for international cooperation in responding to COVID-19 and to enhance Korea's middle-power standing through the institutionalization of cooperation in health security, MOFA established the COVID-19 Task Force on April 29, 2020.

Playing the role as MOFA's COVID-19 secretariat, the new task force for international cooperation on COVID-19 oversaw the COVID-19 Comprehensive Response Team meetings at the MOFA level. Externally the team attended the COVID-19 Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasures Headquarters meetings, supervised and coordinated follow-up measures, and consulted with other ministries on behalf of MOFA.

In addition, the task force prepared a draft model agreement for strengthening cooperation with other countries in the health fields and COVID-19 response. Based on this, Korea signed health cooperation agreements with various countries. The Memorandum of Understanding on Expanding International Cooperation in the areas of

Health Security and Health & Medical Welfare between MOFA and the MOHW was amended and signed on July 21 to strengthen the health security cooperation system with the MOHW.

In response to the transboundary health security crisis of COVID-19, the Korean government and the private sector cooperated closely to devise more innovative and preemptive policies.

The advisory meetings were held under the themes of "Health Security through International Organizations: Evaluation of the Current System and Future Challenges" on May 27, "New International Cooperation in the COVID-19 Era: Health and Development Cooperation" on July 3, and "The Direction of International Cooperation in the Era of the New Normal Era Due to the Prolonged Pandemic" on August 14.

Also, in order to systematically respond to health security cooperation demands, MOFA appointed Dr. Oh Myoung-don and Dr. Lee Jong-koo, experts in new infectious diseases and professors at the College of Medicine at Seoul National University, as Global Health Security Ambassadors and supported their activities.

The Global Health Security Ambassadors, along with health experts from Korea and the US, participated in a video conference hosted by the Korea Economic Institute of America to share their experience in disease control and prevention and discuss ways to strengthen future Korea-US cooperation.

2 Contactless Diplomatic Activities

As face-to-face diplomacy was practically impossible due to the COVID-19 situation, MOFA actively conducted virtual diplomacy.

In 2020, President Moon Jae-in and Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha had a total of 71 and 107 telephone and video conferences, respectively, and worked hard to protect overseas Koreans from the COVID-19 situation, help businesspeople to continue their

business activities, and strengthen international cooperation and solidarity in response to the infectious disease.

Contactless diplomatic activities at the summit level (a total of 71 cases)

| Counterpart | Detail |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Northeast Asia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> China (Feb. 20, May 13) |
| Asia and the Pacific | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viet Nam (Apr. 3) Australia (Apr. 7, Aug. 14) India (Apr. 9, Oct. 21) Bhutan (Apr. 13) Indonesia (Apr. 21) New Zealand (July 28) Japan (Sept. 24) Malaysia (Oct. 19) |
| North America | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> US (Mar. 24, Apr. 18, June 1, Nov. 12) Canada (Mar. 26, Oct. 27) |
| Latin America and the Caribbean | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colombia (Apr. 2) Peru (Apr. 6) Honduras (June 12) Argentina (July 3) Brazil (Oct. 5) Chile (Oct. 22) |
| Europe | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turkey (Mar. 6, June 23) France (Mar. 13, Dec. 3) Sweden (Mar. 20) Spain (Mar. 24, June 4) Lithuania (Mar. 27) Bulgaria (Mar. 31) Denmark (Apr. 2, Oct. 21) Poland (Apr. 7) Estonia (Apr. 8) Ukraine (Apr. 10) Finland (Apr. 22) Austria (Apr. 28) Ireland (May 4) Belgium (May 15) Georgia (May 21) Swiss (June 26) Germany (Oct. 1) Italy (Oct. 20) Luxembourg (Oct. 20) UK (Nov. 10) |

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Eurasia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uzbekistan (Apr. 13, Oct. 6) Turkmenistan (Aug. 28) Russia (Sept. 28) Kazakhstan (Oct. 22) |
| Africa and the Middle East | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UAE (Mar. 5) Egypt (Mar. 5, Oct. 20) Saudi Arabia (Mar. 24) Ethiopia (Mar. 30) South Africa (Apr. 24) |
| Multilateral | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extraordinary G20 Leaders' Summit (Mar. 26) ASEAN+3 Commemorative Summit (Apr. 14) World Health Assembly (May 18-19) Korea-EU Summit (June 30) 75th session of the UN General Assembly (Sept. 22) ASEAN-ROK Summit (Nov. 12) Mekong-ROK Summit (Nov. 13) ASEAN+3 Summit (Nov. 14) East Asia Summit (Nov. 14) APEC Summit (Nov. 20) G20 Summit (Nov. 21-22) |
| International Organization | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director-General of WHO (Apr. 6) |

Contactless diplomatic activities at the ministerial level (a total of 107 cases)

| Counterpart | Detail |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Northeast Asia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> China (Jan. 28, Feb. 26) Mongolia (Dec. 21) |
| Asia and the Pacific | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viet Nam (Feb. 28, July 23) Maldives (Mar. 2, Apr. 22, Oct. 22) India (Mar. 3, May 19) Indonesia (Mar. 3, Mar. 28, Aug. 12, Sept. 24) Thailand (Mar. 5) Pakistan (Apr. 10) New Zealand (Apr. 16, Nov. 24) Singapore (Apr. 17, Sept. 2) Sri Lanka (May 4) Myanmar (May 15) Australia (May 19) Japan (June 3) Brunei (July 29) Bangladesh (Oct. 6) |

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| North America | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US (Mar. 1, May 6, Oct. 5, Oct. 21-22) • Canada (Mar. 2, Sept. 11) |
| Latin America and the Caribbean | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • El Salvador (Mar. 3) • Mexico (Mar. 7) • Costa Rica (Apr. 1) • Ecuador (Apr. 17, Sept. 24) • Guatemala (Apr. 22) • Colombia (Sept. 16) • Peru (Sept. 29) |
| Europe | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK (Feb. 28, Apr. 6, June 10) • Norway (Mar. 13) • Netherlands (Mar. 23) • Moldova (Apr. 7) • Finland (Apr. 8, Oct. 19) • Estonia (Apr. 24) • Czech Republic (May 4) • Greece (May 8) • Hungary (June 8) • Slovenia (Oct. 19) • Denmark (Oct. 20) • Austria (Oct. 20) • Poland (Oct. 20) • Sweden (Oct. 21) |
| Eurasia | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uzbekistan (Mar. 21) • Tajikistan (June 2) • Kyrgyzstan (Sept. 26) |
| Africa and the Middle East | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UAE (Mar. 1, Mar. 9, Apr. 7) • Iraq (Mar. 3) • Saudi Arabia (Mar. 9) • Morocco (Mar. 30) • Kuwait (Apr. 1) • Ethiopia (June 12, Dec. 9) • Kenya (June 15) • Qatar (July 8) • Nigeria (Aug. 26) • Jordan (Sept. 28) |
| Multilateral | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministerial Coordination Group on COVID-19 (Mar. 15, Mar. 19, Apr. 17, June 9) • ROK-Japan-China Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting (Mar. 20) • World Economic Forum Annual Meeting (Mar. 25) • Women Foreign Ministers' Meeting (Apr. 16) • COVID-19 Fundraising Video Conference (May 4) • Foreign Ministers' Meeting on COVID-19 Response (May 11, June 3, Aug. 7) |

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Multilateral | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN-hosted Webinar on Digital Cooperation during COVID-19 and beyond (May 13) • Global Vaccine Summit 2020 (June 4) • Video Conference on COVID-19 Hosted by the Alliance for Multilateralism (June 27) • 17th MIKTA Foreign Ministers' Meeting (July 17) • G20 Extraordinary Foreign Ministers' Meeting (Sept. 3) • Annual Meeting of the Romanian Diplomacy (Sept. 8) • ASEAN+3/EAS Foreign Ministers' Meeting (Sept. 9) • UN Group of Friends of Solidarity for Global Health Security (Sept. 23) • Ministerial Meeting of the Alliance for Multilateralism (Sept. 25) • Asia Society Webinar (Sept. 25) • ROK-Mekong Foreign Ministers' Meeting (Sept. 28) • 2020 Korea-LAC Future Cooperation Forum (Nov. 23-24) • 13th Korea-Central Asia Cooperation Forum (Nov. 25) • 16th IISS Manama Dialogue (Dec. 4-6) • 13th Bali Democracy Forum (Dec. 10) • Aspen Security Forum (Dec. 11) |
| International Organization | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director-General of WHO (Mar. 8) • President of the ICRC (Apr. 13) • EU High Representative / Vice-President (Apr. 16) • UN High Commissioner for Refugees (Apr. 20) • UN Deputy Secretary-General (Apr. 24) • Executive of the WFP (Apr. 24) • Secretary-General of ASEAN (June 15) |

3 Activities in International Organizations and Promoting Alliance for Multilateralism

In response to the COVID-19 situation in May, the Korean government took a leading role in launching the groups of like-minded countries on health security at the UN; the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Countries in these groups shared their experience of COVID-19 response and facilitated discussions and cooperation in the international community on health security issues by issuing joint statements in major international meetings and hosting

high-level conferences and seminars on health security.

Forty-four countries and the EU participate in the UN Group of Friends of Solidarity for Global Health Security, co-chaired by Korea, Canada, Denmark, Qatar, and Sierra Leone.

The UN Group of Friends of Solidarity for Global Health Security stressed multilateralism and solidarity against the threat to health security, through a joint group statement at the UN Security Council High-Level Open Debate on the Maintenance of International Peace and Security: Implications of COVID-19 on July 2.

On the occasion of the 75th High-Level Week of the UN General Assembly, the group held a high-level videoconference titled “Protraction of the COVID-19 Crisis: Mitigating the Impact of Infectious Diseases and Protecting Future Generations” on September 23. On December 15, the group also held a high-level meeting with the co-chairman of the Global Preparedness Monitoring Board to discuss ways for international cooperation.

In addition, under Korea’s leadership, the Support Group for Global Infectious Disease Response (G4IDR) was launched with the participation of countries playing the leading role in the health area, including WHO Executive Board members such as Singapore, Turkey, the UAE, Morocco, Kenya, Peru, and Mexico.

The G4IDR prepared a joint statement on enhancing the international health system and presented its position at WHO and other meetings. Simultaneously, the group held expert roundtables and meetings with major international organizations while actively contributing to the discussion on the international community’s response to infectious diseases.

Korea’s exemplary response to COVID-19 was highly recognized by the international community and the country’s soft power was strengthened. To take a step further and lead the discussion on the response to COVID-19-related hatred and discrimination, MOFA initiated the establishment of the Group of Friends for Solidarity and Inclusion with Global Citizenship Education (GCED) at UNESCO.

Upon its launch, the GCED announced a joint statement and declared its will

to enhance international cooperation through global citizenship education. Also, as the chair of the GCED, Korea led the adoption of the Global Call Against Racism, a decision opposing racism, at the 210th Executive Board meeting of UNESCO, urging the international community to unite against COVID-19-related discrimination, stigmatization, and xenophobia and stressing the importance of global citizenship education.

4 Facilitating Multilateral Cooperation for Health Security in Northeast Asia

The Korean government made efforts to lead multilateral cooperation among countries in the region with a view to jointly coping with transboundary health security challenges. After President Moon Jae-in suggested establishing the Northeast Asia Cooperation for Health Security (NEACHS) in his keynote speech at the UN General Assembly, MOFA launched the NEACHS in December 2020 through close coordination with related countries.

The first meeting of the NEACHS was held in the track 1.5 format, bringing together director-level officials from diplomatic and health authorities of six countries — Korea, the US, China, Japan, Russia, and Mongolia. The meeting was also attended by a broad range of participants, including members of the diplomatic corps in Korea and experts in public health and international relations.

The NEACHS is the initiative to enhance the joint preparedness for future health security challenges, such as the rise of a new infectious disease. If North Korea participates in the NEACHS, it is expected to contribute to the peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia by enabling dialogue and cooperation between North Korea and neighboring countries.

5 Development Cooperation Initiative for COVID-19 Response

After the rapid spread of COVID-19 left WHO with no choice but to declare a pandemic and plunged the world into a crisis in early 2020, the Korean government was flooded with requests from the international community for donation of disease prevention supplies and experience sharing in infectious disease control and prevention. In particular, as Korea's disease control and prevention measures were based on openness, transparency, and civic engagement and continued to receive positive reviews from the international community, Korea was expected to play a larger role in combating COVID-19.

To contribute to the international community's response to COVID-19, the Korean government launched ODA KOREA: Building TRUST as a comprehensive initiative for development cooperation and donated about \$160 million in 2020. The objective of the initiative is to strengthen global transparency, resilience, unity, and safety together with partner countries. ODA KOREA: Building TRUST is comprised of three pillars: (a) bilateral and multilateral humanitarian assistance; (b) health cooperation based on Korea's model and experience in disease control and prevention; and (c) socio-economic support to mitigate the immediate social and economic impact on vulnerable groups.

Firstly, the Korean government provided \$87 million in humanitarian assistance to over 120 countries, including masks and test kits, taking into consideration the domestic situation as well as the extent of damage in relevant countries and the vulnerabilities of their health systems. At the multilateral level, Korea made contributions for WHO's Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan and the UN Secretary General's COVID-19 Recovery and Response Fund. Korea also provided test kits to Africa through organizations such as WHO, the African Union, and Unitaid and donated \$10 million to the COVID-19 Vaccines Advance Market Commitment.

As for health cooperation, MOFA launched the COVID-19 Comprehensive Rapid Response Program and provided \$30 million in grants to strengthen partner countries' health system and their preparedness against infectious diseases including COVID-19.

Under the program, MOFA conducted various projects in close cooperation with civil society and international organizations to expand healthcare facilities, provide testing kits and medical supplies, educate and train health professionals, and support the capacity building of vulnerable groups. Key partners for the COVID-19 Comprehensive Rapid Response Program were chosen as follows considering foreign policy priorities and ripple effects to other countries: (a) Indonesia (New Southern Region), Uzbekistan (New Northern Region), Ethiopia (Africa), Colombia (Central and South America); (b) ASEAN ODA recipients (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Viet Nam, and the Philippines); and (c) the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

Meanwhile, the Korean government received numerous requests by the international community to share its experience in fighting COVID-19. The Korean government established the Task Force for International Cooperation for Tackling COVID-19 for this purpose and conducted about 800 cases of experience sharing, including organizing nine webinars, creating and operating a bulletin board on the MOFA website, and making and distributing policy materials.



Ceremony for supplies donation to Ethiopia through the COVID-19 Comprehensive Rapid Response Program (Addis Ababa, Oct. 20)



First meeting of the Task Force for International Cooperation for Tackling COVID-19 (MOFA, Apr. 27)

6 Cooperation in WHO and Improving International Health Regulations

Korea actively participated in international discussions to strengthen global health governance and emphasized the importance of solidarity and cooperation of the international community to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. In this vein, President Moon Jae-in participated in the 73rd World Health Assembly on May 18 and suggested updating WHO International Health Regulations (IHR) and other relevant norms and highlighted the importance of international cooperation to develop vaccines and treatments.

Korea, as a member of WHO Executive Board for the term 2020-2023, played an active role in discussions and activities of WHO to respond to and recover from COVID-19. During the Fifth Special Session of WHO Executive Board on October 5-6, Korea made a joint statement with the G4IDR to emphasize the importance of strengthening the IHR implementation, ensuring equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments, and vaccines, and facilitating essential movement of people.

Furthermore, Korea actively participated in the discussions on improving global health norms with a view to strengthening WHO preparedness for and response to pandemic, sharing its experiences of COVID-19 response and lessons learned with the international community. In particular, Korea made constructive contribution to relevant discussions by submitting a proposal to strengthen the IHR implementation to the IHR Review Committee in December 2020. The proposal, jointly submitted by the members of the G4IDR, included strengthening national public health capacities, improving information-sharing between countries with regard to infectious diseases, facilitating essential movement of people, revising the public health emergency declaration system, and improving protections for human rights including privacy.

7 Face Masks Donated to Korean War Veterans

In commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Korean War in 2020, MOFA

collaborated with the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs, the Ministry of National Defense, the Ministry of Food and Drug Safety, and the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy to donate one million face masks to Korean War veterans and their families in 22 countries in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

MOFA sent 500,000 face masks to the US, which is home to more than 90% of all veterans and 500,000 masks to 21 other countries, taking into consideration the number of war veterans in each country and the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases.

The veterans and their families sent letters of appreciation to the local media and the Korean diplomatic missions, and the leaders of the countries also expressed their gratitude over phone calls or through letters.

III

2021 DIPLOMATIC
WHITE PAPER

Establishing Peace on the Korean Peninsula and Strengthening Cooperation in the Region

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on the Korean Peninsula
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Section 1 Continued Efforts to Establish Peace on the Korean Peninsula

1 Inter-Korean Relations

1.1 Securing the International Community's Understanding and Support for Progress in Inter-Korean Relations

Despite a prolonged stalemate in inter-Korean relations and US-North Korea relations throughout 2020, the Korean government endeavored to faithfully carry out the inter-Korean cooperation projects agreed upon at the three inter-Korean summits held in 2018. The Korean government also spared no effort to garner international support and cooperation for making progress and building trust in inter-Korean relations.

The Korean government sent consistent messages on various occasions reaffirming its unwavering willingness to engage in inter-Korean dialogue and encouraging North Korea to substantially implement the inter-Korean agreements. President Moon Jae-in, in his New Year's address, suggested that the two Koreas put their heads together to facilitate inter-Korean cooperation projects in such fields as joint hosting of the 2032 Summer Olympics, reconnecting inter-Korean roads and railways, transforming the Demilitarized Zone into an international peace zone, and resuming operation of the

Kaesong Industrial Complex and Mount Geumgang tourism. At the 75th session of the UN General Assembly on September 22, President Moon emphasized that the two Koreas were bound by a single community of life in terms of infectious disease response and proposed launching the Northeast Asia Cooperation for Health Security (NEACHS), where North Korea would participate as a member along with other countries in the region, including the ROK, China, Japan, and Mongolia. Soon after, the Korean government officially launched the NEACHS, by holding a track 1.5 working-level virtual meeting on December 29 with the US, China, Japan, Russia, and Mongolia.

Even as the COVID-19 pandemic constrained active in-person diplomacy, the Korean government made efforts to gain international support and cooperation for promoting inter-Korean relations. The Korean government made diplomatic efforts to closely communicate with key countries, including the US, China, Japan, and Russia, to win their constructive support in order to solidify the foundation on which the Korean government's North Korean policy can be carried out in a stable manner. Briefing sessions on recent developments on the Korean Peninsula were held from June 11 to 16 for the Peninsula Club, consisting of 20 foreign diplomatic missions stationed in the ROK and also accredited to North Korea, and the Peace Club, consisting of 21 foreign diplomatic missions in the ROK from the countries that have permanent missions in North Korea. These sessions helped the foreign missions better understand the situation on the Korean Peninsula and expanded support from the international community for the advancement of inter-Korean relations. In addition, the Korean government maintained close communication with the US via various channels, including the ROK-US Working Group meeting on February 10, which helped the government make continued efforts to advance inter-Korean relations in a stable manner within the framework of international sanctions on North Korea.

Meanwhile, North Korea demolished the Inter-Korean Joint Liaison Office in Kaesong on June 16. The Korean government promptly expressed strong regret and made it clear that North Korea should be held responsible for all consequences arising therefrom. The Korean government also warned of the stern response to any

further steps taken by North Korea that would exacerbate the situation. Regarding the incident in which an unarmed civilian of the ROK was killed by North Korean military in the Yellow Sea on September 22, the Korean government strongly condemned North Korea’s inhumane act that violated international laws and called on North Korea to take measures to prevent recurrence and punish those who were responsible. Furthermore, the Korean government explained its position on the incident to the international community and urged North Korea to respond to the ROK’s request for joint investigation and restoration of military communication lines. As such, the Korean government responded firmly to North Korea’s actions threatening the safety and lives of Korean people.

1.2 Efforts to Improve the Human Rights Situation in North Korea and Provision of Humanitarian Aid to North Korea

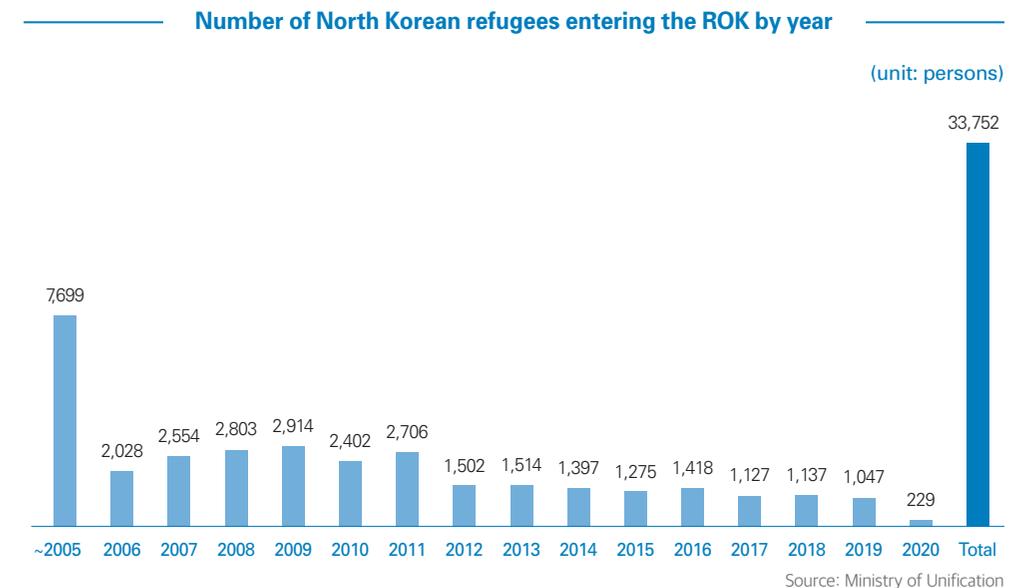
Based on its position that human rights are universal values that cannot be compromised, the Korean government has been working together with the international community for substantive improvement of the human rights situation of North Korean people. In 2020, the Korean government joined international efforts such as the adoption by consensus of the resolutions on the North Korean human rights situation at the 43rd session of the UN Human Rights Council on June 22, the 75th session of the UN Third Committee on November 18, and the UN General Assembly on December 16.

The Korean government, regardless of political considerations, continued providing humanitarian aid to North Korea, adhering to its position that efforts to ameliorate the humanitarian situation in North Korea are vital in promoting the human rights of North Korean people in a substantive way. In 2019, the Korean government contributed \$3.5 million to the United Nations International Children’s Fund for its maternal and child healthcare project in North Korea, and the project fulfilled its mission in May 2020. Additionally, in August 2020, the Korean government contributed \$10 million to the

World Food Programme project to provide food to children, pregnant women, and nursing mothers in North Korea.

1.3 Safe and Swift Transportation of Overseas North Korean Refugees

The Korean government accepts all North Korean refugees if they express their own intention to enter the ROK. Under this principle, the Korean government makes all of its diplomatic efforts to safely transfer North Korean refugees to the ROK through close cooperation with countries of transit and relevant international organizations. In the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, 229 North Korean refugees entered the ROK in 2020, a mere one-fifth of those of 2019. The cumulative number of North Korean refugees who have entered the ROK amounted to 33,752, as of the end of 2020.



The Korean government is exerting continued diplomatic efforts on various levels and fora to prevent forced repatriation of North Korean refugees to the country where

they are subject to persecution. The Korean government requests cooperation through various occasions from the relevant countries not to repatriate the North Korean refugees against their free will and allow them to move safely and swiftly on to the country where they desire to seek asylum. Also, the Korean government participated in the adoption of the resolutions on the human rights situation in North Korea, which calls upon states to observe the principle of non-refoulement, by the 43rd session of the UN Human Rights Council and the Third Committee of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly.

The Korean government also provides support to overseas North Korean refugees en route to the ROK to ensure their physical and mental well-being, such as improving the living conditions of the protection facilities, distributing goods related to preventing COVID-19, and providing psychology counseling and orientation to help them better adjust to a new environment in the ROK.

2 Diplomatic Efforts to Establish Peace on the Korean Peninsula

With the global spread of COVID-19 in 2020, the Korean government's diplomatic efforts to establish a permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula were faced with practical challenges, such as limitations in holding face-to-face meetings. However, the Korean government strengthened close cooperation with the US at various levels in order to maintain momentum for US-North Korea and inter-Korean talks. The Korean government closely communicated with China, Japan, Russia, and other major players as well and continued efforts to secure the international community's support for the peace process on the Korean Peninsula by actively utilizing multilateral diplomatic platforms.

2.1 Continued Cooperation and Communication with Key Players for the Establishment of Peace on the Korean Peninsula

Despite limitations in holding face-to-face meetings in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ROK and the US continued close cooperation for the establishment of permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula through the telephone conversations between the presidents of the two countries on March 24, April 18, and June 1. In particular, during the April telephone conversation, the Korean government highly assessed the US's active efforts to engage North Korea, and the US reaffirmed its commitment to continuing such efforts in close coordination with the ROK. The two presidents agreed on the need for COVID-19-related humanitarian assistance to North Korea.

The ROK and Japan continued communication on such occasions as the telephone conversation between the leaders of the two countries on September 24 and the two rounds of foreign ministers' meetings on January 14 and February 15. The two sides exchanged views on ways to develop ROK-Japan relations and on developments on the Korean Peninsula and agreed to closely cooperate with each other to move forward the peace process on the Korean Peninsula .

The ROK and China continued communication on such occasions as the two telephone conversations between the presidents on February 20 and May 13 and the foreign ministers' meetings on February 15 and November 26. The presidents had in-depth discussion on ways to develop ROK-China relations, and China reaffirmed its unwavering support for the peace process on the Korean Peninsula.

The ROK and Russia discussed ways to enhance bilateral cooperation in establishing peace on the Korean Peninsula through the telephone conversation between the presidents of the two countries on September 28, which was held on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of bilateral diplomatic relations. The Korean government requested Russia's constructive role in promoting peace on the Korean Peninsula, and the Russian side responded that Russia supported the Korean government's such efforts and was ready to

actively cooperate with the Korean government.

2.2 Securing the International Community's Support for the Peace Process on the Korean Peninsula

With the stalemate in US-North Korea and inter-Korean talks since the US-North Korea summit in Hanoi, the Korean government has consistently maintained the position that dialogue and cooperation is the only way to settle peace on the Korean Peninsula. Accordingly, in 2020, the Korean government exerted its efforts to secure the international community's support via major multilateral conferences for resumption of the peace process on the Korean Peninsula.

In his keynote speech at the 75th session of the UN General Assembly on September 22, President Moon Jae-in emphasized the need to advance the peace process through dialogue and called for the international community's support for the ROK's efforts to establish peace on the Korean Peninsula, including an End-of-War Declaration. In addition, President Moon stressed in his keynote address to the 2020 Annual Gala of Korea Society on October 8 that the war on the Korean Peninsula must end completely and permanently, noting that the year 2020 marked the 70th anniversary of the Korean War.

The international community also expressed active support for the Korean government's endeavor to resume the peace process on the Korean Peninsula. The Korean government's efforts to establish peace on the Korean Peninsula were reflected in outcome documents of multilateral high-level conferences, such as the Chairman's Statement of the ARF/EAS/ASEAN+3 Foreign minister's Meeting on September 13-15, the Chairman's Statement of the EAS/ASEAN+3 Summit on November 20, and the Chairman's Statement of the ASEAN-ROK Summit on November 21. In particular, the Chairman's Statement of the ASEAN-ROK Summit stressed the need to resume dialogue among all parties concerned in order to achieve permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula, specifying the Joint Statement by the US and North Korea of June

12, the Panmunjom Declaration of April 27, and the Pyongyang Joint Declaration of September 19.

Support for the Korean government's efforts for the establishment of peace on the Korean Peninsula

Chairman's Statement of the ARF (Sept. 13, 2020)

The Ministers stressed the importance of sustained and peaceful dialogue amongst all concerned parties in order to realise complete denuclearisation and establishment of permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula. The Ministers recognised the efforts and achievements made by all the parties concerned for advancing the peace process on the Korean Peninsula over the last two years and urged all concerned parties to resume peaceful dialogue and continue working constructively towards the achievement of lasting peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula, including through the full and expeditious implementation of the Panmunjom Declaration and the Pyongyang Joint Declaration between the Republic of Korea (ROK) and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), and the Joint Statement by the leaders of the United States and the DPRK. (...) The Ministers underscored the significance of maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and noted the ROK's proposals to advance Inter-Korean relations.

Chairman's Statement of the EAS/ASEAN+3 Summit (Nov. 20, 2020)

We recognized the efforts and achievements in advancing the peace process on the Korean Peninsula over the last three years. We stressed the importance of continued dialogue and peaceful resolution among all parties concerned in order to realise lasting peace and stability in a denuclearised Korean Peninsula.

Chairman's Statement of the ASEAN-ROK Summit (Nov. 21, 2020)

We stressed the importance of resuming peaceful and sustainable dialogue amongst all concerned parties in order to realise complete denuclearisation and establishment of permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula, including through the full and expeditious implementation of the Joint Statement by the U.S. and Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Leaders, the Panmunjom Declaration and the Pyongyang Joint Declaration. (...) The ROK briefed the meeting on proposals to advance inter-Korean relations such as strengthening inter-Korean cooperation in fields of healthcare and epidemic prevention and control as well as declaring an end to the War and transforming the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) into an international peace zone.

Section 2 Promoting a Peaceful Resolution of the North Korean Nuclear Issue

1 Diplomatic Efforts to Resume Dialogue

1.1 Efforts to Reinvigorate Momentum for Dialogue Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic and Stalled Inter-Korean Relations

North Korea held the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea from December 28 to 31, 2019. In the meeting, Chairman Kim Jong-un expressed that North Korea would overcome sanctions through self-reliance and declared that, if the US maintained its hostile policy towards North Korea, he would steadily develop strategic weapons until the US withdrew its policy. He also threatened that the world would witness North Korea's new strategic weapon in the near future and stated that the scope and depth of bolstering its deterrent would be elevated depending on the US position on North Korea.

The ROK and the US, based on close coordination, continued their efforts to maintain the momentum for dialogue with North Korea while managing the situation on the Korean Peninsula. The Korean government stated that North Korea's actions to develop a new strategic weapon would not help the denuclearization negotiations

and the efforts to establish peace on the Korean Peninsula. The Korean government stressed the need for the resumption of US-North Korea talks to make substantial progress in denuclearization negotiations and reaffirmed its commitment to continue the efforts to improve inter-Korean relations. President Moon Jae-in stressed in his New Year's address on January 7 that the ROK would do everything it could to promote dialogue between the US and North Korea. At his New Year's press conference, President Moon said that the developments in inter-Korean relations would have a positive effect on US-North Korea dialogue, creating a virtuous cycle. The US President Donald Trump continued his efforts to maintain a good personal relationship with Chairman Kim by sending a personal letter for his birthday. The US also expressed its support for the Korean government's efforts to advance inter-Korean relations and encouraged North Korea to return to dialogue to implement the agreement made between the leaders of the US and North Korea at the summit in Singapore.

Meanwhile, the COVID-19 pandemic affected dialogue between the ROK, North Korea, and the US. North Korea turned its focus to tackling the domestic COVID-19 situation and took a passive stance toward inter-Korean and the US-North Korea dialogues. It then escalated military tensions by launching four SRBMs on March 2, March 9, March 21, and March 29. In response, the ROK and the US urged North Korea to stop actions that were not conducive to the efforts to ease military tensions and establish peace on the Korean Peninsula. They also continued to engage with North Korea in order to overcome the COVID-19 crisis and reinvigorate momentum for dialogue with North Korea. President Moon suggested inter-Korean cooperation on healthcare in his speech on the Independence Movement Day on March 1. President Trump, meanwhile, sent a letter to Chairman Kim, offering cooperation in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. Early March, Chairman Kim exchanged personal letters with President Moon, conveying his best wishes in the fight against COVID-19, and North Korea's First Vice Department Director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea Kim Yo-jong expressed gratitude to the US president for his personal letter to Chairman Kim. However, North Korea did not respond to the suggestions made by the

ROK and the US for cooperation.

Despite the challenging circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as North Korea's provocations and refusal to respond to the suggestions for dialogue, the ROK and the US continued to work closely together in order to engage with North Korea while managing the situation on the Korean Peninsula. On many occasions, the US repeatedly expressed its willingness to take a flexible approach, in close coordination with the ROK, to reach a balanced agreement on the four commitments agreed upon at the Singapore summit. The Korean government also emphasized that it would continue to make efforts to ensure that North Korea responded to its proposals for cooperation. President Moon and President Trump had a telephone consultation on April 18 and reaffirmed their stance to continue to engage with North Korea, including through humanitarian assistance related to COVID-19.

Despite the efforts of the ROK and the US to reinvigorate the momentum for dialogue and to ensure peace on the Korean Peninsula, inter-Korean relations were further strained. North Korea strongly condemned civic groups in the ROK for scattering leaflets to North Korea and threatened to shut down the Inter-Korean Joint Liaison Office, releasing a series of statements by the First Vice Department Director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party Kim Yo-jong on June 4 and by a spokesperson of the United Front Department of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party on June 5. On June 9, North Korea cut off all inter-Korean communication lines. The Korean government emphasized that communication lines between the two Koreas were the basic means of communication and should be maintained in accordance with inter-Korean agreements and stated that the government would make efforts for peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula in accordance with inter-Korean agreements. The US reaffirmed its position that it had always supported progress made in inter-Korean relations and urged North Korea to return to diplomacy and cooperation.

North Korea took a hardline stance towards the US. On June 11, North Korea accused the US of interfering in inter-Korean affairs, through remarks by Kwon Jong-gun, Director General of the Department of US Affairs of the Foreign Ministry of North

Korea. And on June 12, the second anniversary of the Singapore summit between the US and North Korea, Ri Son-kwon, Minister of Foreign Affairs of North Korea, issued his first press statement since his appointment on January 23, in which he demanded a change in the US attitude and accused the US of not responding to North Korea's proactive measures, such as a total shutdown of the northern nuclear test site, repatriation of scores of American POW/MIA remains, special pardon for the convicted felons of US nationality who were held in detention, and suspension of nuclear tests and test launches of ICBMs. Minister Ri also claimed that the US had maintained its hostile policy toward North Korea, including the deployment of strategic assets and the Korean government's introduction of cutting-edge weapons. Minister Ri put pressure on the US as he reaffirmed North Korea's will to further bolster its nuclear war deterrent.

Despite North Korea's aggression towards the ROK and the US, the two governments maintained close coordination to manage the situation on the Korean Peninsula. The Korean government expressed its position that the efforts should be made for complete denuclearization and the establishment of permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula and that it would continue to endeavor for an early resumption of the US-North Korea dialogue and development of inter-Korean relations. At a meeting with senior secretaries on June 15, President Moon emphasized that nothing could reverse the promise of peace on the Korean Peninsula made with Chairman Kim in front of 80 million Koreans. He also reaffirmed that the Korean government would continue to make efforts to implement the agreements. He stated that North Korea should refrain from cutting off communication, creating tension, and returning to the past era of confrontation and expressed hope that the two Koreas would be able to resolve the unpleasant and challenging issues through communication and cooperation. Also, President Moon stressed that the Korean Peninsula issue must move forward, though slowly, with the international community's consent and that the two Koreas must build up mutual trust through unceasing dialogue. The US, expressing disappointment in North Korea's recent actions and statements, also urged North Korea to refrain from

further provocations and return to diplomacy and cooperation.

Despite the continued efforts of the ROK and the US to engage with North Korea, North Korea further escalated tensions on the Korean Peninsula. On June 13, North Korea threatened to abolish the Inter-Korean Joint Liaison Office through the statement by Kim Yo-jong, First Vice Department Director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea. In the following statement by Kwon Jong-gun, Director General of the Department of US Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, North Korea criticized the Korean government's efforts to resume dialogue between the US and North Korea, stating that the US-North Korea dialogue was halted because conditions were not met for denuclearization. On June 16, North Korea unilaterally destroyed the Inter-Korean Joint Liaison Office. On June 17, a spokesman for the General Staff of the Korean People's Army said that it would send troops to the Kaesong Industrial Complex and the Mount Geumgang tourist area. First Vice Department Director Kim Yo-jong disparaged President Moon's congratulatory message commemorating the 20th anniversary of the June 15 inter-Korean Joint Declaration in a disrespectful tone. The Korean government expressed strong regret over North Korea's unilateral explosion of the liaison office and stressed that North Korea's recent statements and actions were in no way helpful, even for North Korea, and that the North would have to take full responsibility for the consequences of their actions. The US expressed that it fully supported the ROK's efforts to improve inter-Korean relations and urged North Korea to refrain from further counter-productive actions. The decisive and strong response by the ROK and the US governments, based on their close coordination, prevented further escalation of tension on the Korean Peninsula, as Chairman Kim suspended military action plans against the ROK at a preliminary meeting for the Fifth Meeting of the Seventh Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea on June 23.

After the tensions in inter-Korean relations had subsided, the possibility of another US-North Korea summit ahead of the US presidential election in November begun to be discussed. The Korean government maintained its position that it would work to make

substantial progress in achieving complete denuclearization and a permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula by promoting resumption of dialogue between the ROK, North Korea, and the US. Meanwhile, expectations for the US-North Korea dialogue ran high as Stephen Biegun, US Deputy Secretary of State and Special Representative for North Korea, a key figure in the US-North Korea denuclearization negotiations, was planning to visit the ROK on July 7-10. Ahead of US Deputy Secretary of State Stephen Biegun's visit to the ROK, North Korea via the statement by Choe Son-hui, First Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, reaffirmed its position that it had no intention of having dialogue with the US when the US had maintained its hostile policy toward North Korea. North Korea further criticized the Korean government's efforts to promote the resumption of the US-North Korea dialogue through the statement of Kwon Jong-gun, Director General of the Department of US Affairs of the Foreign Ministry of North Korea. Deputy Secretary Biegun, during his visit to the ROK, emphasized his support for inter-Korean cooperation and reaffirmed his willingness to engage in dialogue with North Korea at any time including through consultation with the ROK chief negotiator for the North Korean nuclear issue.

After that, Kim Yo-jong, First Vice Department Director of the Central Committee, said in her statement on July 10 that she was of the view that the US-North Korea summit talks was not needed unless the US showed a decisive change in its stance and that she believed that the theme of the US-North Korea negotiations should be changed from "denuclearization measures versus lifting of sanctions" into "withdrawal of hostility versus resumption of the US-North Korea negotiations." She also mentioned that North Korea had to deal with President Trump, the succeeding US administration, and the US at large, implying that North Korea was taking into account the transition after the US presidential election in November. While she made it clear that it did not necessarily mean denuclearization was not possible, she reminded the US that denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula could be realized only when irreversible simultaneous major steps were taken in parallel with North Korea's actions. In response, the US maintained its position that it would continue to work with North

Korea to achieve the objectives that were agreed upon between the leaders of the US and North Korea in Singapore, and it continued to encourage North Korea to engage in dialogue with the US to make substantial progress in denuclearization negotiations.

Meanwhile, external environment hardly improved as the COVID-19 situation worsened, and North Korea took a more passive stance toward dialogue as it focused on intensifying internal unity and addressing internal issues such as typhoon and flood damage during August and September as well as its economic difficulties. Despite these circumstances, the ROK and the US continue to engage with North Korea to create a conducive environment for the resumption of dialogue. President Moon said on September 22 at the 75th session of the UN General Assembly that the ROK had been steadfast in seeking inter-Korean reconciliation and was making relentless efforts to achieve denuclearization and establish permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula. He also emphasized that an End-of-War declaration would open the door to complete denuclearization and permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula. The US also repeatedly reaffirmed its position to provide humanitarian assistance to North Korea and stressed that North Korea's engagement in serious conversation on denuclearization could help solve the current problems.

Tensions between the two Koreas increased as an ROK national who went missing in the north of the western sea border was shot and killed by the North Korean military on September 22. On September 24, the Korean government strongly condemned North Korea's behavior as an act against international norms and humanitarianism that could not be justified for any reason. It called on North Korea to take responsible responses and actions. The next day, on September 25, North Korea delivered its apology through a letter and promised to prevent the recurrence of such an incident. Also, for the first time for North Korea's supreme leader, Chairman Kim promptly issued a direct apology to the ROK people. Based on close coordination with the US, the Korean government sternly and firmly responded to the incident and made efforts to revive the momentum for dialogue and communication by proposing joint investigation and the restoration of military communication lines. The US fully

supported the ROK's response and its call for a full explanation from North Korea. The US said North Korea's apology was a helpful step and reaffirmed its position that the US was ready to engage with North Korea at any time in order to achieve complete denuclearization and permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula and normalization of US-North Korea relations.

1.2 Efforts to Maintain Dialogue during the Transition Period of the US Administration

With the US presidential election approaching, North Korea held a military parade on October 10 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea. At this military parade, Chairman Kim unveiled a new ICBM and SLBM and pressured the US to change its attitude, reaffirming that North Korea's war deterrent would never be abused or used as a means for preemptive strike but if any forces infringed upon the security of the regime and attempted to have recourse to military force against them, he would enlist all their most powerful offensive strength in advance to punish them. Meanwhile, Chairman Kim sent a message of sympathy to President Trump on October 3. He appeared to be trying to manage the relations with the ROK and the US, refraining from direct criticism or provocations against the US. He expressed hope that the health crisis would come to an end as early as possible and that the day would come when the North and the South took each other's hand again.

On November 3, the US presidential election was held, and Democratic candidate Joe Biden was elected as the president of the US. Even during the transition period of the US administration following the US presidential election, the diplomatic authorities of the ROK and the US maintained close coordination while managing the situation on the Korean Peninsula and continuing efforts to make substantial progress in the Korean Peninsula peace process. President Moon mentioned at the meeting with his senior secretaries on November 9 that the government would continue to cooperate

with the Trump administration until its last day and that it would pool wisdom so that greater progress could be made in denuclearization and the establishment of peace on the Korean Peninsula with the incoming Biden administration, taking lessons from the past and based on the achievements and experiences accumulated over the years. The Trump administration also stressed that efforts to achieve complete denuclearization and establishment of permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula would continue and warned that it would be most unfortunate and unwise for North Korea to carry out provocations to change the position of the US government at this time. The US reaffirmed that close coordination between the ROK and the US would continue regardless of the outcome of the US presidential election. Meanwhile, President-elect Joe Biden also said in the telephone conversation with President Moon on November 12 that he was deeply committed to the ROK's defense and would work as a close partner to address the North Korean nuclear issue. President Moon sent a congratulatory letter to President-elect Biden on December 15 in which he stated that he looked forward to working with the president-elect to achieve complete denuclearization and establishment of permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula.

Although there have not been any substantial progress in inter-Korean and the US-North Korea dialogue since, the ROK and the US managed the situation on the Korean Peninsula based on close coordination while keeping North Korea from making provocative actions following strategic misjudgements, and the momentum for dialogue was maintained.

1.3 Maintaining Rock-solid ROK-US Coordination through Close Communication and Cooperation at Every Level

The ROK and the US maintained close coordination to make progress in achieving complete denuclearization and establishing permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula. In particular, both leaders had a telephone conversation in the midst of the COVID-19

pandemic on April 18 and reaffirmed the importance of cooperation between the two countries in order to maintain peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula.

Both countries' foreign ministers and chief negotiators on the North Korean nuclear issue also discussed denuclearization strategy through close communication and continued coordination. First, the foreign ministers of the two countries frequently exchanged views on the Korean Peninsula through four telephone consultations in 2020. They also had three face-to-face consultations despite the COVID-19 pandemic and agreed to continue communication and cooperation at every level in order to make progress in the Korean Peninsula peace process. The two countries managed the situation on the Korean Peninsula building upon their ironclad alliance and close coordination even when tensions increased due to North Korea's short range missile launches, demolition of the Inter-Korean Joint Liaison Office on June 16, and the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Party of Korea on October 10. Special representatives of the two countries also shared views on ways for the two countries to make progress in achieving complete denuclearization and establishment of permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula and continued developing negotiation strategies in preparation for resumption of talks.

The Korean government continued in-depth consultations with the US administration, Congress, and academia in order to form a common understanding on the Korean Peninsula peace process with the new US administration after the US presidential election on November 3. At the ROK-US foreign ministers' meeting on November 9, right after the US presidential election, the two sides agreed to maintain close coordination between the two countries in order to manage the situation on the Korean Peninsula. Foreign Minister Kang also met with various key figures in the US Congress and academia and asked for their continued support and cooperation on the Korean Peninsula peace process. At the meeting between the ROK and the US chief negotiators on North Korean nuclear issues on November 9, the two sides closely discussed ways to work together for a swift resumption of the ROK-North Korea and the US-North Korea dialogues.

The lawmakers in the ROK also played a vital role during the transition period of the US administration. After the US presidential election, the Korean Democratic Party delegation visited Washington, DC to meet with key figures in the US government, Congress and academia. They made efforts to promote mutual understanding between the two countries on the Korean Peninsula issue.

2 Strengthening International Cooperation to Maintain Paradigm of Dialogue and Peace on the Korean Peninsula

2.1 Close Communication and Cooperation with Major Neighboring Countries

Despite limits in in-person diplomacy amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the Korean government continued close communication and cooperation with the neighboring countries to encourage them to play a constructive role in the Korean Peninsula peace process through various ways such as telephone and video consultations.

Despite a number of pending bilateral issues between the two countries, the ROK and Japan worked closely for their common goal of peaceful resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue. The two countries frequently discussed at various levels, including the summit and the foreign ministerial level, ways to work together to achieve complete denuclearization and establishment of permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula, while managing the situation on the Korean Peninsula. The leaders of the two countries had a telephone conversation on September 24 and agreed to cooperate more closely for the Korean Peninsula peace process. Through face-to-face and telephone consultations between foreign ministers and frequent consultations between the chief negotiators on the North Korean nuclear issue, the two sides shared their assessment of the situation in North Korea and maintained close coordination on

the North Korean nuclear issue.

Trilateral communication and cooperation on the North Korean nuclear issue continued between the ROK, the US, and Japan such as through the ROK-US-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting in San Francisco on January 14 and in Munich on February 15. The three ministers reaffirmed the importance of trilateral cooperation in the process of diplomatic efforts to make substantial progress on the North Korean nuclear issue and discussed ways for the three countries to work together for the Korean Peninsula. The leaders also discussed regional issues. At the ROK-US and the US-Japan consultations of the chief negotiators on the North Korean nuclear issue, the three countries continued to confirm and stress the importance of the trilateral cooperation in making progress in achieving complete denuclearization and establishing permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula.

The ROK and China maintained close communication and cooperation at each level for peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, including telephone conversations between the two leaders, foreign ministers' meetings and telephone conversations, and consultations between the special representative for Korean peace and security affairs and his counterpart. China believed that the role of the two Koreas was crucial for resolving the issues of the Korean Peninsula and repeatedly expressed its strong support for progress in inter-Korean relations and peace on the Korean Peninsula.

The ROK and Russia exchanged views on how to advance the peace process on the Korean Peninsula and to resume talks between the US and North Korea on various high level diplomatic occasions such as a summit-level telephone conversation or consultations between the special representative for Korean peace and security affairs and his counterpart. In the telephone conversation between the two leaders in September, Russia expressed its solid support for progress in inter-Korean relations and its commitment to continuous cooperation in promoting peace on the Korean Peninsula.

Consultations on the North Korean nuclear issue in 2020



The Korean government strengthened communication and cooperation with the EU and European countries as well. The EU reaffirmed their unwavering support and willingness to cooperate for the peace process on the Korean Peninsula on major diplomatic occasions such as the leaders' virtual meeting in June and the visit of the special representative for Korean Peninsula peace and security affairs to the EU in February 2020.

The Korean government and European countries held close consultations on issues related to the Korean Peninsula such as the meeting between the special representative for Korean Peninsula peace and security affairs and the minister of state and directorate-general for Asia and the Pacific at the Federal Foreign Office of Germany in February, a telephone conversation between the special representative and the Swedish special envoy to the Korean Peninsula in September, and a high-level consultation on the North Korean nuclear issue between the ROK and France in November 2020.

2.2 Efforts to Secure Support for the ROK's Policy Towards North Korea on the International Stage

In 2020, the international community's awareness and attention on the Korean Peninsula may have been reduced due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, the Korean government reinforced its efforts to raise international awareness of the Korean Peninsula issue and to secure unwavering support for the Korean Peninsula peace process from the international community through cooperation with members on the multilateral and international stage.

As a result, a number of outcome documents supporting the US-North Korea dialogue for complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and peaceful resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue were adopted at international meetings such as the ASEAN Regional Forum, in which North Korea also participated. In addition, various members of the international community such as the UN, ASEAN, and the EU supported the Korean government's efforts to resume dialogue for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and continuously urged North Korea to fulfill its commitment to complete denuclearization.

Major documents addressing the North Korean nuclear issue in 2020

| Date | Document |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Feb. 25 | Joint Statement on the 2nd Ministerial Meeting of Stockholm Initiative on Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Treaty |
| June 30 | Joint Statement on the Korea-EU Virtual Summit |
| Sept. 13 | Chairman's Statement of the 27th ASEAN Regional Forum |
| Sept. 15 | Chairman's Statement of the 21st ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers' Meeting |
| Sept. 15 | Chairman's Statement of the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference 10+1 Sessions with the Dialogue Partners |
| Sept. 15 | Chairman's Statement of the 10th East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting |
| Sept. 28 | Co-chairs' Statement of the 10th Mekong-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting |
| Nov. 20 | Chairman's Statement of the 15th East Asia Summit |
| Nov. 20 | Chairman's Statement of the ASEAN Plus Three Summit |
| Nov. 21 | Chairman's Statement of the 21st ASEAN-ROK Summit |
| Nov. 25 | Joint Statement of the 13th Korea-Central Asia Cooperation Forum |

Section 3 Enhancing and Deepening the Korea-US Strategic Alliance in a Mutually Beneficial Way

1 Promoting Korea-US High-level Exchanges and Strengthening the Korea-US Comprehensive Strategic Alliance

In 2020, when in-person contacts were limited because of the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, close communication and consultations were maintained between the two leaders of Korea and the US, President Moon Jae-in and President Donald J. Trump, through three telephone calls. In addition, President Moon had a telephone conversation with President-elect Joseph R. Biden Jr. just four days after his election victory had been confirmed. Despite the COVID-19 situation, the Korea-US alliance was strengthened based on continued high-level exchanges, including three Korea-US foreign ministers' meetings in 2020, held twice in 2019, and three vice foreign ministers' meetings, which was not held in 2019.

Despite the difficult situation of almost every international air route being suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ironclad Korea-US alliance shined even brighter. The Korean government had active consultations with the US government for essential bilateral human exchanges. As a result of these efforts, the US government's restriction

on entry for quarantine purposes did not apply to Korean nationals, so that the safe return of Korean people and continued human exchanges could proceed. Furthermore, Korea and the US strengthened bilateral cooperation in response to COVID-19, such as Korea's provision of medical supplies to the US, including test kits and face masks, at the request of the US.

The Korea-US alliance developed in a comprehensive and mutually beneficial way, including by enhancing cooperation between the New Southern Policy of Korea and the Indo-Pacific Strategy of the US. The two countries released the Second Joint Fact Sheet on the occasion of the East Asia Summit on November 14, covering all the outcomes of practical cooperation projects related to cooperation between the New Southern Policy and the Indo-Pacific Strategy over the year in the areas of development cooperation, infrastructure, energy, smart city, anti-corruption, climate change, health and COVID-19, and water security. Also, the two countries expanded the range of cooperation in various global issues such as the economy, infrastructure, empowerment of women, energy, and the digital economy.

Meanwhile, the Korean government consistently requested the additional release of confidential documents held by the US Department of State related to the May 18 Democratic Movement. As a result, 43 confidential documents, totaling 143 pages, were released in 2020. This contributed to the clarification of the truth related to the May 18 Democratic Movement and was another opportunity to reaffirm the friendship and spirit of cooperation of the Korea-US alliance.



Summit phone call (June 1)



Foreign ministers' meeting (Washington, DC, Nov. 9)



Vice foreign ministers' meeting (Washington, DC, Sept. 10)

Korea-US high-level exchanges in 2020

| Meeting | Place and Date | Occasion |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Summit phone call | Mar. 24, Apr. 18, Jun. 1 | Phone calls between President Moon and President Trump (three in total) |
| | Nov. 12 | Phone call between President Moon and President-elect Biden |
| Foreign ministers' meeting/ phone call | San Francisco, Jan. 14 | Korea-US foreign ministers' meeting |
| | Munich, Feb. 15 | Korea-US foreign ministers' meeting on the occasion of the Munich Security Conference |
| | Washington, DC, Nov. 9 | Korea-US foreign ministers' meeting |
| | May 6, Oct. 5, Oct. 21, Oct. 22 | Phone calls between the Korean foreign minister and the US secretary of state (four in total) |
| Vice foreign ministers' meeting | Seoul, July 8 | Korea-US vice foreign ministers' strategic dialogue |
| | Washington, DC, Sept. 10 | Korea-US vice foreign ministers' meeting |
| | Seoul, Dec. 9 | Korea-US vice foreign ministers' meeting |

2 Expanding the Support Base for the Korea-US Strategic Alliance

In 2020, the Korean government cooperated with the US Congress, which included active explanations of the latest issues such as the peace process on the Korean Peninsula and the negotiations on the Korea-US Special Measures Agreement, in spite of the COVID-19 situation. Also, the Korean government actively conducted public diplomacy activities on Korean policy, targeting US opinion leaders.

These efforts did much to lay a foundation for the continuous development of the Korea-US alliance. In 2020, the US House of Representatives adopted two resolutions

supporting the Korea-US alliance. In addition, the US Congress introduced a number of resolutions confirming the importance of the Korea-US alliance and supporting Korea's diplomatic efforts regarding the issues of the Korean Peninsula.

The Korean government actively interacted with the US Congress representatives not only face-to-face but also in a virtual format amid the COVID-19 breakout. The Korean government had virtual meetings with a number of US Congress representatives, including a congressional staff delegation in June; Chairman Cory Gardner of the US Senate Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy in July; and Chairman Adam Smith of the House Armed Services Committee in October. Meanwhile, major Korean lawmakers visited the US, including a Liberty Korea Party delegation in January, the secretary general of the Korean National Assembly in February, and a Democratic Party Korean Peninsula Task Force delegation in November, bolstering inter-parliamentary exchange between the two countries.

Also, the Korean government made a big push in public diplomacy to enhance understanding by the US academia and opinion leaders of the importance of the Korea-US alliance and the Korean government's policies, including the peace process on the Korean Peninsula.

High-level officials of Korea attended events organized by think tanks such as the Korea-US Strategic Forum in June, co-hosted by the Korea Foundation and the Center for Strategic and International Studies; a virtual seminar hosted by the Asia Society in September; the 2020 Annual Gala of the Korea Society in October; the Aspen Security Forum in December; and a virtual meeting with the American Jewish Committee in December to enhance the US opinion leaders' understanding of Korea-US relations and the Korean government's policies.

In preparation for the 2020 US presidential election, MOFA operated a task force to analyze the US presidential election trends and direction of foreign policy changes in the next administration from various angles and reviewed Korea's countermeasures. And the Korean government established and strengthened the foundation for cooperation with the next US administration by building networks with Democratic and

Republican presidential campaigns and the people who would be participating in the new administration.

Furthermore, the Korean government actively conducted outreach activities targeting the Korean community in the US, such as the Korean Americans for Political Action and the Korean American Public Action Committee, stepping up its efforts to expand the support base for the Korea-US alliance.

3 Collaboration for Strengthening the Korea-US Alliance and Efforts to Resolve Alliance Issues

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, Korea and the US communicated closely at various security consultative mechanisms and advanced to a more robust alliance. The two countries acknowledged that significant progress had been made regarding the Conditions-based Operational Control Transition Plan and discussed the way forward at the 52nd Korea-US Security Consultative Meeting held in Washington, DC in October and the 17th and 18th Korea-US Integrated Defense Dialogue held virtually in April and September, respectively. They also agreed to continue to deepen cooperation in various areas, such as space and cyberspace.

Following 2018 and 2019, Korea and the US continued to conduct combined exercises in 2020 in an adjusted manner, considering all circumstances under the principle that they support diplomatic efforts to achieve denuclearization and establish peace on the Korean Peninsula. Despite the first half of the year's Combined Command Post Training (CCPT) being canceled due to COVID-19, the two countries committed to a robust combined defense posture by conducting the second half of the year's CCPT under watertight quarantine measures.

Korea continued to pursue trilateral security cooperation with the US and Japan to counter nuclear and missile threats from the North Korea. Korea participated in the

virtually-held 12th Defense Trilateral Talks in May and discussed issues including the situation on the Korean Peninsula, regional security, COVID-19 response, and trilateral security cooperation.

In July, through close consultation with the US, Korea adopted the 2020 Revised Missile Guidelines that completely lifted the restriction on the use of solid propellants for Space Launch Vehicles (SLVs). As a result, it became possible to develop civilian SLVs by freely using liquid and solid propellants, creating an environment where Korean private companies and individuals could freely enter the space industry. Furthermore, it provided the impetus for expanding Korea-US cooperation to the new frontier of space.

In negotiations for the 11th Special Measures Agreement (SMA), Korea held fast to the principle of fair and reasonable cost sharing while maintaining the framework of the existing agreement. Korea made its utmost effort to reach a deal before the end of the year, exemplified by holding the seventh Korea-US meeting in person — in Washington, DC in March — despite the COVID-19 situation. However, amid the delay in reaching an agreement, an unprecedented furlough of the Korean national employees of US Forces Korea (USFK) occurred from April 1 to June 14. In response, Korea closely consulted with the US, focusing on the stable management of the prolonged negotiations. Most importantly, Korea facilitated early termination of the furlough by funding the labor costs for Korean national employees prior to reaching an agreement. Simultaneously, it also provided livelihood support during their furlough by expeditiously enacting a related special law. The Korea-US SMA negotiations resumed virtually in late November.

4 Managing and Improving the Operation of the Status of Forces Agreement

In 2020, MOFA endeavored to protect the rights of and enhance the benefits to the Korean people through the stable operation of the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA).

At the 201st Korea-US SOFA Joint Committee Meeting on December 11 conducted virtually, the two sides agreed upon the return of 12 USFK installations, including the Yongsan Garrison. The return of these installations had been delayed for a long time due to the disagreement between the two sides over the standards and responsibilities for environmental remediation. Consequently, these areas had been faced with growing social and economic challenges, such as the possible spread of contamination and setbacks to development plans. The Korean government actively held discussions with the US through a pan-governmental task force, the KOREA-USFK SOFA channel, and foreign and defense high-level exchanges to expedite the return process of these installations. As a result, Korea and the US agreed to the return of 12 installations on the condition that the two sides continue discussions on (a) remediation responsibility, (b) ways to enhance environmental management of the bases currently used by USFK, and (c) possible changes, proposed by Korea, to SOFA-related documents. The return of the 12 installations marked the highest number of installations returned in a single year since 2008 and in particular laid the groundwork for the creation of Yongsan Park as being the first partial return since the 2019 agreement on the return procedures of the Yongsan Garrison.

In the midst of the unprecedented spread of COVID-19, MOFA maintained close cooperation with USFK and the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA) in efforts to dispel the concerns of the local communities and Korean people. MOFA established close partnerships and communication channels with the SOFA Disease Prevention and Control Subcommittee and the KDCA, countering the epidemic systematically and effectively together with USFK, such as making an agreement with USFK to control incoming USFK personnel under the full responsibility of USFK — mandatory COVID-19 testing upon entry, 14-day quarantine on base, etc. As a result, the infection rate of COVID-19 in USFK recorded the lowest among the US forces deployed worldwide. There was also a case in which the two sides agreed in August to temporarily use the to-be returned US base, Niblo Barracks located in Yongsan, Seoul, as a COVID-19 selective care center. It made the case in which Korea-US cooperation

on base return led to a joint combat against COVID-19.

In addition, various efforts were made to enhance civil-military relations between USFK and the local community. The third SOFA Civil-Military Relations Subcommittee meeting was held in efforts to reactivate the consultation channel. The Seoul and Pyeongtaek SOFA Support Center continued to offer legal counseling and on-site support activities to relieve any problems Korean people could face. Following its initial survey conducted in 2019, MOFA carried out the second survey of residents in communities adjacent to USFK installations in order to understand their perceptions of USFK, accumulating preliminary data as reference for policymaking in regards to civil-military relations. In addition, new projects were launched to further the exchanges between the Korean citizens and USFK, using easily accessible social exchange platforms through which people could actively participate. Firstly, MOFA launched and activated online and offline gatherings of “We Go Supporters” to expand and promote civil-military exchanges between Korean and American nationals and deepen mutual understanding on the Korea-US alliance. In addition, MOFA launched its online projects on social media channels including Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, etc. to effectively raise the awareness and understanding of the overall Korean community on various SOFA issues. Moreover, MOFA supported various local civil-military programs by granting a subsidiary budget to Pyeongtaek City, where Camp Humphreys is located.

Korea and the US worked closely together through the SOFA Joint Committee led by MOFA Director General for North American Affairs and USFK Deputy Commander, the Special Joint Committee led by MOFA Deputy Director General for North American Affairs and USFK J-5 Assistant Chief of Staff, and some 20 subcommittee consultation channels. The two sides agreed to continue the joint efforts to ensure safety and prevent accidents during the USFK training period and USFK-related crime and address the noise complaints in the communities near USFK installations. A total of 26 SOFA agreements were publicly released.

Section 4 Diplomacy for Cooperation with Neighboring Countries

1 Korea-Japan Relations

Korea and Japan share values and are the closest neighbors that need to work closely together to foster strong ties and to achieve peace and prosperity in Northeast Asia and beyond. Accordingly, the Korean government endeavored to manage and further develop Korea-Japan relations in a stable manner based on a “two-track” approach — seeking ways to resolve the problems rooted in history while promoting practical, future-oriented cooperation between the two countries.

Amidst the ongoing challenges in Korea-Japan relations posed by Japan’s retaliatory export restriction measures against the 2018 ruling of the Korean Supreme Court in favor of the victims of forced labor during the Japanese colonial rule of Korea, the Korean government made efforts to maintain the momentum of dialogue formed at the Korea-Japan summit in December 2019. The diplomatic authorities of the two countries reaffirmed their commitment to communicate and consult for the resolution of pending issues at the Korea-Japan foreign ministers’ meetings on January 14 and February 15. Even after the spread of COVID-19, communication continued on each level, including the telephone conversation between the two foreign ministers on

June 3.

The Korean government urged the Japanese government to withdraw the export restrictions in question and at the same time removed all grounds for Japan’s export control against Korea by holding Export Control Policy Dialogues, clarifying Korea’s legal basis for catch-all controls and expanding Korea’s organization and personnel for export control. Nevertheless, the Japanese government failed to show sincerity in resolving this issue. The Korean government concluded that the situation did not warrant to be considered normal operation of dialogues, which was the condition for the suspension in November 2019 of the World Trade Organization (WTO) dispute settlement process Korea initiated against Japan. Therefore, the Korean government announced on June 2 that it resumed the dispute settlement process at the WTO regarding Japan’s measures against Korea on three materials — hydrogen fluoride, EUV photoresists, and fluorinated polyimides.

Apart from the pending bilateral issues, Korea and Japan worked together in various ways to overcome the transnational public health crisis, COVID-19. The two countries actively collaborated to provide consular assistance, such as jointly arranging return flights for nationals located abroad. For instance, the Korean foreign minister sent a letter of gratitude to the Japanese foreign minister for the safe return of a Korean child, who was diagnosed with acute leukemia while living in India, on a temporary flight arranged by the Japanese government on May 5.

In the wake of the launch of Japan’s new cabinet on September 16, the Korean government stepped up its efforts to elicit the Japanese government’s forthcoming stance and to create conditions for improving Korea-Japan relations. During his telephone conversation with the Japanese Prime Minister Suga Yoshihide on September 24, President Moon said the



Phone conversation between the leaders of Korea and Japan (Sept. 24)

two countries should accelerate communication efforts to resolve the pending bilateral issues, such as the issue of forced labor, as Prime Minister Suga had just assumed his office. He also wished the success of the Tokyo Olympics, as Korea and Japan are close neighbors. A positive momentum was created afterwards between the two countries, including the implementation of the Korea-Japan Special Entry Procedure on October 8, strengthening of communication between the diplomatic authorities such as the Korea-Japan Directors-General Meeting in Seoul on October 29 and the telephone conversation between the vice foreign ministers on November 12, and the reactivation of political and business exchanges including the visit by the incoming representatives of the Korea-Japan Parliamentarians' Union to Japan on November 12-14.

Korea dealt with Japan's words and deeds stemming from a distorted view of history in a firm way based on principles. The Korean government strongly objected to Japan's unjust claims over Dokdo on occasions such as the Japanese foreign minister's speech on foreign affairs at the parliament on January 20, the Japanese government's expansion and relocation of the so-called "National Museum of Territory and Sovereignty" on January 20, the annual "Dokdo Day" event held in Japan's Shimane Prefecture on February 22, the Japanese government's approval of incorrect Dokdo-related contents in its middle school textbooks on March 24, and Japan's *Diplomatic Bluebook* released on May 19 and *Defense of Japan 2020* issued on July 14, which claim that Dokdo is Japan's territory. When Japan's leading politicians visited and paid tribute to the Yasukuni Shrine, a symbolic establishment glorifying Japan's war of aggression, the Korean government expressed deep concern and emphasized the importance of Japan having the correct perception of history. In addition, the Korean government lodged a protest over the contents of exhibition at Japan's Industrial Heritage Information Centre, which was made public on June 15, and urged the Japanese government to fulfill the promise it made to the international community. The exhibition showed that the Japanese government did not take follow-up measures, such as remembering the victims of forced labor, which it had promised to take when the Sites of Japan's Meiji Industrial Revolution were inscribed on the World Heritage

List in 2015.

Regarding the issue of "comfort women" victims of the Imperial Japanese Army, the Korean government continued to make efforts to restore the honor and dignity of the victims. These efforts included raising awareness of the international community on the nature of the issue — a violation of women's rights in wartime as well as a violation of universal human rights.

Private sector exchanges between Korea and Japan, which had been stagnated after Japan took export restriction measures in 2019, faced greater difficulties under the COVID-19 situation. The total number of travelers between Korea and Japan in 2020 was about 919,000, a 89.6% decrease from about 8,858,000 in 2019. Although face-to-face exchanges dwindled sharply, efforts continued to maintain regular exchanges promoting a friendly relationship. For instance, the annual Korea-Japan Festival was held online on November 10. From October 8, the special entry procedure for Korean and Japanese businesspeople was implemented, serving as a catalyst for resuming people-to-people exchanges, starting from essential personnel between the two countries.

The total trade volume between Korea and Japan recorded a 8.3% year-on-year decrease from about \$76 billion in 2019 to about \$71.12 billion in 2020. Specifically, Korea's total exports to Japan dropped from \$28.42 billion to \$25.09 billion, and Korea's imports from Japan also showed a decrease from \$47.58 billion to \$46.03 billion. But the two countries remained to be each other's third biggest trade partner. Korea's investment in Japan grew by 21% from about \$1.33 billion in 2019 to about \$1.61 billion in 2020, while Japan's investment in Korea dropped by 49% from about \$1.43 billion to about \$0.73 billion.

Major exchanges between Korea and Japan in 2020

| Meeting | Date and Place | Occasion |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Exchanges between heads of state | Sept. 24 | Phone conversation between President Moon Jae-in and Prime Minister Suga Yoshihide |
| Exchanges between foreign ministers and vice foreign ministers | San Francisco, Jan. 14 | Korea-Japan foreign ministers' meeting on the occasion of the Korea-US-Japan foreign ministers' meeting |
| | Munich, Feb. 15 | Korea-Japan foreign ministers' meeting on the occasion of the Munich Security Conference |
| | June 3 | Phone conversation between Korean and Japanese foreign ministers |
| | Nov. 12 | Phone conversation between Korean and Japanese vice foreign ministers |
| Other exchange event | Tokyo, Jan. 9-11 | Visit by the delegation of the Korea-Japan Parliamentarians' Union to Japan |
| | Seoul, Oct. 17-19 | Visit of Secretary General of the Japan-Korea Parliamentarians' Union to Korea |
| | Tokyo, Nov. 12-14 | Visit by the incoming representatives of the Korea-Japan Parliamentarians' Union to Japan - Joint board of governors meeting of the Korea-Japan and Japan-Korea Parliamentarians' Unions (Nov. 12) |
| | Nov. 27 | 52nd Korea-Japan Business Conference (teleconference) |

2 Korea-China Relations

Amid the COVID-19 situation in 2020, Korea and China had been developing stable bilateral relations by continuing active communication and high-level exchanges through both face-to-face and non-face-to-face channels, including video conferencing.

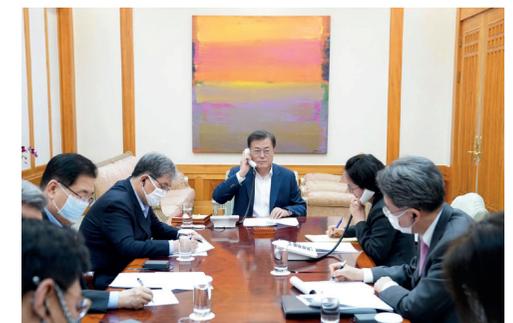
President Moon Jae-in and President of China Xi Jinping had telephone conversations on February 20 and May 13 and several exchanges of correspondence. On these occasions, the two leaders agreed to promote substantive cooperation in various areas, including COVID-19 response, health security, the economy, and people-

to-people exchanges.

The two countries, despite the restrictions caused by COVID-19, continued high-level face-to-face exchanges. Director of National Security Suh Hoon had a meeting with Yang Jiechi, Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, in Busan on August 22 and exchanged views on broad issues of mutual interest, including the Korean Peninsula issues and regional and global affairs. Yang's visit to Korea, which was the first visit of a high-level Chinese official to Korea after the outbreak of COVID-19, served as an opportunity to affirm the two countries' willingness to promote bilateral exchanges and cooperation through face-to-face communication.

In addition, Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Kyung-wha, through the meeting with State Councilor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of China Wang Yi on November 26 during his official visit to Korea, maintained the momentum for high-level strategic communication between the two countries. It was the first face-to-face bilateral ministerial meeting after COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic, following the one held in Munich on February 15 on the occasion of the Munich Security Conference. The two foreign ministers agreed to cooperate on promoting the future-oriented development of Korea-China relations actively. In this regard, they agreed in principle to launch the Committee for Future-Oriented Development of Korea-China Relations, which aims to make a blueprint for the next 30 years of bilateral relations ahead of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of Korea-China diplomatic relations in 2022.

Various non-face-to-face high-level exchanges were also active. There were telephone conversations between the two foreign ministers on January 28 and



Phone conversation between the leaders of Korea and China (May 13)

February 26 and video conferences between the two vice foreign ministers on April 17 and December 23. In terms of inter-parliamentary exchanges, Speaker of the National Assembly Park Byeong-Seug had a video conference with Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) Li Zhanshu on December 21. Chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee of the National Assembly Song Young-gil also held a video conference with his counterpart Chairman of the NPC Foreign Affairs Committee Zhang Yesui on September 28. The continuous face-to-face and non-face-to-face communication between the leaders and high-level officials of the two countries amid the COVID-19 situation contributed to enriching the Korea-China strategic cooperative partnership and the future-oriented development of bilateral relations.

While the COVID-19 pandemic caused a global trade contraction by 5.3%, it had limited influence on the bilateral trade volume between Korea and China in 2020, which amounted to \$241.45 billion (\$132.57 billion in exports and \$108.88 billion in imports), a decline of only 0.8% compared to 2019. As a result, China remained the largest trading partner for Korea in terms of imports and exports, while Korea remained the third-largest trading partner of China (fourth in exports and second in imports). The foreign direct investment (FDI) toward China from Korea decreased by 19%, from \$5.81 billion in 2019 to \$4.69 billion in 2020, while Chinese FDI toward Korea increased by 103% from \$0.98 billion in 2019 to \$1.99 billion in 2020. For people-to-people exchange between the two countries, the number of visitors from both sides dropped sharply due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the Korea-China summit held during President Moon's state visit to China in 2017 and another Korea-China summit held on the occasion of Korea-Japan-China trilateral summit, the two sides agreed to explore common areas between Korea's New Southern and China's Belt and Road Initiative. For this purpose, the two countries discussed ways to find concrete projects to promote the linkage between the two initiatives at the 24th Korea-China Joint Economic Committee on August 1, the Economic Ministers' Meeting on October 16, and the 24th Korea-China Meeting for

Comprehensive Review of Economic Cooperation on December 9 in 2020.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Korea and China exerted various efforts to strengthen the friendship between the people of the two countries. The two countries successfully held the Seventh Repatriation Ceremony for the Remains of Chinese Soldiers, held since 2014 in the humanitarian spirit, making the ceremony a symbol of the friendship and cooperation between the two countries. In addition, Korea continued its cooperation with China regarding the operation and commemoration of the historic sites for Korea's independent movement in China, including the Exhibition Hall of the Korean Provisional Government in Shanghai and the Patriot Ahn Jung-geun Memorial Hall.

The Korean government actively explored and carried out online exchange projects despite the limitations imposed by COVID-19. Missions of Korea in China held various hybrid webinar events to promote local online and offline participation, such as launching the social media supporters program called "Korea-China Friendship Guardian Angels" and organizing the online walking event to celebrate the 28th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Korea and China. Meanwhile, during Wang Yi's visit to Korea in November, the two countries agreed to designate 2021 and 2022 as the Year of Korea-China Cultural Exchanges, based on the consensus between the two leaders, which will serve as opportunities to further deepen mutual understanding and promote the friendship between the people of the two countries.

In order to strengthen cooperation on the response to COVID-19, Korea and China held two rounds of dialogue for cooperation on response to COVID-19 in the form of video conferences on March 13 and April 29. The two countries shared their experiences in fighting against COVID-19 and discussed ways to support essential economic and people-to-people exchanges amid the global pandemic.

Major exchanges between Korea and China in 2020

| Meeting | Place and Date | Occasion |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Summit-level exchanges | Feb. 20, May 13 | Phone conversation between President Moon Jae-in and Chinese President Xi Jinping |
| Ministerial and vice ministerial exchanges | Jan. 28 | Phone conversation between the ministers of foreign affairs |
| | Munich, Feb. 15 | Foreign ministers' meeting on the occasion of the Munich Security Conference |
| | Feb. 26 | Phone conversation between the ministers of foreign affairs |
| | Apr. 17 | Video conference between the vice ministers of foreign affairs |
| | Seoul, Nov. 25-27 | Official visit of State Councilor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of China Wang Yi |
| | Dec. 23 | Video conference between the vice ministers of foreign affairs |
| Other high-level exchanges | Mar. 13 | Dialogue for cooperation on response to COVID-19, first round (director-general-level) |
| | Apr. 29 | Dialogue for cooperation on response to COVID-19, second round (director-general-level) |
| | July 23 | Video consultation between Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Kim Gunn and Vice Foreign Minister of China Luo Zhaohui |
| | Busan, Aug. 21-22 | Member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China Yang Jiechi's visit to Korea |
| | Sept. 28 | Video conference between Chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee Song Young-gil and Chairman of the NPC Foreign Affairs Committee Zhang Yesui |
| | Nov. 9 | Video consultation between Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Kim Gunn and Vice Foreign Minister of China Luo Zhaohui |
| | Dec. 21 | Video conference between Speaker of the National Assembly Park Byeong-Seug and Chairman of the Standing Committee of the NPC Li Zhanshu |

3 Korea-Japan-China Trilateral Cooperation

Korea, as the chair of the Ninth Korea-Japan-China Trilateral Summit of 2020, demonstrated its leadership to restore and strengthen trilateral cooperation in various

areas that had been stalled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Shortly after the World Health Organization's pandemic declaration in March 2020, Korea held a Korea-Japan-China trilateral foreign ministers' video meeting where the ministers discussed ways to cooperate to keep COVID-19 from spreading and end the crisis early.

This meeting, with the spread of COVID-19, served as an opportunity for the three neighboring countries to restore trilateral cooperation in the economy and people-to-people exchanges and start discussions on cooperation in the health and quarantine areas for a quick end of the COVID-19 crisis.



Special Korea-Japan-China foreign ministers' meeting on COVID-19 (Mar. 20)

Furthermore, Korea held the Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation Forum in December 2020, and major countries in the Northeast Asian region such as Korea, Japan, China, the US, Russia, and Mongolia discussed confidence building measures in Northeast Asia and regional cooperation for countering the pandemic.

After the trilateral education ministers' meeting in Beijing on January 10, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the three countries held a number of trilateral consultations, including six minister-level video meetings: a trilateral foreign ministers' meeting on March 20, a trilateral health ministers' meeting on May 15, a trilateral ministerial conference on transportation and logistics on June 29, a trilateral finance ministers' and central bank governors' meeting on September 18, a trilateral heads of patent offices meeting on December 1, and a trilateral sports ministers' meeting on December 24.

While most of the private cooperation projects of the three countries were postponed or canceled due to the COVID-19 situation, MOFA actively implemented public relations projects for trilateral cooperation.

At the Korea-Japan-China Non-Summit, which was streamed on MOFA's YouTube channel, one youth representative from each country freely exchanged opinions on

people-to-people exchanges, overseas employment for youths, and international cooperation in the post-COVID-19 era.

MOFA also held the Korea-Japan-China trilateral cooperation User Created Content (UCC) contest from June 29 to September 11 and awarded 24 out of 38 UCC content created. The 24 awarded content were presented on November 2 at the award ceremony, which raised the public's interest in trilateral cooperation.

Moreover, the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) located in Seoul carried out various projects for trilateral cooperation including a public webinar on COVID-19 pandemic managing experiences and best practices of Korea, Japan, and China on July 2 and a webinar on Korea-Japan-China smart cities on August 5.

Also, the TCS invited scholars from ASEAN+3 countries and held the East Asia Inter-regional Dialogue online on COVID-19 and future-oriented trilateral cooperation on October 28.

4 Korea-Russia Relations

Korea and Russia, which marked the 30th anniversary of diplomatic ties in 2020, actively continued summit and high-level exchanges through face-to-face and non-face-to-face methods despite the COVID-19 situation, strengthening the foundation for strategic communication and mutually beneficial cooperation related to peace on the Korean Peninsula.

On September 28, 2020, President Moon Jae-in held a phone conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin and celebrated the 30th anniversary



Phone conversation between the leaders of Korea and Russia (Sept. 28)

of diplomatic ties. The two heads of state highly valued the development of bilateral relations in various fields, including politics, the economy, society, and culture over the past 30 years since the establishment of diplomatic ties. Also, they agreed to develop bilateral relations in a more mutually beneficial and future-oriented way.

In particular, Korea and Russia reaffirmed the commitment to strategic communication for strengthening substantive cooperation and establishing peace on the Korean Peninsula, centered on the 9-Bridges key cooperation areas such as shipbuilding, industrial complexes, and service/investment FTAs.

Prime Minister Chung Sye-kyun and Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin also spoke on the phone on June 3 to discuss ways to enhance cooperation between the two countries and the situation on the Korean Peninsula. In addition, both sides highly appreciated the continued close communication at all levels despite the COVID-19 situation and extended the 2020 Korea-Russia Year of Mutual Exchange, which was adopted to commemorate the 30th anniversary of diplomatic ties, until 2021 to further strengthen bilateral exchanges and cooperation.

Deputy Prime Minister Hong Nam-ki and Russian Deputy Prime Minister Yuri Trutnev, co-chairs of the Korea-Russia Joint Commission on Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation & Organizing Committee for 30th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relation held a video conference on October 27 to review the progress of the commemorative project in general and discussed the progress of major economic cooperation projects as well as future cooperation plans.

Presidential special envoy Woo Yoon-keun visited Russia from December 13 to 19 to discuss ways to develop relations between Korea and Russia, including Chairman of the State Duma Vyacheslav Volodin and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. The dispatch of Special Envoy Woo Yoon-keun, which was promoted at a time when face-to-face diplomacy was restricted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, served as an opportunity to continue the development of Korea-Russia relations and reaffirm the will of strategic communication between the two countries for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and the establishment of lasting peace.

Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha and Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov exchanged celebratory letters on September 30 to mark the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations that had steadily developed since in various fields and to build more reciprocal and constructive bilateral relations.

Inter-parliamentary cooperation between the two countries was also closely conducted. Song Young-gil, Chairman of the National Assembly's Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee, spoke with the heads of foreign affairs committees of the upper and lower houses of Russia, respectively, and actively communicated about issues on the Korean Peninsula and ways to make progress in substantive cooperation between the two countries.

Major exchanges between Korea and Russia in 2020

| Meeting | Date | Occasion |
|--------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Summit-level exchange | Sept. 28 | Summit phone talks |
| Prime minister-level exchange | June 3 | Prime ministers' phone talks |
| | Oct. 19-21 | Prime Minister Chung Sye-kyun gave an online keynote speech at the Open Innovations Forum (virtual format) |
| | Oct. 27 | Meeting of the co-chairs of the Korea-Russia Joint Commission on Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation & Organizing Committee for 30th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations (virtual format) |
| Minister-level exchange | Sept. 30 | Foreign ministers' exchange of celebratory letters to mark the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations |
| | Dec. 13-19 | Presidential Special Envoy Woo Yoon-keun visited Moscow, Russia |
| Deputy minister-level exchange | Dec. 18 | 14th meeting of the Korea-Russia Far East and Siberia Sub-committee (virtual format) |

On the other hand, despite the limitations of face-to-face exchanges due to COVID-19, the two countries actively communicated by utilizing non-face-to-face exchanges, taking a step forward in friendly relations in key substantive cooperation areas such as innovation and Russian Far East development.

On October 19, Prime Minister Chung Sye-kyun gave an online keynote speech

at the Open Innovations Forum, Russia's largest innovation event, as a guest country of honor to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Korea-Russia diplomatic relations and to show Russia's high consideration for Korea's innovation capabilities. In his keynote speech, Prime Minister Chung emphasized the importance of innovation cooperation between the two countries in the digital transformation era accelerated by COVID-19.

On October 27, Deputy Prime Minister Hong Nam-ki signed the 9-Bridges Action Plan 2.0, which aimed to expand and reorganize the basic framework of Korea-Russia economic cooperation and create new growth engines. With the signing as an opportunity, the two countries developed the 9-Bridges Strategy proposed by President Moon Jae-in at the Third Eastern Economic Forum in September 2017 and expanded and readjusted the nine bridge areas — energy, railroad and infrastructure, shipbuilding, port and navigation, agriculture and fisheries, healthcare, investment, innovation platform, culture and tourism — to enhance the institutional basis for economic cooperation.

At the 14th meeting of the Korea-Russia Far East and Siberia Sub-committee held in a virtual format on December 18, Deputy Minister for Political Affairs Kim Gunn had an in-depth discussion with Deputy Minister for the Development of the Russian Far East and Arctic Alexander Krutikov on ways to promote substantive cooperation between Korea and Russia with a focus on the Russian Far East. At the subcommittee meeting, the Korea Land and Housing Corporation and Russia's Far East Development Corp signed an implementation agreement for the construction of a Korea-Russia Economic Cooperation Industrial Complex in Primorsky Krai in Primorsky Krai, providing a bridgehead for Korean SMEs to advance into the Far East and expand cooperation in infrastructure between the two countries. In addition, the two countries continued efforts to make progress in substantive cooperation, such as the 29th Korea-Russia Fisheries Committee Meeting on February 17-19, the Fourth Korea-Russia Arctic Consultation on November 19, three rounds of the Korea-Russia service and investment FTA negotiations, and joint research in the fields of electricity, gas, and railways.

Meanwhile, the two countries actively cooperated to overcome COVID-19. Both

countries worked together to support the return of their nationals and, in the case of Korean companies in Russia, guaranteed an exception to allow an early restart of operation. In addition, the Russian side actively participated in Korea's Northeast Asia Cooperation for Health Security (NEACHS) and in a webinar that was arranged to share experiences of Korea's disease control and K-quarantine models with the international community and help the world overcome COVID-19.

In 2020, Korea-Russia trade volume slightly decreased from \$22.3 billion in 2019 to \$17.5 billion due to the COVID-19 situation, but Korea remained Russia's ninth-largest trading partner and the second-largest trading partner in the Russian Far East.

In the private sector, various exchanges were pursued by actively utilizing face-to-face and non-face-to-face methods, centered on the Korea-Russia Dialogue. The Korea-Russia Dialogue is a private forum launched in September 2008 with an agreement between the two leaders to promote exchanges in the private sector. Industry, academia, the private and government sector, and the public sector are participating in the dialogue. In 2020, the Korea-Russia dialogue continued at the virtually-held Russian Film Seminar of the 25th Busan International Film Festival on October 23, the 6th Next-Generation Homecoming Day held in Seoul on October 31, the virtually-held Park Kyong-ni Literary Festival on August 21, and a concert held in Seoul on November 12 to commemorate the 30th anniversary of diplomatic ties.

In addition, various events to commemorate the 30th anniversary of diplomatic ties were held under the slogan of "A future created together through friendship and trust (Дружить. Доверять. Действовать. Be friends, Trust, Act)," which was selected from 1,144 entries submitted by the people of both countries. Amid the COVID-19 situation, 62 and 32 events were held in Korea and Russia, respectively, in various ways including online and hybrid, providing an opportunity to promote mutual understanding between the people of the two countries.

Members of the Second New Northern Young Future Pioneer Group were selected as a public diplomacy project involving public participation. This project is to support young Koreans who wish to enter the Russian region to explore and find

business ideas and opportunities and to provide exchanging opportunities with Russian businesspeople and journalists.

MOFA newly established the Eurasia Division 1 to focus on Russia, expanding the organizational basis for promoting cooperation between Korea and Russia.

5 Korea-Mongolia Relations

With March 26, 2020 marking the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Korea and Mongolia, both countries held various celebratory events, including the designation of the year as the Korea-Mongolia Friendship Year and the creation of a celebratory diplomatic relations logo as well as the exchange of celebratory letters between their respective leaders and high-level officials amid COVID-19.

Furthermore, Korea and Mongolia continued their close coordination on humanitarian assistance, including by supporting the repatriation of their nationals, providing equipment for disease prevention and control, and sharing information on COVID-19 prevention and control.



Logo for the 30th anniversary of Korea-Mongolia diplomatic relations



Reception to mark the anniversary of Korea-Mongolia diplomatic relations (Ulaanbaatar, Oct. 8)



Video conference between ministers of foreign affairs (Dec. 21)

Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha had a virtual meeting with Foreign Minister

Nyamtseren Enkhtaivan on December 21. The two leaders noted the importance of the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations. They also exchanged views on developing the NEACHS initiative for infectious disease control and public health while discussing ways to develop cooperation at the multilateral level.

The two countries also held the Fifth Korea-Mongolia Joint Committee Meeting virtually on November 24 to discuss a wide range of issues, including strengthening substantive cooperation and continuing the momentum for high-level exchanges.

In addition, Korea and Mongolia built a shared understanding that geographically adjacent neighboring countries must cooperate in responding to transborder health crises.

Both countries agreed to strive for the establishment of the NEACHS, initially proposed by President Moon on the occasion of the UN General Assembly, for infectious disease control and public health. They also agreed to solidify cooperation for regional infectious disease control and public health.

6 Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation Platform

Due to their geographical proximity and high-level of interdependence, countries in Northeast Asia need to work closely together and actively pursue shared interests. In this regard, the Korean government is vigorously pushing for the establishment of a Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation Platform to mitigate geographical tension and conflicts within the region and to seek new opportunities for regional cooperation and co-prosperity. The Korean government believes that the platform will contribute to building a habit of dialogue and cooperation among countries in the region and lay the foundation for sustainable peace and prosperity based on substantive cooperation.

Despite the difficulties caused by COVID-19 in 2020, the Korean government held on- and off-line hybrid events, exerting every effort to enhance the momentum for cooperation between the people and the governments in the region.

As part of such efforts, the 2020 Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation Forum, a track-two meeting, was held in Seoul on December 3-4 in a hybrid format. This forum brought together experts from the forum's participating countries — Korea, Japan, China, the US, Russia, and Mongolia — as well as from its dialogue partners — Australia, New Zealand, ASEAN, the EU, NATO, etc. The participants discussed under the themes of “Quest for confidence building measures in Northeast Asia: lessons from Europe,” “Initial confidence building measures among Korea, Japan, and China: searching for practicalities,” and “Countering the pandemic: making a safe region.”

The forum was followed by a track-one intergovernmental online meeting on December 15, which was joined by diplomats from Korea, Japan, China, the US, Russia, and Mongolia. The Korean government proposed the Northeast Asia Cooperation Initiative for Infectious Disease Control and Public Health at the meeting. Amid the global pandemic and geo-political instabilities, the meeting served as an opportunity to mobilize support to push forward the initiative and to navigate a path toward confidence-building to sustain peace and prosperity in the Northeast Asian region.

The Korean government has been also pushing forward the Public-Private Network project to promote voluntary cooperation within the private sector by bridging relevant private research institutes in the region. As part of the project, the Korean government encouraged and supported private research institutes in Korea and in major Northeast Asian countries, including Japan and China, to work more closely together in seeking new opportunities for regional cooperation.



2020 Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation Forum (Dec. 3-4)



2020 Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation Intergovernmental Meeting (Dec. 15)

IV

2021 DIPLOMATIC
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Section 1 Advancement of the New Southern Policy

1 Objectives and Progress of the New Southern Policy

Since President Moon Jae-in announced the New Southern Policy during his visit to Southeast Asian countries in November 2017, the Korean government has been working on building a “people-centered community of peace and prosperity” by strengthening cooperation in achieving the 3Ps with ASEAN member states and India, which are partner countries of the New Southern Policy as well as Korea’s key cooperation partners.

In 2019, the ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit was held in Busan in November to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the establishment of ASEAN-ROK dialogue relations. The Korean government also hosted the First Mekong-ROK Summit in connection with the commemorative summit to strengthen the momentum for the New Southern Policy.

In 2020, the Korean government announced the New Southern Policy Plus at the ASEAN-ROK Summit on November 12 in order to reflect the changes in the international environment caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The New Southern Policy Plus, which is an updated version of the New Southern Policy, consists of seven

initiatives.

ASEAN leaders welcomed the New Southern Policy Plus in the chairman’s statement adopted at the 21st ASEAN-ROK Summit and agreed to work together to achieve a “people-centered community of peace and prosperity.”

The Korean government has also been seeking to bring Korea’s relations with India to a level on par with its relations with the US, China, Japan, and Russia — the four regional powers surrounding the Korean Peninsula. Korea and India have strengthened their ties on all fronts and deepened their special strategic partnership based on the solid trust and friendship between President Moon and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which were built through President Moon’s state visit to India in July 2018 and Prime Minister Modi’s state visit to Korea in February 2019. In 2020, the two countries continued to work together in the midst of the spread of COVID-19, such as in allowing the movement of essential personnel. At the same time, Korea and India increased practical cooperation in a range of areas including people-to-people and cultural exchanges.

2 Diplomacy with the Southeast Asian Region

2.1 Summit Diplomacy

(1) Meeting between the President of Korea and the Prime Minister of Cambodia

President Moon Jae-in met with Prime Minister Hun Sen of Cambodia on February 4 during the prime minister’s visit to Korea to attend the World Summit 2020. At the meeting, President Moon mentioned the completion of Cambodia’s first agricultural products distribution center, a joint venture by the two countries, and hoped that more Korean companies could participate in the infrastructure construction projects

in Cambodia. President Moon also expressed his appreciation to the Cambodian government for its active support for the Korean government's efforts to promote peace on the Korean Peninsula. Prime Minister Hun Sen said he looked forward to seeing greater support and cooperation from Korea in strengthening Cambodia's agricultural industry.

(2) Phone Call between the President of Korea and the Prime Minister of Viet Nam

President Moon Jae-in spoke on the phone with Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc on April 3 and discussed ways to increase bilateral and multilateral cooperation in COVID-19 response.

The two leaders agreed on the importance of international cooperation and solidarity in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and decided to carry out joint projects for building infrastructure such as smart cities, airports, ports, and railways in Viet Nam as well as for preparing for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, as discussed at the Seoul summit in November 2019.

(3) Phone Call between the President of Korea and the President of Indonesia

President Moon Jae-in spoke with Indonesian President Joko Widodo on the phone on April 21 and discussed cooperation on COVID-19 response as well as ways to advance bilateral relations. President Moon shared Korea's successful experience in responding to COVID-19, while President Joko Widodo expressed appreciation for the disease prevention equipment provided by Korea as well as his commitment to join in the international community's efforts for COVID-19 response. The two leaders shared the view that essential movement should be ensured even in the COVID-19 situation and agreed to further strengthen substantive cooperation such as an early entry into force of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement between Korea and Indonesia.

(4) Phone Call between the President of Korea and the Prime Minister of Malaysia

President Moon Jae-in spoke with Prime Minister of Malaysia Muhyiddin Yassin on the phone on October 19 and discussed COVID-19 response and cooperation at multilateral level. President Moon hoped for the success of the 2020 APEC Summit under Malaysia's chairmanship. Prime Minister Yassin expressed his hope that he and President Moon could meet in person and discuss bilateral issues when the COVID-19 situation gets better.

2.2 Prime Ministerial Diplomacy

(1) Meeting between the Prime Ministers of Korea and Cambodia

Prime Minister Chung Sye-kyun had a working lunch with Prime Minister Hun Sen of Cambodia on February 4 and discussed ways to boost cooperation and expand people-to-people exchanges between the two countries. The prime ministers agreed to establish a more comprehensive, future-oriented, and mutually beneficial relationship between the two countries. They also decided to further strengthen cooperation between Korea, ASEAN, and the Mekong region based on the momentum created by the 2019 ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit and the First Mekong-ROK Summit.

(2) Meeting between the Prime Minister of Korea and the Second Vice President of Myanmar

Prime Minister Chung Sye-kyun met with Second Vice President of Myanmar Henry Van Thio on February 6 during his visit to Korea for the World Summit 2020. Prime Minister Chung expressed his hope for increased cooperation between Korea and Myanmar under the New Southern Policy. Vice President Thio fully agreed and said that he would provide support for the smooth implementation of the economic cooperation projects agreed between their two leaders.

2.3 Ministerial Diplomacy

(1) Foreign Minister's Official Visit to Viet Nam

Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha made an official visit to Viet Nam on September 17-18 and had a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh to discuss the Korea-Viet Nam strategic partnership, key bilateral and multilateral issues, and regional and international affairs.

The two ministers appreciated that the two countries had worked together closely in allowing exceptional entry of businesspeople and providing disease prevention supplies and agreed to expand the partnership between the two countries to include not only joint efforts for ending the COVID-19 pandemic but also economic cooperation in the post-COVID-19 era. In addition, they exchanged views about major developments in the regional situation such as issues on the Korean Peninsula and in the South China Sea.

(2) Phone Calls between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and Viet Nam

Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha spoke on the phone with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh of Viet Nam twice in 2020, on February 28 and July 23. They discussed the COVID-19 response of Korea and Viet Nam and ways to cooperate in various areas.

The two ministers decided to resume high-level exchanges between the two countries as soon as possible, while keeping an close eye on the COVID-19 situation, and further strengthen economic cooperation. In particular, they agreed on the need to simplify the entry process for essential personnel such as businesspeople, often referred to as “fast track,” and decided to work together to introduce such a system between the two countries.

Minister Kang reaffirmed Korea's full support for Viet Nam in its role as the chair of ASEAN for 2020 and hoped for increased cooperation between ASEAN and Korea as well as between the Mekong region and Korea. Deputy Prime Minister Pham Binh

Minh agreed and expressed his hope to strengthen cooperation between Korea and the Mekong region especially in the areas of fishing, energy, and water resources management.

(3) Phone Calls between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and Indonesia

Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha spoke on the phone with Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno L.P. Marsudi on March 3, March 28, August 12, and September 24. They discussed cooperation on COVID-19 response as well as ways to advance bilateral relations. While maintaining close communication even in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ministers worked closely together in promoting the joint response of Korea and Indonesia to the pandemic through sharing experiences and providing equipment. In particular, the ministers agreed to streamline the entry procedure for Korean businesspeople and allow them to enter Indonesia, which had in effect been suspended after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, the two ministers agreed to enhance communication and cooperation so that the two countries can further increase substantive cooperation as special strategic partners in areas such as the economy, national defense, and the defense industry as well as within international organizations.

(4) Phone Call between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and Thailand

Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Kyung-wha spoke with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand Don Pramudwinai by phone on March 5. Minister Kang explained in detail the Korean government's disease prevention efforts, and the ministers discussed ways to strengthen bilateral and regional cooperation in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Minister Kang explained that the Korean government was making an all-out effort to stop the spread of COVID-19 based on its robust diagnostic and epidemiological investigation capability. Minister Don expressed his confidence in the Korean government's ability to control the COVID-19 outbreak and asked for the Korean

government's interest in protecting Thai nationals, citing the significant number of Thai nationals in Korea.

The two ministers shared the view that cooperation among countries in the region was crucial to eradicating COVID-19 and agreed to continue working together in facilitating regional cooperation on public health issues.

(5) Phone Call between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and Myanmar

Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Kyung-wha spoke with Union Minister for International Cooperation Kyaw Tin of Myanmar over the phone on May 15 in commemoration of the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The two ministers shared the view that, since the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1975, there had been remarkable progress in Korea-Myanmar relations and agreed to further deepen and advance bilateral relations building on the progress made so far. Union Minister Kyaw Tin thanked the Korean government and Korean companies for providing test kits and other medical supplies. Minister Kang said that the Korean government would actively pursue increasing cooperation with Myanmar in disease control.

(6) Phone Call between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and Brunei

On July 29, Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-hwa spoke with Brunei's Foreign Minister II Erywan Yusof on the phone. The two foreign ministers discussed Korea-ASEAN cooperation including cooperation on COVID-19 response.

Minister Erywan expressed gratitude for the Korean government's efforts to work with ASEAN in fighting COVID-19 through the ASEAN-ROK Cooperation Fund and for contributing \$1 million to the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund. Minister Kang reaffirmed the Korean government's commitment to continuously support and cooperate with ASEAN in dealing with COVID-19 issues.

Minister Kang appreciated that Brunei, as country coordinator for ASEAN-ROK

dialogue relations, had contributed to promoting ASEAN-ROK cooperation. Minister Erywan expressed his hope that Brunei, the ASEAN Chair, and Korea could work closely together in addressing various issues in the region.

(7) Phone Call between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and Singapore

Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Kyung-hwa spoke over the phone with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Singapore Vivian Balakrishnan on September 2. The two ministers agreed to put in place a simplified entry procedure, also known as the "fast track," for essential personnel of the two countries including businesspeople and government officials.

In accordance with the agreement, essential personnel from Korea, including businesspeople, can enter Singapore and carry out business activities without quarantine as long as they leave Korea with a medical certificate showing a negative COVID-19 test result, as well as a Safe Travel Pass issued by the Singaporean government, and test negative upon their arrival in Singapore.

The two ministers also shared the view that global solidarity and cooperation for universal and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines are essential and agreed to step up bilateral cooperation to that end.

2.4 Other High-level Exchanges

The Korean government held various high-level consultations, in addition to summits and ministerial meetings, in order to discuss key bilateral issues and secure support for the New Southern Policy.

| Place and Date | Korean Side | Counterpart | Summary |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Seoul, Feb. 5 | Deputy Minister for Political Affairs of MOFA Kim Gunn | Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar Soe Han | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar - discussed Korea-Myanmar relations, ASEAN-ROK cooperation, and the situation on the Korean Peninsula |
| Seoul, Feb. 28 | Second Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Lee Tae-ho | Ambassadors of 11 Southeast Asian countries to Korea (10 ASEAN member states and East Timor) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with the ambassadors of 11 Southeast Asian countries to Korea - explained the Korean government's efforts for COVID-19 response and asked for their cooperation |
| Seoul, Mar. 3 | Second Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Lee Tae-ho | Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia Dato' Sri Muhammad Shahrul Ikram Bin Yaakob | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phone call with the vice foreign minister of Malaysia - explained the Korean government's efforts for COVID-19 response and asked for Malaysia's cooperation |
| Seoul, Mar. 4 | Deputy Minister for Political Affairs of MOFA Kim Gunn | Ambassador of Singapore to Korea Eric Teo | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with the ambassador of Singapore to Korea - requested for the withdrawal of the entry prohibition imposed due to COVID-19 |
| Seoul, Apr. 5 - June 16 | Deputy Minister for Political Affairs of MOFA Kim Gunn | ASEAN SOM leaders | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virtual meeting with ASEAN SOM leaders - shared information about COVID-19 response and discussed Korea-ASEAN cooperation measures and prospects |
| Seoul, June 15 | First Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Cho Sei-young | Ambassador of Viet Nam to Korea Nguyen Vu Tu | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with the ambassador of Viet Nam to Korea before his return - appreciated the ambassador's contribution to Korea-Viet Nam relations during his term and exchanged views on ways to develop bilateral relations |
| Singapore, Sept. 25 | Deputy Minister for Political Affairs of MOFA Kim Gunn | Second Permanent Secretary of Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Stanley Loh & Deputy Secretary of Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ng Teck Hean | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit to Singapore - discussed cooperation measures to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, the need to connect and expand the fast track system in the region, and the P4G Summit |

| | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Indonesia, Sept. 28-29 | Deputy Minister for Political Affairs of MOFA Kim Gunn | Foreign Minister of Indonesia Retno L.P. Marsudi, Director General for Asia-Pacific and African Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia Desra Percaya, and ASEAN Secretary-General Lim Jock Hoi | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit to Indonesia - discussed ways to promote cooperation between Korea and Indonesia as well as between Korea and ASEAN |
| Seoul, Oct. 15 | First Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Choi Jong Kun | Ambassadors of ASEAN member states to Korea | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with the ambassadors of ASEAN member states to Korea - exchanged opinions on ways to increase cooperation between Korea and ASEAN, advance the New Southern Policy, and prepare for ASEAN-related summits |
| Seoul, Nov. 4 | First Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Choi Jong Kun | Ambassador of Indonesia to Korea Umar Hadi | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with the ambassador of Indonesia to Korea - discussed ways to promote practical cooperation in high-level exchanges, politics, the economy, national defense, and the defense industry |
| Seoul, Nov. 23 | First Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Choi Jong Kun | Ambassadors of ASEAN member states to Korea | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with the ambassadors of ASEAN member states to Korea - exchanged opinions on the New Southern Policy Plus |
| Myanmar, Nov. 25-26 | Deputy Minister for Political Affairs of MOFA Kim Gunn | Union Minister for International Cooperation Kyaw Tin & Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar Chan Aye | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with the Union Minister for International Cooperation for the 2nd Korea-Myanmar Policy Consultation - discussed ways to increase bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on the New Southern Policy Plus |
| Seoul, Nov.30 | First Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Choi Jong Kun | Ambassador of Malaysia to Korea Dato' Mohd Ashri Bin Muda | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with the ambassador of Malaysia to Korea - asked for Malaysia's support for the New Southern Policy Plus |
| Viet Nam, Dec. 3-5 | Second Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Lee Tae-ho | Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam Pham Binh Minh & Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam Le Hoai Trung | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting with the foreign minister and the vice foreign minister of Viet Nam - agreed on the special entry procedure between Korea and Viet Nam and discussed ways to reinforce the New Southern Policy Plus |

3 Diplomacy with Southwest Asia and the Pacific Region

3.1 Summit Diplomacy

(1) Phone Call between the President of Korea and the Prime Minister of Australia

President Moon Jae-in spoke with Prime Minister Scott Morrison of Australia on April 7 and discussed ways to cooperate in overcoming the COVID-19 crisis. The two leaders emphasized that, in order to end the pandemic, it is important to continue domestic disease prevention efforts and strengthen cooperation between the two countries.



President Moon talking to Australia's prime minister on the phone (Apr. 7)

President Moon highlighted the importance of maintaining exchange and cooperation between the two countries by allowing entry and visits for business and humanitarian purposes. Prime Minister Morrison recalled the importance of efforts to mitigate the economic impact of the epidemic and hoped that the two countries would continue to have discussions in this regard.

The two leaders talked over the phone again on August 14, during which they exchanged views on cooperative measures to overcome the health and economic crisis caused by COVID-19 and agreed to cooperate in developing and supplying COVID-19 vaccines.

In addition, they exchanged opinions on ways to develop MIKTA (Mexico, Indonesia, Korea, Turkey, and Australia), which was in its eighth year in 2020, and the issue of the expansion of the G7 membership. The two leaders shared the view that the participation of Korea and Australia in the G7 would enhance regional representation while maintaining its identity, thereby contributing to the group's response to various

global issues in the post-COVID-19 era.

President Moon expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Morrison for sending a video message in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Korean War and for reaffirming his support for peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula. He also asked for Australia's continued support for Korea's efforts toward the complete denuclearization and permanent peace of the Korean Peninsula.

(2) Phone Call between the President of Korea and the Prime Minister of New Zealand

President Moon spoke on the phone with New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern on July 28. President Moon highly appreciated the increased exchanges and cooperation between the two countries, mentioning the safe delivery of a logistics support vessel to New Zealand despite restrictions on exchanges between the countries due to COVID-19, and Prime Minister Ardern's participation in the ceremony hosted by the New Zealand government to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Korean War.

The two leaders agreed to work together to develop and produce COVID-19 vaccines and provide them in a transparent and equitable manner, and President Moon requested New Zealand's participation in the International Vaccine Institute, which is headquartered in Korea.

President Moon reaffirmed the need to build a sustainable and resilient economic structure by transitioning to a digital and green economy in the face of the COVID-19 crisis and said that the two countries should proactively cooperate in the process of transitioning to a post-COVID-19 economy.

(3) Phone Calls between the President of Korea and the Prime Minister of India and the Prime Minister's Video Message

President Moon Jae-in spoke with Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the phone on April 9 and October 21. They exchanged their views on how to reinforce the two

countries' cooperative partnership in the era of COVID-19 and to enhance multilateral cooperation based on the special strategic partnership.

On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Korean War, which broke out in 1950, Prime Minister Modi sent a video message recalling the Indian contribution to Korea by deploying the 60 Parachute Field Hospital, and commended the Korean people for building a great country from the ashes of war. Prime Minister Modi applauded the efforts of the Korean government to secure peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and conveyed the good wishes of the government and people of India. Meanwhile, on October 3, First Lady Kim Jung-sook gave welcoming remarks at a webinar celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, emphasizing that Korea and India should contribute to promoting peace and prosperity not just in Asia but around the world.

(4) Phone Calls between the President of Korea and the Prime Minister of Bhutan

President Moon and Prime Minister of Bhutan Lotay Tshering spoke over the phone on April 13. President Moon said he would give positive consideration to Bhutan's request for COVID-19 test kits and stressed the importance of close international cooperation and solidarity in overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, President Moon mentioned the Korean government's plan for humanitarian assistance to vulnerable countries in terms of health care. In addition, President Moon asked for Bhutan's continued support for the Korean government's North Korea policy and activities in international organizations.

3.2 Prime Ministerial Diplomacy

Prime Minister Chung Se-kyun spoke on the phone with Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa of Sri Lanka on October 20 and exchanged opinions on pending issues such as COVID-19 control cooperation, expansion of economic exchanges, and revitalization

of high-level exchanges. The two prime ministers evaluated positively that Korea and Sri Lanka had developed friendly and cooperative relationship since the establishment of diplomatic relations and hoped that cooperation between the two countries would continue to expand in the future.

3.3 Ministerial Diplomacy

(1) Phone Call between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and Australia

On May 19, Foreign Minister Kang had a conversation with Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne over the phone and exchanged views on ways to cooperate in response to COVID-19 and pending issues between the two countries.

The two ministers shared information on the situation and measures taken to contain the spread of COVID-19 and noted with satisfaction that both countries were responding appropriately to the pandemic. In addition, they agreed that it is necessary to prepare for similar situations in the future based on their experience in responding to COVID-19, while sharing opinions on the need to support vulnerable countries and disease prevention efforts in the region.

Ahead of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Korea and Australia in 2021, the two ministers agreed to work together to strengthen cooperation between the two countries at the bilateral and multilateral level, including MIKTA.

(2) Phone Call between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and New Zealand

On April 16, Minister Kang spoke on the phone with New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Winston Peters and discussed ways to cooperate in responding to COVID-19 and addressing the situation on the Korean Peninsula. Minister Peter congratulated Korea on successfully holding the general election despite COVID-19 situation and hoped that the two countries would closely cooperate in disease prevention and control, as Korea's response to COVID-19 set an good example

in the international community. Minister Kang agreed on the importance of international solidarity in responding to COVID-19 and said that she would actively share Korea's experience with the international community.

The two ministers agreed to continue close communication between the diplomatic authorities to promote cooperation in responding to COVID-19 and advancing the friendly relations.

(3) Phone Call between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and India

As face-to-face diplomacy became relatively difficult due to the spread of COVID-19, Minister Kang and External Affairs Minister of India Subrahmanyam Jaishankar talked over the phone on March 3 and had an online meeting on May 19. The two ministers agreed to enhance communication and cooperation between the two governments, especially in responding to COVID-19-related issues including the validity and issuance of visas. The two ministers also exchanged views on bilateral and multilateral cooperation in COVID-19-related matters and ways to further deepen the relationship between the two countries.



Minister Kang talking to India's foreign minister online (May 19)

(4) Phone Calls between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and Maldives

Foreign Minister Kang spoke on the phone with Maldives Foreign Minister Abdullah Shahid three times in 2020 — on March 2, April 22, and October 22 — to discuss cooperation in response to COVID-19 and ways to develop bilateral relations. The two ministers shared their countries' COVID-19 situations and measures and exchanged opinions on the resumption of people-to-people exchanges between the two countries. In addition, they positively evaluated the close communication between Korea and

Maldives, such as their three phone calls in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, and agreed on the importance of active exchanges between the two governments.

(5) Phone Call between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and Pakistan

Foreign Minister Kang and Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi spoke over the phone on April 10 and discussed bilateral cooperative measures to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Minister Kang requested the Pakistan government's special interest in the safety of Korean nationals residing in Pakistan and cooperation for the safe return of those who wish to come back to Korea. Reaffirming the importance of cooperation and experience sharing between Korea and Pakistan in COVID-19 response, the ministers agreed to continue close communication through diplomatic channels.

(6) Phone Call between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and Bangladesh

Foreign Minister Kang spoke with Bangladesh Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen on the phone on October 6 and exchanged views on bilateral issues, including cooperation in COVID-19 response, assistance for Korean companies, and cooperation on the international stage. Minister Kang asked for the interest and assistance of the Bangladesh government in facilitating the activities of Korean companies in Bangladesh, as well as its cooperation for the success of the upcoming 2021 United Nations Peacekeeping Ministerial.

(7) Phone Call between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and Sri Lanka

Minister Kang spoke on the phone with Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena of Sri Lanka on May 4 and discussed ways to increase cooperation between the two countries in response to COVID-19. Minister Kang explained that the Korean government and people were working together to cope with COVID-19 based on the principle of transparency and emphasized that continuation in essential economic and people-to-people exchanges between Korea and Sri Lanka was necessary despite difficult circumstances. The two ministers shared the view that cooperation and sharing

between the two countries were important in responding to COVID-19 and agreed to continue close communication.

3.4 Other High-level Exchanges

Vice Foreign Minister Choi Jong Kun had a video conference with Secretary (East) of the Ministry of External Affairs of India Riva Ganguly Das on December 23, and they exchanged views on Korea-India relations, COVID-19 response, and strengthening cooperation in the international arena.

Deputy Minister for Political Affairs Kim Gunn and Acting Deputy Secretary of the Americas and Asia Group of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand Mark Sinclair met virtually on November 10 for the 21st Korea-New Zealand Policy Consultation and exchanged views on bilateral relations regarding COVID-19 response; cooperation in the defense industry, the economy, and trade; the situations on the Korean Peninsula and in the Asia-Pacific region; and global issues, such as trade and climate change.

Deputy Minister Kim Gunn had a virtual meeting with Deputy Secretary of the Indo-Pacific Group at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Commonwealth of Australia Justin Hayhurst on November 11 for the Seventh Korea-Commonwealth of Australia Strategic Dialogue. They exchanged views on matters of mutual interest, including response to COVID-19 and people-to-people exchanges; substantive cooperation in such areas as hydrogen energy, national defense, the defense industry, and infrastructure; the situations on the Korean Peninsula and in the Asia-Pacific region; and cooperation through regional consultative mechanisms.

Section 2 Concrete Outcomes in the New Northern Policy

1 Objectives and Progress of the New Northern Policy

The New Northern Policy, announced by President Moon Jae-in at the Third Eastern Economic Forum in September 2017, is the Korean government's strategy for diplomatic diversification and external economic expansion. Specifically, the Korean government is aiming to make pan-government efforts to create future engines for growth on the Korean Peninsula, establish a foundation for peace in Northeast Asia, and achieve shared prosperity with Eurasia by promoting connectivity and cooperation with the Eurasia region in a whole spectrum of fields, including politics, the economy, security, and culture.

In particular, the Korean government designated 2020 as the "Year of New Northern Cooperation" and continued to develop friendly and cooperative relations with Russia and the five Central Asian countries even in the face of the challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. In the midst of a situation where face-to-face diplomacy was limited, the bonds of trust were nurtured through high-level phone conversations.

The Korean government strengthened substantive cooperation with the partners of the New Northern Policy in key areas such as shipbuilding, energy, and infrastructure and expanded the scope of cooperation into such areas as innovation, medical care,

and the environment. In addition, the Korean government worked closely with countries in Eurasia and Central Asia to support the return of Korean nationals from overseas countries and actively promoted cooperation to overcome COVID-19 by sharing experience in the field of disease control.

In addition, at the 13th Korea-Central Asia Cooperation Forum in Seoul in November 2020, Korea and Central Asia further strengthened the foundation for multilateral cooperation by agreeing to share experiences in COVID-19 response, provide consistent support for the Korean Peninsula peace process, and upgrade the forum to an annual ministerial meeting.

2 Promoting Substantive Cooperation with Russia and Seeking Future Growth Engines in the Far East Region

Despite the COVID-19 situation, Korea and Russia further developed bilateral relations by continuing active high-level exchanges in both face-to-face and non-face-to-face ways, such as phone calls between the presidents and prime ministers of the two countries and visits by Korea's special presidential envoy to Russia.

During the phone call between President Moon Jae-in and President Vladimir Putin on September 28 and between Prime Minister Chung Sye-kyun and Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin on June 3, the leadership of the two countries decided to strengthen substantive cooperation focused on the key "9-Bridge" areas of cooperation, such as shipbuilding, industrial complexes, service/investment FTAs, and healthcare including COVID-19 response.

At a video conference in October, Deputy Prime Minister Hong Nam-ki and Deputy Prime Minister of Russia Yuri Trutnev had an in-depth discussion on the progress in and plans for economic cooperation and signed the 9-Bridge Action Plan 2.0.

As a result, the existing cooperation system on gas, railways, ports, electric power,

Arctic routes, shipbuilding, industrial complexes, agriculture, fisheries, education, healthcare, and the environment was adjusted and specified to cooperation on energy, railroads and infrastructure, shipbuilding, ports and navigation, agriculture and fisheries, healthcare, investment, innovation platforms, and culture and tourism to create new opportunities for cooperation and strengthen the foundation for accelerating New Northern cooperation. Despite the challenges of COVID-19, the Korean government, based on the ties of friendship with Russia fostered through active exchanges between high-level officials, achieved fruitful results such as winning an order for LNG ice-breaker ships and transshipment facilities and holding additional three rounds of service and investment FTAs negotiations.

Furthermore, the two countries continued their consultation in a range of areas such as the 29th Korea-Russia Fisheries Committee Meeting on February 17-19 and the Fourth Korea-Russia Arctic Consultation on November 19. In December, the 14th Korea-Russia Far East and Siberia Sub-committee Meeting was held in a virtual format to discuss ways to promote people-to-people exchanges, substantive cooperation, and investment. In particular, the Korea Land and Housing Corporation and the Russian Far East Development Corporation signed the Implementation Agreement for the Construction of a Korea-Russia Economic Cooperation Industrial Complex in Primorsky Krai, laying the groundwork for Korean companies to advance into the Russian Far East. In addition to the successful implementation of this project, the two countries agreed to actively cooperate to achieve tangible results in other fields such as health and medical care, agriculture and fisheries, transportation, logistics and energy, innovation, and the Arctic.

3 Promotion of Comprehensive Cooperation with the Central Asian region

3.1 Bilateral Cooperation with Central Asian Countries

(1) Uzbekistan

President Moon Jae-in paid a state visit to Uzbekistan in April 2019, and the two countries agreed to upgrade bilateral relations to a “special strategic partnership.” Following this visit, Korea and Uzbekistan actively promoted high-level exchanges through face-to-face and virtual meetings.

President Moon spoke with Uzbekistan President Shavkat Mirziyoyev on two occasions in 2020 — on April 13 and October 6 — and reviewed the implementation of follow-up measures to President Moon’s state visit in 2019. While strengthening cooperation on COVID-19, they decided to expand substantive cooperation in trade and investment, health and medical care, and energy and infrastructure, among others. On October 6, the two leaders spoke over the phone and agreed to kick the negotiations for a trade agreement into high gear.

Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha spoke with Uzbekistan Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov over the phone on March 21 and discussed the latest issues and exchanged views on collaboration on COVID-19 response. In addition, she had a meeting with Uzbekistan’s Deputy Prime Minister Sardor Umurzakov on July 6, who visited Korea to review economic issues, and discussed ways to promote bilateral relations and substantive cooperation. Deputy Prime Minister Umurzakov was the first Russian high-level official to visit Korea since March when the COVID-19 situation was escalating, and he also met with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Strategy and Finance Hong Nam-ki and Minister of Trade, Industry, and Energy Sung Yun-mo to discuss ways to materialize the results of cooperation.

Despite difficult external conditions, the two countries achieved substantive outcomes, such as nurturing ties of friendship through active high-level exchanges, completing domestic procedures to start the negotiations on a trade agreement, and signing an engineering service agreement for the project to modernize the Bukhara oil refinery plant in Uzbekistan. In addition, the two countries worked closely together in COVID-19 response, including cooperation in arranging charter flights to mutually support the repatriation of their nationals from overseas countries and in sharing

experiences in disease prevention and control and medical supplies to help respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, the two countries continued to cooperate by various intergovernmental consultation channels such as the Third Joint Trade and Economy Working Group Meeting on March 27; the Fourth Joint Trade and Economy Working Group Meeting on July 6; the Deputy Prime Ministers’ Meeting on July 7; and the 14th Political Consultation on November 5; and the 10th Joint Committee on Trade and Economy on November 6.

(2) Kazakhstan

President Moon Jae-in had a phone call with President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev on October 22 and discussed the direction of bilateral relations, including the implementation of follow-up measures to President Moon’s state visit in 2019, and substantive cooperation and cooperation on the international stage.

The Korean government worked closely with the Kazakhstan government in response to COVID-19, including the export of diagnostic kits and humanitarian aid for disease control. A Korean company in Kazakhstan also installed a drive-through screening clinic, a Korean-style rapid test system for COVID-19, with the support of the Almaty City.



President Moon talking to his Kazakhstan counterpart on the phone (Oct. 22)

(3) Turkmenistan

President Moon Jae-in had a phone call with Turkmenistan President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov on August 28 and discussed the implementation of follow-up measures for President Moon’s state visit in 2019 and cooperation in responding to COVID-19.

Furthermore, even in the midst of the COVID-19 situation, a number of video conferences were held including the video conference between the head delegates of the Korea-Turkmenistan Joint Commission of Cooperation on June 24, the Fourth

Policy Consultation on October 29, and the Eighth Joint Commission of Cooperation on November 23.

(4) Kyrgyzstan

Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha spoke on the phone with Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Chingiz Aidarbekov on September 26, in which they exchanged views on COVID-19 response and bilateral relations. Minister Aidarbekov expressed his special appreciation for the various forms of support provided by the Korean government, including humanitarian assistance to help Kyrgyzstan in combatting COVID-19, and for Korea's electoral capacity-building projects.

Amid the COVID-19 situation, the two countries worked together closely for the repatriation of their nationals from overseas countries by arranging special flights. In the field of development cooperation, the supplementary agreement to the Framework Agreement on Grant Aid was signed in December, laying the institutional foundation for further strengthening development cooperation.

(5) Tajikistan

Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha spoke with Tajikistan Foreign Minister Sirojiddin Muhridin over the phone on June 2 and exchanged views on COVID-19 response and various bilateral issues. Minister Muhridin highly appreciated the Korean government's ability to respond to COVID-19 and expressed appreciation for Korea's humanitarian assistance. The two leaders agreed to strengthen bilateral as well as multilateral cooperation, such as within the Korea-Central Asia Cooperation Forum, to further develop relations between the two countries.

Furthermore, Minister Muhridin, who visited Korea to attend the 13th Korea-Central Asia Cooperation Forum in November, signed an MOU to strengthen cooperation between the foreign ministries of the two countries and provide an education and training program for diplomats of Korea and Tajikistan.

3.2 Strengthening the Public and People's Diplomacy with Central Asian Countries

The Korea-Central Asia Cooperation Forum launched the Eurasia Youth Academy, a public diplomacy project targeting the general population, to provide education on foreign languages and culture for young people interested in the Central Asian region as well as internship opportunities. Furthermore, the Online Central Asia Cinema Week and an online fashion show were held to introduce various aspects of Central Asian culture.

4 Promotion of Cooperation with Other New Northern Countries

4.1 Ukraine

President Moon Jae-in spoke on the phone with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on April 10 and discussed ways to cooperate in response to COVID-19. The two leaders shared the view that they would further deepen the ties of cooperation, which had been steadily advancing since the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1992, by successfully overcoming the COVID-19 crisis.

4.2 Georgia

President Moon Jae-in and Georgian President Salome Zourabichvili talked over the phone on May 21. They exchanged views on cooperation in response to COVID-19 and issues of mutual interest. President Zourabichvili greatly valued Korea's response to COVID-19 and expressed her gratitude for Korea's support in the purchase of diagnostic kits.

4.3 Republic of Moldova

Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha spoke with Foreign Minister Oleg Tulea on the phone on April 7, and they shared experiences and discussed ways to cooperate in response to COVID-19.

4.4 Belarus

Lee Seong-ho, Deputy Minister for Economic Affairs at MOFA, had a videoconference on June 26 with Belarusian Vice Foreign Minister Andrei Dapkiunas to discuss ways to respond to COVID-19 and strengthen cooperation under the New Northern Policy.

They agreed to communicate closely through regular consultations to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes not only in the economy and trade but also in the international arena.

4.5 Azerbaijan

The Second Korea-Azerbaijan Joint Economic Committee Meeting was held on February 6. At the meeting, the two sides discussed ways to diversify and develop substantive cooperation between the two countries in areas such as strengthening reciprocal cooperation in the energy field; continuing development cooperation; promoting cooperation in health and medical care as well as in ICT.

4.6 Armenia

Armenian Minister of Health Arsen Torosyan visited Korea in February to look into Korea's policies such as financial management in public healthcare. In December, an MOU for cooperation in health and medical care between Korea's Health Insurance Review & Assessment Service and Armenia's Ministry of Health was concluded.

Section 3 Diplomacy with Europe

1 Summit Diplomacy

1.1 Korea-EU Virtual Summit

On June 30, President Moon Jae-in had an online meeting with President of the European Council Charles Michel and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen. They exchanged views about the future direction of the Korea-EU strategic partnership and about regional and global matters including Korean Peninsula issues.

President Moon expressed the will of the Korean government to contribute to the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and EU leaders praised the Korean government for responding to the pandemic effectively by taking swift, transparent, and innovative measures.

The leaders welcomed that Korea



Korea-EU Virtual Summit (June 30)

and the EU developed and deepened cooperation on the basis of the three key agreements: namely, the Framework Agreement, the FTA, and the Crisis Management Agreement. The leaders also agreed to continuously explore ways to expand future-oriented and mutually beneficial cooperation in such areas of the economy, trade, digital technology, the environment, and energy in commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Korea-EU strategic partnership. Moreover, recognizing that advancing inter-Korean relations and establishing peace on the Korean Peninsula is critical to the peace and stability of the world, and not just to those of the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia, the leaders agreed to further strengthen Korea-EU cooperation to this end.

1.2 Phone Calls between the Presidents of Korea and Turkey

President Moon Jae-in spoke on the phone with President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdoğan on March 6 and June 23. During their first conversation over the phone, President Moon asked for President Erdoğan's understanding regarding the postponement of his scheduled visit to Turkey, which had been planned to reciprocate President Erdoğan's state visit to Korea, due to the COVID-19 outbreak. President Moon also asked his Turkish counterpart to ease entry restrictions on Korean people and resume flights between the two countries for essential business travel. President Erdoğan spoke highly of Korea's endeavors to stop the spread of COVID-19 and said that he was looking forward to normalizing bilateral exchanges as soon as possible.

When they spoke over the phone again on June 23, the two presidents welcomed the strengthened substantive cooperation between the two countries including infrastructure cooperation. They also stressed that the Çanakkale 1915 Bridge, the world's longest suspension bridge connecting the European and Asian parts of Turkey and whose construction involved companies from the two countries, would become a symbol of bilateral cooperation. President Moon expressed his gratitude to Turkey for consistently supporting the Korean government's efforts to alleviate tension

and establish peace on the Korean Peninsula, and President Erdoğan reaffirmed his unwavering support for the Korean government's peace process on the Korean Peninsula.

1.3 Phone Calls between the Presidents of Korea and France

President Moon Jae-in spoke on the phone with French President Emmanuel Macron twice in 2020, on March 13 and December 3. During their first phone call on March 13, President Macron asked President Moon to share Korea's experience in responding to the COVID-19 crisis and to strengthen cooperation between the two countries within the framework of the G20. President Moon expressed his willingness to actively share Korea's experience and clinical data with the international community. President Moon also proposed holding a special G20 teleconference summit and increasing cooperation between Korea and France.

In their second phone call on December 3, the presidents shared their concerns about the global resurgence of COVID-19 and agreed to work together to enhance the global health governance while continuing bilateral cooperation on climate change and other environmental issues as responsible members of the international community. President Moon explained the current situation on the Korean Peninsula and expressed the will of the Korean government to denuclearize and establish a peace regime on the peninsula. President Macron expressed his continuous support for the Korean government's policy toward North Korea.

1.4 Phone Call between the President of Korea and the Prime Minister of Sweden

On March 20, President Moon Jae-in spoke on the phone with Prime Minister of Sweden Stefan Löfven. President Moon hoped that the two countries would work together more closely to contribute to the international community's efforts to develop

vaccines and treatments and restore the global economy, emphasizing the importance of global cooperation and solidarity in responding to the COVID-19 outbreak. President Moon also highlighted the need for essential exchanges among Korean and Swedish businesspeople even in the COVID-19 situation. The prime minister said that he was impressed by the Korean government's strong measures against COVID-19, including its mass testing, and added that sharing experiences and clinical data that Korea accumulated in the course of stemming the spread of the virus would be of significant help to the Swedish government in effectively responding to the COVID-19 outbreak.

1.5 Phone Call between the President of Korea and the Prime Minister of Spain

President Moon Jae-In had a phone call with Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez on March 24. Prime Minister Sánchez congratulated the Korean government's successful response to COVID-19 and asked the Korean government to share its experience in containing the disease. President Moon emphasized the importance of global cooperation and solidarity in overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic and pledged to share Korea's experience and clinical data. President Moon also asked for Prime Minister Sánchez's interest and support for the continuation of people-to-people and economic exchanges between the two countries.

On June 4, President Moon spoke on the phone with King Felipe VI of Spain. King Felipe VI showed his respect for President Moon's leadership in strengthening global solidarity for fighting the COVID-19 pandemic and expressed his hope that the two countries would increase cooperation in healthcare and trade. President Moon and King Felipe VI agreed to work together not just in responding to the pandemic but also in preparing for the post-COVID-19 era.

1.6 Phone Call between the Presidents of Korea and Lithuania

President Moon Jae-in spoke on the phone with President Gitanas Nausėda of Lithuania on March 27 and exchanged views on issues including cooperation for the fight against COVID-19.

President Nausėda appreciated that the Korean government responded effectively to the COVID-19 pandemic and expressed his hope to purchase Korean test kits and medical equipment.

President Moon told President Nausėda that Korea would cooperate with Lithuania in exporting Korean diagnostic kits and medical supplies. President Moon added that Korea would continue to actively share with the international community its disease prevention and control experience against COVID-19 and noted that international cooperation and solidarity were of paramount importance to overcome the global health crisis.

Both presidents noted with satisfaction that the people-to-people and economic exchanges between the two countries had increased since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1991. They voiced hope that people-to-people exchanges between the two countries would further expand in commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

1.7 Phone Call between the President of Korea and the Prime Minister of Bulgaria

President Moon Jae-in spoke on the phone with Prime Minister of Bulgaria Boyko Borissov on March 31 and exchanged views on how to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak spreading globally.

President Moon noted with appreciation their exchange of congratulatory letters on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Korea and Bulgaria on March 23. The president expressed his hope that exchanges of people and goods, which had reduced slightly due to the COVID-19 outbreak, would return even stronger as soon as the situation was brought under control.

Prime Minister Borissov said that the world was paying attention to Korea for its exemplary system of infectious disease control and prevention. The prime minister went on to mention that diagnostic kits were essential for swift testing as demand for COVID-19 testing had recently increased in Bulgaria, and he asked for close cooperation in this regard. President Moon replied that Korea would give positive consideration to providing assistance to Bulgaria.

The two leaders agreed that Korea and Bulgaria should work together closely in the course of surmounting the COVID-19 pandemic in the same way that they had continued to strengthen cooperative relations for the past 30 years.

1.8 Phone Call between the President of Korea and the Prime Minister of Denmark

President Moon Jae-in spoke on the phone with Mette Frederiksen, Prime Minister of Denmark, on April 2.

President Moon explained that Korea decided to postpone the Second P4G Summit to 2021 because of the COVID-19 pandemic and, in reply, Prime Minister Frederiksen said Korea's decision to hold the summit by delaying it a year was a clear demonstration of President Moon's "green leadership."

Prime Minister Frederiksen said that she very much looked forward to working together with Korea and expressed her interest in purchasing Korea-made diagnostic kits and medical supplies, to which President Moon replied that Korea would positively consider. The two leaders agreed to work together closely to minimize the COVID-19 outbreak's negative impact on the global economy and to ensure that international trade continues to proceed smoothly.

1.9 Phone Call between the Presidents of Korea and Poland

President Moon Jae-in had a phone call with President of Poland Andrzej Duda on

April 7 and discussed cooperation for COVID-19 response.

President Moon expressed his gratitude to the Polish government for arranging a special entry measure for essential travel by Korean businesspeople in consideration of the close bilateral relations as the two countries celebrated the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2019. He asked for President Duda's continued consideration and support for cross-border travel by Korean businesspeople to ensure smooth implementation of plans to construct factories in Poland. President Duda mentioned that he would continue to pay attention to matters concerning the entry of Korean businesspeople and hoped for further cooperation between Polish companies and Korean companies.

President Duda appreciated that Korea had responded to the COVID-19 pandemic more effectively than any other country in the world and expressed his hope that Poland would be able to purchase Korea-made diagnostic kits and other disease control supplies. President Moon mentioned that Korea would give positive consideration to Poland's request.

1.10 Phone Call between the Presidents of Korea and Estonia

President Moon Jae-in spoke to President of the Republic of Estonia Kersti Kaljulaid over the phone on April 8. President Kaljulaid said that Estonia was paying keen attention to Korea's successful response to the COVID-19 outbreak and conducting widespread testing with Korea-made equipment. President Moon said that he was pleased to hear that Korea's experience was helping Estonia respond to COVID-19.

President Moon highlighted the importance of global cooperation and solidarity in developing vaccines and treatments and putting the global economy back on track. He reaffirmed Korea's commitment to playing an active role in strengthening global cooperation and solidarity and mentioned that there would be room to work together with Estonia, a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. President Moon also said that, since Korea and Estonia were both powerhouses in

biomedicine and digital economy, the two countries could cooperate more dynamically once COVID-19 was under control.

1.11 Phone Call between the Presidents of Korea and Finland

President Moon Jae-in spoke on the phone with President of Finland Sauli Niinistö on April 22. President Niinistö congratulated President Moon on Korea becoming a global example in COVID-19 response and asked how Korea had achieved such success. President Moon replied that the most crucial element in Korea's successful response to the COVID-19 outbreak was testing many people and quarantining confirmed cases as swiftly as possible, disclosing relevant information transparently, and encouraging people's voluntary participation. President Moon added that overcoming the global economic crisis requires international cooperation and that movement of essential personnel and businesspeople should be allowed to the extent that it does not undermine the disease prevention efforts.

The two leaders agreed that having Finland's COVID-19 specimens tested by Korean clinical research institutions was an exemplary case of disease control cooperation and that people-to-people and economic exchanges, including the resumption of direct flights between the two countries, should be normalized as soon as the COVID-19 outbreak was brought under control.

1.12 Phone Call between the President of Korea and the Federal Chancellor of Austria

President Moon Jae-in spoke on the phone with Federal Chancellor of Austria Sebastian Kurz on April 28 and exchanged views on COVID-19 measures.

Federal Chancellor Kurz acclaimed Korea as an exemplar in COVID-19 response and asked Korea to share its experience of successful COVID-19 response. President Moon explained that Korea also had to suffer difficulties caused by the pandemic but its

systematic response through intensive testing and tracing helped to decrease the daily number of new confirmed cases greatly.

Federal Chancellor Kurz went on to stress that relevant strategies should be put in place to prevent the outbreak of a second wave. President Moon said that it was important to keep the number of new confirmed cases below a certain level by maintaining thorough safety precautions even while engaging in socioeconomic activities. The president added that preventive efforts based on close cooperation and solidarity in the international community was necessary.

1.13 Phone Call between the President of Korea and the Prime Minister of Ireland

President Moon Jae-in spoke on the phone with Prime Minister Leo Varadkar of Ireland on May 4 and discussed COVID-19 response and bilateral relations. Prime Minister Varadkar praised Korea's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and explained that Ireland had also developed an application to trace the travel histories of confirmed cases like Korea, stressing that the approaches of Korea and Ireland were similar in that both countries underscore people's voluntary participation based on democratic values. President Moon replied that the fact that Ireland, unlike other European countries, did not impose compulsory measures was congruent with Korea's three principles on COVID-19 response: openness, transparency, and democracy. He also expressed satisfaction that both countries were handling the COVID-19 outbreak in a similar spirit and philosophy.

President Moon expressed his gratitude for Ireland's non-stop support for the Korean government's efforts to establish peace on the Korean Peninsula since it had sent troops to the Korean War. Prime Minister Varadkar said he would share Ireland's experience and know-how in the peace-building process if it could be of help to Korea in establishing peace on the Korean Peninsula.

1.14 Phone Call between the President of Korea and the King of the Belgians

President Moon Jae-in spoke with the King of the Belgians on May 15. The king praised the health measures and responses taken by Korea as an exemplary case and thanked Korea for exporting testing kits and donating masks for veterans who participated in the Korean War. President Moon thanked Belgium for its active cooperation and support in helping Korean nationals stranded in Mali to return safely in mid-April.

President Moon also asked for the king's interest in maintaining the movement of essential personnel and businesspeople between the two countries to the extent that it does not interfere with disease control and prevention. The two leaders agreed on the need for global solidarity and cooperation in dealing with COVID-19 and hoped that the two countries would quickly overcome the health crisis and reactivate bilateral exchanges before the 120th anniversary of its diplomatic relations in 2021.

1.15 Phone Call between the Presidents of Korea and Switzerland

President Moon Jae-in spoke with Swiss President Simonetta Sommaruga over the phone on June 26 and discussed bilateral relations, cooperation for COVID-19 response, and the situation on the Korean Peninsula. President Sommaruga appreciated that he was able to learn a great deal from Korea's successful experience in responding to the COVID-19 situation and in reducing the number of confirmed cases. President Moon extended appreciation to Switzerland for helping Korea with its initial response to COVID-19 by supplying reagents for automated DNA extraction for COVID-19 tests in a timely manner from late February to early March, when Korea was seeing a rapid increase in new infections.

Both leaders emphasized that all countries should have access to COVID-19 vaccines and medicines regardless of who developed them, as they were public goods

for humanity.

President Sommaruga commended President Moon's commitment to continuing dialogue with North Korea and mentioned that Switzerland would support the dialogue between the two Koreas and continue to support the peace process on the Korean Peninsula. President Moon highly appreciated the support of Switzerland, a member of the Neutral Nation Supervisory Commission, for peace and security on the Korean Peninsula and for Korea's efforts to continue humanitarian aid for the vulnerable people in North Korea.

President Sommaruga congratulated Korea on its successful general election and its high voting rate amidst the COVID-19 situation.

1.16 Phone Call between the President of Korea and the Federal Chancellor of Germany

President Moon Jae-in spoke on the phone with Federal Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel on October 1, and the two leaders discussed issues of mutual interest including election for the next director-general of the World Trade Organization (WTO), response to COVID-19, and Germany's reunification.

President Moon congratulated Federal Chancellor Merkel on the 30th anniversary of Germany's reunification on October 3 and underlined that this anniversary also came as a meaningful and inspiring day to Korean people, who hope for peace and reunification on the Korean Peninsula. Federal Chancellor Merkel replied that she was filled with deep emotion upon the 30th anniversary of Germany's reunification and that she well understood Korea's dream for reunification.

President Moon paid respect to the German government for setting an example in response to COVID-19 under the federal chancellor's leadership and said that he looked forward to Germany continuing to play a leading role in helping humanity overcome the pandemic. In response, Federal Chancellor Merkel said that she had immense interest in the response system the Korean government had employed to stem the

spread of the virus. The two leaders also exchanged their opinions on the development of COVID-19 vaccines and treatments, bilateral cooperation including Germany's participation in the Seoul-based International Vaccine Institute, and facilitation of the cross-border movement of essential personnel.

In addition, the two leaders discussed the election for the director-general of the WTO and ways to strengthen the multilateral trade system based on the WTO.

1.17 Phone Call between the President of Korea and the Prime Minister of Luxembourg

On October 20, President Moon Jae-in and Luxembourg Prime Minister Xavier Bettel spoke by phone about the election for the new WTO director-general and cooperation to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic. President Moon asked for Luxembourg's support for the candidacy of Yoo Myung-hee, the Korean trade minister, in the final round of the election.

Expressing his concern about the resurgence of COVID-19, President Moon stressed the importance of global solidarity and cooperation in developing treatments and vaccines and in ensuring their equitable distribution in order to overcome the pandemic. Prime Minister Bettel hoped to strengthen cooperation between Korea and Luxembourg, which had become the hub of global trade and finance after Brexit.

1.18 Phone Call between the President of Korea and the Prime Minister of Italy

President Moon Jae-in spoke on the phone with Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte on October 20. President Moon requested support for Korea's nominee for the director-general position of the WTO, and Prime Minister Conte praised the Korean nominee's capability and conveyed his best wishes.

While expressing concern about COVID-19 spreading again, President Moon

emphasized that the most important factor in overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic was global solidarity and cooperation and that international cooperation in the development and equitable distribution of treatments and vaccines was especially important. In response, Prime Minister Conte took note with appreciation the exemplary response of the Korean government to COVID-19.

Prime Minister Conte said Italy was expected to assume the G20 presidency in 2021 and requested Korea's active interest and participation for its successful presidency. In response, President Moon welcomed Italy's appointment as president and expressed his hope that, under Prime Minister Conte's leadership, the G20 would play an important role in strengthening international solidarity and cooperation.

1.19 Phone Call between the President of Korea and the Prime Minister of Denmark

President Moon Jae-in spoke on the phone with Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen of Denmark on October 21 to discuss the election for the WTO's director-general and the P4G Summit.

President Moon asked for Denmark's support for the Korean nominee and Prime Minister Frederiksen wished for the Korean nominee's success going forward. Also, President Moon asked Denmark, the host of the First P4G Summit and a model country on environmental protection, for its interest and cooperation for the Second P4G Summit, scheduled to take place in Korea in 2021. Prime Minister Frederiksen praised Korea's successful response to COVID-19.

1.20 Phone Call between the President of Korea and the Prime Minister of the UK

President Moon Jae-in spoke on the phone with UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson on November 10. Prime Minister Johnson expressed his intent to invite President

Moon to the G7 Summit slated for mid-2021 in the UK. In response, President Moon mentioned that he would actively cooperate with the UK to make the G7 summit a success. Also, President Moon appreciated that the UK, as the chair of COP26, was leading the international community's climate change response and asked Prime Minister Johnson to participate in the P4G Summit in 2021. The two leaders shared their concerns about the recent worsening of the COVID-19 situation around the world and agreed to closely cooperate to end the pandemic, including in developing vaccines and treatments and strengthening health governance.

2 Ministerial Diplomacy

2.1 Bilateral Foreign Ministerial Meetings on the Occasion of the 56th Munich Security Conference

On the occasion of the 56th Munich Security Conference, Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Kyung-wha had bilateral meetings with the foreign ministers of Lithuania, Finland, Norway, Denmark, and Spain as well as the federal minister of defence of Germany.

(1) Korea-Norway Foreign Ministers' Meeting

On February 14, Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Kyung-wha met with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway Ine Eriksen Søreide on the sidelines of the 56th Munich Security Conference. The two ministers noted with appreciation that President Moon Jae-in's state visit to Norway in 2019, the first of its kind by a Korean president, had served as an opportunity to further deepen the long-standing friendly relations between the two countries. They agreed to monitor the progress in implementing the follow-up measures to the Korea-Norway summit and bolster substantive cooperation in various

fields, including the defense industry and Arctic affairs.

In particular, Minister Kang asked Norway, a founding member of the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) and a champion for green growth, for its interest and participation in the Second P4G Summit, scheduled to take place in Korea later in the year in June, and suggested that the two countries work closely together in responding to global issues such as climate and sustainable development.

(2) Korea-Lithuania Foreign Ministers' Meeting

Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha had a bilateral meeting with Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, Linas Linkevičius, on February 14 and exchanged comprehensive views on issues concerning high-level exchanges, substantive cooperation, cooperation in the international fora, and the situation on the Korean Peninsula.

The two ministers expressed satisfaction with the active high-level exchanges and steadily growing trade and investment between Korea and Lithuania. They also discussed ways to promote substantive cooperation in such areas as cyber security, national defense, and relevant industries and agreed to step up cooperation in Lithuania's strong sectors, such as bioscience and IT, as well as on the international stage including the United Nations.

(3) Korea-Finland Foreign Ministers' Meeting

Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha had a pull aside meeting with Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland Pekka Haavisto on February 14 at the 56th Munich Security Conference and discussed strengthening cooperation on global issues and increasing substantive cooperation.

The two foreign ministers noted with appreciation that the smooth implementation of the follow-up measures to President Moon Jae-in's state visit to Finland in June 2019 had helped to reinforce the cooperative ties between Korea and Finland in such areas as innovation and startups. They agreed to increase cooperation in responding to global issues including climate change and strengthening the presence of the two

countries in international organizations.

The two ministers also welcomed the major outcomes of the state visit in 2019 such as Finnair's launch of direct flights between Busan and Helsinki in 2020 and the plan to establish a Korea startup center in Helsinki. Minister Kang mentioned that Korea would host the Second P4G Summit in June 2020 and asked for Finland's participation. She also suggested that Korea and Finland — a leading country in green growth, climate change, and Arctic cooperation — work closely together in addressing global environmental issues.

(4) Korea-Denmark Foreign Ministers' Meeting

Minister Kang Kyung-wha met with Minister for Foreign Affairs of Denmark Jeppe Kofod on February 15 on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference. The two ministers noted with appreciation that the various events held to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of Korea-Denmark diplomatic relations in 2019 had helped to promote understanding and friendship between the people of the two countries. They also agreed to step up cooperation between Denmark, a champion for P4G and the host of the First P4G Summit, and Korea, the host of the Second P4G Summit, in the area of climate change.

Minister Kang hoped that the adoption of a new joint action plan would help to further accelerate substantive cooperation between the two countries across the board. She also mentioned that Korea was planning to hold events to celebrate the 10th anniversary of GGGI in 2020, in conjunction with the P4G Summit, and asked for the active participation of Denmark, a founding member of the institute.

Minister Kofod pledged Denmark's support for Korea's hosting of the upcoming P4G Summit and expressed hope that the two countries would continue to bolster bilateral cooperation in responding to climate change and achieving sustainable development by holding the Korean-Danish Green Growth Alliance Meeting.

(5) Korea-Spain Foreign Ministers' Meeting

On February 15, Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-Wha had a meeting with Spanish Foreign Minister Arancha González Laya on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference. The two foreign ministers welcomed that substantive cooperation between the two countries had been strengthened thanks to active high-level exchanges, including King Felipe VI's visit to Korea in 2019, and suggested that the two countries further develop bilateral relations by carrying out follow-up measures to the summit while maintaining the momentum of such exchanges going forward.

Foreign Minister Kang explained that the Second P4G Summit was to be held in Seoul and requested the interest and participation of Spain, the host country of COP25 in 2019. Foreign Minister González praised Korea's efforts in responding to climate change and said he would consider attending the P4G Summit.

(6) Meeting between the Korean Foreign Minister and the German Defence Minister

Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha met with Federal Minister of Defence of Germany Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, who attended the Munich Security Conference on February 15. Minister Kang and Federal Minister Kramp-Karrenbauer noted that Korea and Germany had continued to develop close friendly and cooperative relations and welcomed, in particular, the close ongoing cooperation on the basis of the bilateral agreements in the field of national defense.

Minister Kang shared assessments of the situation on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia and voiced hope for close cooperation toward complete denuclearization and the establishment of permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula. Federal Minister Kramp-Karrenbauer reaffirmed her solidarity with and support for the Korean government for its efforts to establish peace on the Korean Peninsula.

2.2 Korea-Germany Foreign Ministers' Meeting on the Occasion of the Second Ministerial Meeting of the Stockholm Initiative

On the occasion of the Second Ministerial Meeting of the Stockholm Initiative on Nuclear Disarmament and the Non-Proliferation Treaty, Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha met with Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany Heiko Maas on February 25 and discussed response to COVID-19, the P4G Summit, and the situation on the Korean Peninsula.

Minister Kang explained that the Korean government had been doing its utmost in preventing the spread of COVID-19 by preemptively raising the national risk alert level against infectious diseases to the highest “serious” level, thereby drastically bolstering the government-wide response system. Federal Minister Maas, commending the Korean government’s response, mentioned that the German government would continue consultations with the Korean government on COVID-19 response issues.

Minister Kang mentioned the P4G Summit to be held in Korea in May and asked for the active participation of Germany, a leading country in the area of the environment. In response, Federal Minister Maas highly appreciated the Korean government’s efforts to address climate change and mentioned that the German government would consider attending the P4G Summit.

Minister Kang shared with her German counterpart the situation on the Korean Peninsula. Federal Minister Maas took note of the Korean government’s efforts toward complete denuclearization and the establishment of permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula, adding that Germany would continue to actively support the Korean government’s efforts.

2.3 Meeting between the Korean Foreign Minister and the UK Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Kyung-wha met with Matthew Hancock, UK Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, and discussed COVID-19 response. Minister Kang explained that the Korean government established a transparent government-wide system to respond to COVID-19 and proposed that the two countries

share developments in the COVID-19 situation and continue consultation. Secretary Hancock expressed his hope that the UK would continue to work together with Korea, which has an advanced medical system as well as an effective epidemic prevention and control system.

2.4 Korea-Hungary Foreign Ministers’ Meeting

On July 27, Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Kyung-wha met with Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary Péter Szijjártó during his visit to Korea. They discussed ways to promote substantive cooperation in the post-COVID-19 era and to work together in handling the aftermath of the boat accident in Hungary in 2019.

The two ministers noted with appreciation that, even amid the difficult COVID-19 situation, Korea and Hungary had worked closely together, including through exchanges of essential workforce such as businesspeople. Minister Kang welcomed that the Hungarian government started to provide unlimited entry permission to Korean people from July 15.

The two ministers expressed satisfaction with the steady increase in trade and investment between the two countries and agreed to cooperate to keep up the momentum even amid the COVID-19 situation. Minister Szijjártó, saying that Korea had become the top investor country in Hungary in 2019, conveyed the Hungarian government’s hope that Korean companies’ investment in Hungary would increase further.

Minister Szijjártó explained that the Hungarian government was planning to hold the unveiling ceremony of a monument in memory of the boat accident in Hungary, expressing hope that the bereaved families could attend the ceremony. Minister Kang extended appreciation to the Hungarian government for its plan to hold the ceremony and asked the Hungarian government to pay continued interest in ensuring accountability and bringing those responsible for the accident to justice.

The two ministers also exchanged views on cooperation between Korea and the

Visegrad Group and on the international stage, including in international organizations.



Meeting between the foreign ministers of Korea and Hungary (Seoul, July 27)

2.5 Second Korea-Germany Foreign Ministerial Strategic Dialogue

Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Kyung-wha met with Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs Heiko Maas in Berlin on August 10 for the Second Korea-Germany Foreign Ministerial Strategic Dialogue. They discussed Korea-Germany bilateral relations, cooperation in COVID-19 response, and the situation on the Korean Peninsula.

The two ministers noted with appreciation that, as key allies, the two countries were closely cooperating even in the unprecedented COVID-19 situation and agreed to continue cross-border cooperation to develop and distribute vaccines and treatments for COVID-19. In addition, they shared the view that essential people-to-people exchanges including travel for business, academic, and humanitarian purposes should not be hampered even amid the COVID-19 situation and agreed to continue bilateral consultations on this issue.

Federal Minister Maas stressed the need to strengthen multilateralism to respond to global issues and said that Korea and Germany were important partners, who share the basic values of democracy, human rights, and the market economy, in strengthening multilateralism. In addition, Minister Maas welcomed Korea's participation in the G7 Summit that was to be held in the fall of 2020.

Minister Kang requested Germany's support for Trade Minister Yoo Myung-hee running for the next WTO director-general and expressed appreciation for Germany's support for the Korean government's efforts toward peace on the Korean Peninsula. Federal Minister Maas commended the Korean government's efforts to improve inter-Korean relations and recognized the importance of resolving the North Korean nuclear issue peacefully through dialogue.



Second Korea-Germany Foreign Ministerial Strategic Dialogue (Berlin, Aug. 10)

2.6 Korea-UK Ministers' Strategic Dialogue

Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Kyung-wha met with Dominic Raab, Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs of the UK, in Seoul on September 29 for the Fifth Korea-UK Strategic Dialogue. They discussed bilateral relations, response to COVID-19, and cooperation at the international level. Minister Kang and Foreign Secretary Raab agreed to develop the friendly and cooperative relationship between the two countries even after Brexit as important partners sharing common values. In particular, Foreign Secretary Raab mentioned that the UK government had become to attach great importance to diplomacy with Asia after Brexit and expressed his hope that the UK would expand cooperation with Korea in various fields including the economy, health, science and technology, and 5G technology. Minister Kang and Foreign Secretary Raab shared their respective experience in

COVID-19 response and noted that the two countries had closely cooperated in sharing information, repatriating their citizens from a third country, and developing vaccines and treatments.

In addition, Minister Kang and Foreign Secretary Raab appreciated that the two countries continued to cooperate at the international level as like-minded countries and agreed to enhance cooperation on major global issues including climate change, development, and cyber security. Minister Kang underlined that 2021, when Korea and the UK would hold the Second P4G Summit and COP26, respectively, would be a significant year for making progress in the international efforts to respond to climate change. In this context, Minister Kang asked the UK to take interest in the P4G Summit and closely cooperate so that it would serve as a stepping stone for the success of COP26.

2.7 Virtual Meeting between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and Slovenia

Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Kyung-wha had a virtual meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia Anže Logar on October 19 and discussed the way forward for relations between the two countries as well as the election for the next director-general of the WTO.

The two ministers took note that the two countries had seen active economic cooperation mainly through the Slovenian Port of Koper, a logistics hub in Europe, and agreed to work closely together in order to boost substantive cooperation through high-level exchanges, trade, and investment, not yielding to the resurgence of COVID-19.

Minister Kang asked for Slovenia's support for Minister for Trade Yoo Myung-hee, who went on to the final round of the selection process for the next WTO director-general.

2.8 Virtual Meeting between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and Finland

Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Kyung-wha had an online meeting with Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland Pekka Haavisto on October 19. They discussed ways to cooperate on the international stage on issues such as COVID-19 response and election of the WTO director-general.

The two ministers noted with appreciation that Korea and Finland had been continuing communication to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic and agreed to keep on working together closely. Minister Kang asked for Finland's support for the Korean candidate in the election of the WTO director-general, and Minister Haavisto praised Trade Minister Yoo Myung-hee's capability.

In addition, the two ministers took note that Korea and Finland were actively contributing to the stabilization and reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan and agreed to continue working together through international meetings including the 2020 Afghanistan Conference.

2.9 Virtual Meeting between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and Denmark

Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Kyung-wha had a virtual meeting with Minister for Foreign Affairs of Denmark Jeppe Kofod on October 20 at the latter's request. They exchanged views on matters of mutual interest, including advancing the relations between Korea and Denmark, the Second P4G Summit, and the election for a new director-general at the WTO.

The two ministers noted with appreciation that, since the 60th anniversary of the establishment of Korea-Denmark diplomatic relations in 2019, the friendship between the people of the two countries had deepened and agreed to work closely together for the further development of bilateral relations in celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Korea-Denmark strategic partnership and the Korean-Danish Green Growth Alliance in 2021.

Minister Kang took note that Korea and Denmark had stepped up cooperation

particularly in addressing environmental issues on the basis of the Green Growth Alliance and asked for the Danish government's interest and support for the Second P4G Summit, which would take place in Korea in 2021. In response, Minister Kofod mentioned that, as the host of the First P4G Summit, Denmark would actively cooperate for the success of the second summit.

In addition, Minister Kang asked for Denmark's support for Trade Minister Yoo Myung-hee, who had advanced to the final round of the election for the next WTO director-general, and Minister Kofod commended Minister Yoo's competence.

2.10 Phone Call between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and the UK

Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Kyung-wha spoke on the phone with Dominic Raab, UK Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, on February 28. Minister Kang requested that the UK government consult with the Korean government before imposing any COVID-19 response measures on Korean nationals. In response, Foreign Secretary Raab appreciated that the Korean government had responded to COVID-19 in a transparent manner and promised to closely communicate and cooperate with the Korean government so as to effectively respond to COVID-19-related issues. Minister Kang and Foreign Secretary Raab agreed that the year 2020 was a crucial moment for climate change and that the two countries would work closely together for the P4G Summit and COP26.

The two ministers had another phone call on April 6, during which Minister Kang stressed the need to maintain direct flights between the two countries and to continue related cooperation so as not to disrupt essential people-to-people exchanges. Foreign Secretary Raab asked for the Korean government's interest and cooperation for the UK's purchase of COVID-19 test kits from Korea for enhancing its COVID-19 testing capacity.

Their third phone call took place on June 10, and Minister Kang expressed her gratitude for the UK's close cooperation including giving advance notification of its new

measures on overseas arrivals. Also, Minister Kang conveyed her congratulations to the UK on exceeding the target for raising funds for vaccine development at the Global Vaccine Summit, of which it was the host country. In response, Foreign Secretary Raab expressed his gratitude to Minister Kang for participating in the summit and announcing the Korean government's pledge to make a contribution and hoped that the two countries would increase health cooperation. Minister Kang and Foreign Secretary Raab agreed to complete the remaining procedure for the entry into force of the Korea-UK FTA and for the revision of the Korea-UK Aviation Agreement within the Brexit transition period so as not to interrupt bilateral economic exchanges.

2.11 Phone Call between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and Norway

On March 13, Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Kyung-wha spoke on the phone with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway Ine Eriksen Søreide.

Minister Søreide commended Korea's transparent and open response to COVID-19 and explained that, due to a rapid growth in the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in Norway and Europe, the recent entry-restrictive measure was unavoidable. She hoped that the two countries would continue to work together to maintain cooperative relations. Minister Kang stressed that the Korean government had been making all-out efforts to effectively respond to the COVID-19 pandemic through transparent and open disease prevention and control measures based on its high diagnostic capacity. The two ministers, both recognizing the importance of bilateral cooperation in responding to COVID-19, agreed to continue close communication on the basis of friendship and trust between the two countries.

2.12 Phone Call between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and the Netherlands

Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha spoke with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the

Netherlands Stef Blok on the phone on March 23. Minister Blok commended Korea's effective response to the COVID-19 pandemic and asked Korea to share its successful experience in disease control and to provide protective equipment, expressing concern over the recent spread of COVID-19 in the Netherlands. Minister Kang asked for the Netherlands' cooperation in ensuring essential people-to-people exchanges between the two countries despite the restrictions put in place due to COVID-19. She stressed that both countries could overcome the challenges of the pandemic through international cooperation and hoped that Korea and the Netherlands would continuously enhance bilateral cooperation as well as people-to-people exchanges.

2.13 Phone Call between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and Finland

Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Kyung-wha and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland Pekka Haavisto spoke on the phone on April 8. Minister Kang explained Korea's response to COVID-19, and Minister Haavisto praised Korea's effective response to COVID-19 and appreciated the close cooperation between Korea and Finland in disease prevention and control. The two ministers hoped that the two countries would continue to step up cooperation not only at the bilateral level but also at the multilateral level. In particular, Minister Kang suggested that the two countries look into ways to render multilateral assistance to developing countries.

2.14 Phone Call between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and the EU

Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Kyung-wha spoke with High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell on the phone on April 16 at his request and discussed ways to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Minister Kang explained the current situation in Korea, which had shown signs of improvement with a reduction in new cases. High Representative Borrell shared the COVID-19 situation in Europe and explained that the health of the citizens was still a

top priority for Europe even though some countries with a relatively low number of new cases such as Spain and Italy were taking steps to ease the lockdown. He also emphasized the need to have a long-term perspective in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

2.15 Phone Call between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and Estonia

Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Kyung-wha and Minister of Foreign Affairs Urmas Reinsalu of Estonia spoke over the phone on April 24. Minister Reinsalu took note of the robust cooperation between the two countries in COVID-19 response and the defense industry, and Minister Kang mentioned that she was pleased to see that Korea's technology and experience were helping the international community. The two ministers agreed to continue working closely together to strengthen global cooperation for disease control, including at the United Nations, and agreed to strengthen cooperation in utilizing digital technology for COVID-19 response given that the two countries are digital powerhouses.

2.16 Phone Call between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and the Czech Republic

Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Kyung-wha spoke on the phone with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic Tomáš Petříček on May 4 and exchanged views on ways to cooperate in responding to COVID-19 and in strengthening relations between Korea and the Czech Republic, which celebrate the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2020.

Minister Petříček appreciated Korea's effective response against COVID-19 and expressed gratitude to Korea for its cooperation through test kits export and experience sharing. Minister Kang noted with appreciation that the two countries were working together closely in responding to COVID-19, including by supporting the repatriation of

their nationals abroad and allowing Korean businesspeople to enter the Czech Republic.

The two ministers stressed the need for international cooperation on vaccination and the development of medicines to prevent a second wave of COVID-19 and agreed to continue stepping up bilateral relations in commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties.

2.17 Phone Call between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and Greece

Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Kyung-wha spoke on the phone with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Greece Nikos Dendias on May 8 and exchanged views on ways to cooperate in responding to COVID-19.

The two ministers welcomed the close cooperation between the two countries, including the export of Korean-made COVID-19 test kits to Greece, and agreed to continue working together to take Korea-Greece relations to a higher level in the run up to the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2021.

Minister Kang said that, with 2020 marking the 70th anniversary of the Korean War, Korean people were reminded of their gratitude for Greek soldiers who fought in the Korean War. Minister Dendias extended appreciation to Korea for supporting face masks for Greek veterans.

2.18 Phone Call between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and Hungary

Minster of Foreign Affairs Kang Kyung-wha and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary Péter Szijjártó talked over the phone on June 8, around the time of the first anniversary of the boat accident in Hungary.

Minister Kang mentioned that she found it meaningful that memorial events had been held in both Budapest and Seoul. Minister Szijjártó, relaying Hungary's heartfelt condolences once again, said that Hungary would cooperate actively and take continued interest in holding memorial events and making progress in ensuring

accountability to those responsible for the accident.

Minister Kang extended appreciation to the Hungarian government for, in the process of responding to COVID-19, supporting the repatriation of Koreans as well as making an exception in the entry restriction measures by fully permitting Korean businesspeople's entry into Hungary. The two ministers agreed to make joint efforts to bring an early end to the COVID-19 crisis and to normalize exchanges between the two countries.

2.19 Korean Foreign Ministers' Participation in the Annual Meeting of Romanian Diplomacy and Her Phone Call with the Foreign Minister of Romania

Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Kyung-wha attended the Annual Meeting of the Romanian Diplomacy, which was held virtually, at the invitation of Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania Bogdan Lucian Aurescu. Minister Aurescu explained that Minister Kang was invited to the meeting because he was deeply inspired by how Korea had been responding to the COVID-19 crisis. He added that it was the first time in about 10 years that the foreign minister of an Asian country had attended the Annual Meeting of the Romanian Diplomacy.

In the meeting, Minister Kang shared Korea's experience in responding to COVID-19 and gave a speech on the changing diplomatic environment since the outbreak of COVID-19 as well as on diplomatic responses. Minister Kang diagnosed that the crisis in multilateralism, which had served as the foundation of international peace and prosperity over the past decades, was further aggravated in the wake of the pandemic, adding that



Minister Kang giving a keynote speech at the Annual Meeting of the Romanian Diplomacy (Sept. 8)

the crisis should be overcome through cooperation.

Furthermore, immediately ahead of the annual meeting, Minister Kang spoke on the phone with Minister Aurescu and exchanged views on ways to deepen the strategic partnership in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, cooperation in responding to COVID-19, substantive cooperation, and cooperation on the international stage. The two ministers welcomed that the two countries had worked together in various areas since the establishment of diplomatic relations and noted with appreciation that bilateral relations had been strengthened even amid the COVID-19 pandemic through bilateral cooperation on medical supplies including test kits.

2.20 Phone Call between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and Austria

Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Kyung-wha spoke with Federal Minister for European and International Affairs of Austria Alexander Schallenberg over the phone on October 20. They discussed the election for the next director-general of the WTO and the way forward for the relations of the two countries.

The two ministers noted with appreciation that the two countries had been engaging in close communication, including the fruitful discussion on COVID-19 response during the phone call between the leaders of the two countries back in April, and agreed to work together to step up substantive cooperation in a range of areas even amid the global resurgence of COVID-19.

Minister Kang asked for Austria's support for Minister for Trade Yoo Myung-hee, who went on to the final round of the election for the next WTO director-general, and Federal Minister Schallenberg highly commended Minister Yoo's competence.

2.21 Phone Call between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and Poland

Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Kyung-wha spoke on the phone with Minister

of Foreign Affairs of Poland Zbigniew Rau and discussed ways to enhance bilateral relations, substantive cooperation, and cooperation in the international fora. Both ministers noted with appreciation that the Korea-Poland strategic partnership had been developing in various fields and agreed to continue to expand areas of bilateral cooperation.

Minister Rau mentioned that Korea was Poland's important partner in the economy and trade and hoped to expand bilateral cooperation to cyber-security, water resources management, and health. Minister Kang agreed with Minister Rau's proposal to expand cooperation and asked for Minister Rau's close attention and support for Korean companies' activities in Poland and participation in Warsaw's new airport construction project called "Solidarity Transport Hub."

Minister Kang also asked for Poland's support for Korea's candidate for the WTO director-general position, and Minister Rau praised that the Korean candidate was highly qualified for the role.

2.22 Phone Call between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and Sweden

On October 21, Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Kyung-wha spoke on the phone with Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden Ann Linde. Minister Kang asked for Sweden's support for Korea's Minister for Trade Yoo Myung-hee, who had advanced to the final round of the election for the next WTO director-general, and Minister Linde commended Minister Yoo's expertise and competence.

The two ministers took note that active high-level exchanges had taken place to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Korea and Sweden in 2019 and agreed to step up cooperation in the area of health, including COVID-19 response and vaccine development. They also discussed the situation on the Korean Peninsula and agreed to continue close communication on the situation in the region, including the Korean Peninsula.

Section 4 Diplomacy with the Americas

1 Diplomacy with Latin America and the Caribbean

1.1 Summit Diplomacy

(1) Phone Call between the Presidents of Korea and Colombia

President Moon Jae-in spoke on the phone with President of Colombia Iván Duque Márquez on April 2. The two leaders exchanged views on how to work together to overcome the challenges of the COVID-19 outbreak, including through experience sharing and personal protective equipment provision. In addition, the two leaders agreed to expand substantive cooperation in various fields including trade based on the bilateral FTA, ICT, and science and technology.

(2) Phone Call between the Presidents of Korea and Peru

President Moon Jae-in spoke on the phone with President of Peru Martín Vizcarra Cornejo on April 6. The two leaders discussed ways to promote cooperation between the two countries in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

President Vizcarra spoke highly of Korea's exemplary system of infectious disease

control and its response measures against COVID-19. He said that the world was paying attention to them and that Peru hoped Korea would share its experiences related to COVID-19 countermeasures. He also asked Korea to provide medical supplies to Peru. President Moon promised to actively share experiences with the international community including Peru.

The two leaders agreed to expand the two countries' friendly and cooperative relations into various fields such as healthcare on the basis of the partnership strengthened in responding to COVID-19.

(3) Phone Call between the Presidents of Korea and Honduras

President Moon Jae-in spoke on the phone with President of Honduras Juan Orlando Hernández Alvarado on June 12 and discussed ways for cooperation in response to COVID-19 as well as bilateral cooperation in the post-pandemic era.



President Moon talking on the phone with the president of Honduras (June 12)

President Moon expressed his gratitude to the Honduras government for its cooperation for the safe repatriation of Korean nationals in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak. He also asked President Hernández for continued support for the Koreans and Korean businesses in Honduras to ensure their safety and help them resume economic activities. President Hernández expressed his hope to further expand bilateral cooperation in areas such as e-government, transportation, agriculture, and education in the post-COVID-19 era.

(4) Phone Call between the Presidents of Korea and Argentina

President Moon Jae-in spoke on the phone with President Alberto Fernández of Argentina on July 3. The phone call was arranged at Argentina's request to exchange opinions on areas of bilateral cooperation amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

President Moon expressed his gratitude to the Argentine government for making exceptions for Korean businesspeople and allowing them to enter the country despite its border shutdown measures. He added that Korea would continue to share its epidemic prevention and treatment experience with Argentina as well as the international community. President Fernández held Korea in high regards for setting a global example by taking quick and transparent action to respond to COVID-19 at the outset.

The two leaders agreed that both sides were looking forward to expanding cooperation in a wide range of areas including science and the medical field.

(5) Phone Call between the Presidents of Korea and Brazil

President Moon Jae-in spoke on the phone with President of Brazil Jair Bolsonaro on October 5 and exchanged views on ways to promote cooperation in diverse areas including the response to COVID-19, trade, infrastructure, science and technology, and healthcare. The two presidents appreciated the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Korea and Brazil in 2019 and shared views on ways to increase trade in the next 60 years. They also agreed to resume negotiations for the Korea-MERCOSUR Trade Agreement as soon as possible.

(6) Phone Call between the Presidents of Korea and Chile

President Moon Jae-in and President of Chile Sebastián Piñera talked over the phone on October 22 and discussed cooperation for COVID-19 response, negotiations to upgrade the Korea-Chile FTA, and cooperation in the international arena, among others.

President Moon hoped that close cooperation between the two countries would continue in the process of overcoming COVID-19, and President Piñera said that Korea's countermeasures against COVID-19 served as a great reference to Chile. The two presidents agreed to work together so that negotiations to upgrade the Korea-Chile FTA could proceed.

1.2 Presidential Envoy Diplomacy

In 2020, new administrations took office in six countries: Guatemala (January), Uruguay (March), Suriname (July), the Dominican Republic (August), Guyana (August), and Bolivia (November). The Korean government sent special presidential envoys to attend the inauguration ceremonies in Guatemala and Uruguay to reaffirm the stable bilateral ties with Latin American countries.

(1) Presidential Envoy to the Inauguration Ceremony of the President of Guatemala

Shin Ki-nam visited Guatemala from January 11 to January 16 as special presidential envoy to the inauguration ceremony of President Alejandro Giammattei held on January 14. Before the inauguration ceremony, he paid a courtesy call on President Giammattei on January 14 to deliver President Moon's congratulatory letter, in which President Moon expressed his hope to strengthen the friendly and cooperative ties between Korea and Guatemala. The presidential envoy and President Giammattei also exchanged views on ways to expand mutually beneficial substantive cooperation between the two countries.

(2) Presidential Envoy to the Inauguration Ceremony of the President of Uruguay

Park Myung-kwang, a special envoy of President Moon Jae-in, visited Uruguay from February 29 to March 2 and attended the inauguration ceremony of President of Uruguay Luis Lacalle held on March 1. The Korean special envoy relayed special words of congratulations from President Moon on the launch of the new administration and delivered a letter by the Korean president wishing for an expanded and advanced bilateral relationship in the future.

1.3 Prime Ministerial Diplomacy

(1) Phone Call between the Prime Minister of Korea and the Vice President of Colombia

Prime Minister Chung Sye-kyun spoke on the phone with Vice President of Colombia Marta Lucía Ramírez on June 11 and exchanged views on ways to increase cooperation, including experience sharing for overcoming the COVID-19 crisis. Furthermore, they shared views on the growing importance of economic revitalization policies in recovering from the economic crisis caused by the pandemic and agreed to promote bilateral trade and investment and strengthen substantive cooperation in various areas, including science and technology and ICT, in preparation for the post-pandemic era.

(2) Phone Call between the Prime Minister of Korea and the President of Colombia

Prime Minister Chung Sye-kyun spoke on the phone with President of Colombia Iván Duque Márquez on October 19. They discussed issues of mutual concern such as the election of the next WTO director-general as well as trade and investment cooperation. They also discussed ways to strengthen substantive cooperation by making better use of the bilateral FTA and through Korea's participation in Colombia's eco-friendly infrastructure projects for economic revitalization in the post-COVID-19 era.

(3) Phone Call between the Prime Minister of Korea and the Vice President of Guatemala

Prime Minister Chung Sye-kyun spoke on the phone with Vice President of Guatemala César Guillermo Castillo Reyes on October 20 and asked for Guatemala's support for Minister for Trade Yoo Myung-hee, who was running for the post of the next WTO director-general. Furthermore, the prime minister and the vice president exchanged views on issues of health and infrastructure cooperation and ways to activate cultural exchange on the occasion of the bicentennial celebration of the independence of Guatemala in 2021 and the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations

between the two countries in 2022.

1.4 Ministerial Diplomacy

Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha had nine telephone calls with the foreign ministers of eight countries in Latin America: El Salvador, Mexico, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Colombia, Peru, and Jamaica. Minister Kang discussed with her counterparts ways to strengthen bilateral relations, cooperation on the international stage, and cooperation in COVID-19 response. Minister Kang met with Minister of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility Luis Gallegos of Ecuador, who was on a visit to Korea to attend the Korea-LAC Future Cooperation Forum held on November 23-24.

(1) Phone Call between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and El Salvador

Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Kyung-wha spoke on the phone with Minister of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador Juana Alexandra Hill Tinoco on March 3 and asked for a prompt withdrawal of the Salvadoran government's entry ban on Korean nationals put in place in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak. Minister Kang asked the Salvadoran government to reconsider the measure in ways to minimize inconvenience for Korean nationals and companies during the immigration process and to ensure that Korean nationals do not receive unjust treatment due to the entry ban. Minister Hill assured that she would have internal consultations on ways to ensure the safety of Korean nationals and the convenience of Korean businesses.

(2) Phone Call between the Foreign Minister of Korea and the Foreign Secretary of Mexico

Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Kyung-wha spoke on the phone with Foreign Secretary of Mexico Marcelo Ebrard on March 7 and asked the Mexican government not to impose excessive and unreasonable restrictions on entry into Mexico to avoid unnecessary limitations on the exchange of people and bilateral cooperation due to

COVID-19.

Foreign Secretary Ebrard fully noted the Korean government's efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and said that Mexico was taking preventative measures against the spread of COVID-19 at an appropriate level in line with World Health Organization recommendations and that it would continue to consult with Korea to work together in responding to COVID-19.

(3) Phone Call between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and Costa Rica

Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Kyung-wha spoke over the phone with Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica Rodolfo Solano on April 1 and exchanged views on cooperation between the two countries in response to the COVID-19 outbreak such as providing Korean personal protective equipment.

Minister Solano said that the Central American Bank for Economic Integration had decided to purchase Korean-made testing kits to supply them to its member countries in the region and asked Korea to share its outstanding response to COVID-19 and provide its protective equipment to Costa Rica. Minister Kang said that Korea would continue consultations with Costa Rica on ways to support the country's COVID-19 response based on the spirit of solidarity and cooperation.

The ministers both recognized the importance of cooperation between the two countries amid the global spread of the novel virus and agreed to continue close communication.

(4) Phone Call between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and Ecuador

Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha spoke over the phone with Minister of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of Ecuador José Valencia on April 17 at the latter's request and exchanged views on ways for the two countries to work together in responding to COVID-19.

Minister Valencia said that the Korean government's successful response to COVID-19 was serving as an exemplary model for the international community,

proposed to expand bilateral cooperation in the medical sector, asked Korea to share its experience in tackling COVID-19, and let Ecuador purchase Korea's testing kits.

Minister Kang stressed that Korea would continue to share with the international community what it had learned in fighting against the COVID-19 pandemic and said that the Korean government would proactively look into ways to support medical supplies, including helping Ecuador purchase testing kits.

(5) Phone Call between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and Guatemala

Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Kyung-wha spoke on the phone with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala Pedro Brolo Vila on April 22 and exchanged views on ways to increase cooperation between the two countries in response to COVID-19.

In particular, Minister Kang expressed her gratitude to the Guatemalan government for its active support for the safe repatriation of 73 Korean nationals and asked for the Guatemalan government's special attention and support for about 7,000 Korean residents and businesspeople in Guatemala.

Minister Brolo voiced the hope to learn from Korea's experience in responding to the pandemic and Minister Kang mentioned that Korea would continue to increase cooperation on disease control through on-line and off-line channels.

(6) Phone Call between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and Colombia

Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Kyung-wha spoke on the phone with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia Claudia Blum Capurro de Barberi on September 16 and discussed the selection of the next WTO director-general and ways to promote the collective response to the COVID-19 pandemic and substantive cooperation in the post-COVID-19 era, among others. In particular, the two ministers agreed to enhance substantive cooperation in the areas of health, science and technology, ICT, and innovation, focusing on the similarities between the Korean New Deal policy and Colombia's Digital Transformation and Green Growth policies, all of which aim for economic recovery after the COVID-19 crisis.

(7) Phone Call between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and Ecuador

Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha spoke over the phone with Minister of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of Ecuador Luis Gallegos Chiriboga on September 24 and exchanged views on bilateral cooperation in responding to COVID-19 and the selection of the next WTO director-general. In particular, Minister Kang noted with appreciation that Korea and Ecuador had closely cooperated on the global stage and asked for Ecuador's support for Minister for Trade Yoo Myung-hee's candidacy for the WTO director-general position. Minister Gallegos commended the Korean government on its commitment to continuing cooperation with the international community for COVID-19 response and hoped that the two countries would continue cooperation in the international arena.

(8) Phone Call between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and Peru

Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha spoke over the phone with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru Mario López Chávarri on September 29 and asked for Peru's support for the Korean candidate in the selection of the next WTO director-general.

Minister Kang noted with appreciation that the two countries, in the spirit of solidarity and cooperation, had been closely working together to overcome COVID-19 and asked the Peruvian government to actively consider Korea's participation in the Peruvian government's social infrastructure projects.

Minister López expressed deep appreciation to the Korean government for actively sharing its experience in disease prevention and control and providing humanitarian supplies. He offered to expand bilateral cooperation not only in social infrastructure but also in other various sectors.

(9) Phone Call between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and Jamaica

Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Kyung-wha spoke on the phone with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Jamaica Kamina Johnson Smith on October 17 and asked for Jamaica's support for Minister for Trade Yoo Myung-hee, who was running for the post

of next WTO director-general. Minister Johnson Smith agreed that the WTO needed new vitality and affirmed that she would pay special attention to the selection process. In addition, the Jamaican foreign minister mentioned that global cooperation was crucial in responding to a prolonged pandemic, and Minister Kang proposed to continue communication and cooperation while adapting to a new normal.

(10) Meeting between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and Ecuador

On November 25, Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang met with Minister of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of Ecuador Luis Gallegos, who was on a visit to Korea to attend the Korea-LAC Future Cooperation Forum, and discussed ways to enhance cooperation in healthcare and disease prevention and control including COVID-19 response, infrastructure construction cooperation, development cooperation, and expansion of cultural exchanges. In particular, Minister Kang expressed the hope that the Korean government's humanitarian assistance and sharing of experience in disease prevention and control would help Ecuador overcome COVID-19. Minister Gallegos expressed appreciation to the Korean government for providing various types of humanitarian assistance, actively sharing its experience in disease prevention and control through webinars and other occasions, and supporting a number of development cooperation projects. Meanwhile, Minister Gallegos stated that the two retired patrol vessels that had been donated to Ecuador by the Korea Coast Guard would greatly contribute to protecting the marine ecosystem in Galapagos.

1.5 Other Bilateral Consultations and High-level Exchanges

In 2020, Korea held a number of bilateral meetings at different levels with Ecuador, Chile, Mexico, Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama, Honduras, and other countries to exchange views on various issues and promote cooperation.

| Place and Date | Korean Side | Counterpart | Summary |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Quito, Jan. 20 | Director-General for Latin American and Caribbean Affairs Jo Yung-joon | Undersecretary for Africa, Asia and Oceania of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador Laura Donoso | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7th Meeting of the Korea-Ecuador Joint Committee - Discussed bilateral relations, practical cooperation, and the regional situation |
| Panama City, Jan. 22 | Director-General for Latin American and Caribbean Affairs Jo Yung-joon | Director-General of Foreign Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Panama José Ulises Lescure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd Korea-Panama Policy Consultation - Discussed bilateral relations, substantive cooperation, and the regional situation |
| Seoul, Mar. 20 | First Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Cho Sei-young | Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru Jaime Antonio Pomareda Montenegro | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phone call between the two vice ministers - Discussed Peru's assistance in the safe repatriation of Korean nationals in Peru and COVID-19 cooperation |
| Seoul, Apr. 29 | Deputy Minister for Political Affairs Kim Gunn | Director for the Comprehensive Management of the COVID-19 Pandemic at the Presidential Office of Colombia Luis Guillermo Plata | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual meeting to share Korea's experience in immigration and quarantine at Incheon International Airport - Shared Korea's experience and its system with Colombia, which was to reopen its closed airports, as a follow-up measure to the phone call between the heads of state |
| Seoul, Aug. 26 | Second Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Lee Tae-ho | Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile Rodrigo Yáñez Benítez | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting between the two vice ministers - Discussed cooperation for COVID-19 response, Korea's accession to the Pacific Alliance as an associated member, negotiations to upgrade the Korea-Chile FTA, strengthening cooperation in the four key cooperation fields, support for Korea's candidate for the WTO director-general, etc. |

| | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Seoul, Oct. 6 | Director-General for Latin America and Caribbean Affairs Hwang Kyung-tae | Director of Asia, Africa and Oceania at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia Alfredo Ramos | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual meeting between regional director-generals of the two ministries - Discussed bilateral issues such as collective response to COVID-19, high-level exchanges, etc. |
| Seoul, Oct. 19 | First Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Choi Jong Kun | Colombian Ambassador to Korea Juan Caiza | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with the Colombian ambassador to Korea - Discussed bilateral issues |
| Mexico City, Oct. 19-21 | Deputy Minister for Political Affairs Kim Gunn | Deputy Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Mexico Julian Ventura | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit to strengthen relations with Mexico for post-COVID-19 cooperation - Discussed ways to strengthen cooperation in the COVID-19 situation during meetings with the Mexican deputy secretary of foreign affairs and the deputy secretary for North America |
| Seoul, Oct. 30 | First Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Choi Jong Kun | Chilean Ambassador to Korea Gloria Margarita Cid Carreño | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with the Chilean ambassador to Korea - Discussed ways to expand areas of bilateral cooperation, results of the National Plebiscite 2020, etc. |
| Seoul, Nov. 25 | First Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Choi Jong Kun | Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica Adriana Bolaños | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting between the two vice ministers - Discussed bilateral issues including COVID-19 cooperation and Korean companies' participation in environment-friendly infrastructure projects in Costa Rica |
| Seoul, Dec. 16 | First Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Choi Jong Kun | Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia Francisco Echeverri | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3rd Korea-Colombia High-level Policy Consultation (virtual meeting) - Discussed bilateral relations, substantive cooperation, the regional situation, etc. |
| Seoul, Dec. 18 | Director-General for Latin American and Caribbean Affairs Hwang Kyung-tae | Director-General of Foreign Policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Honduras Diana Valladares | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd Korea-Honduras Policy Consultation (virtual meeting) - Discussed bilateral relations, substantive cooperation, the regional situation, etc. |

1.6 Inter-parliamentary Exchanges

Despite the challenges brought on by the novel virus in 2020, parliamentary exchanges continued through non-face-to-face diplomacy.

Speaker of the National Assembly Park Byeong-seug hosted the Sixth MIKTA Speakers' Consultation on December 17 in a virtual format and conducted parliamentary diplomacy with MIKTA.

Inter-parliamentary Exchanges between Korea and Latin America in 2020

| Date | Exchange |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Apr. 27 | Congratulatory letters from Speaker of the National Assembly Moon Hee-sang to President of the Senate of Chile Adriana Muñoz and Speaker of the House of Chile Diego Paulsen |
| June 30 | Congratulatory letter from President of the Paraguayan Senate Blas Llano to Speaker of the National Assembly Park Byeong-seug on the latter's inauguration |
| July 6 | Congratulatory letter from Speaker of the House of Paraguay Pedro Alliana to Speaker of the National Assembly Park Byeong-seug on the latter's inauguration |
| July 7 | Congratulatory letters from Speaker of the National Assembly Park Byeong-seug on the inauguration of President of the Senate Oscar Salomon and Speaker of the House of Paraguay Pedro Alliana |
| July 31 | Congratulatory letters from Speaker of the National Assembly Park Byeong-seug to President of the Senate Arturo Char and Speaker of the House of Colombia Germán Blanco |
| Aug. 11 | Letter of gratitude from President of the Senate of Paraguay Oscar Salomon to Speaker of the National Assembly Park Byeong-seug |
| Aug. 19 | Letter of gratitude from President of the Senate of Colombia Arturo Char to Speaker of the National Assembly Park Byeong-seug |
| Sept. 1 | Letters of request by Chair of the Foreign Affairs & Unification Committee in the National Assembly Song Young-gil for support for the Korean candidate for the WTO director-general election (15 letters sent to 10 countries including Brazil, Colombia, and Chile) |
| Sept. 3 | Congratulatory letters on Brazil's National day (celebrating independence) from Speaker of the National Assembly Park Byeong-seug to President of the Senate of Brazil Davi Alcolumbre and Speaker of the House of Brazil Rodrigo Maia |

| | |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sept. 9 | Congratulatory letters from Speaker of the National Assembly Park Byeong-seug to President of the Senate of Mexico Oscar Eduardo Ramírez Aguilar and Speaker of the House Dulce María Sauri Riancho |
| Sept. 28 | Letter of gratitude from President of the Senate of Brazil Davi Alcolumbre for the letter of congratulations by Speaker of the National Assembly Park Byeong-seug on Brazil's National Day (celebrating independence) |
| Oct. 30 | Congratulatory letter on the Independence Day from Speaker of the National Assembly Park Byeong-seug to Speaker of the National Assembly of Suriname Marinus Bee |
| Dec. 8 | Meeting between Chair of the Foreign Affairs & Unification Committee in the National Assembly Song Young-gil and Ambassador of Honduras to Korea Virgilio Paredes Trapero |
| Dec. 17 | 6th MIKTA Speakers' Consultation |

1.7 Cooperation with Regional Organizations in Latin America

In 2020, Korea continued exchanges and cooperation in various fields with different organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean such as the Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC), the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Pacific Alliance (PA), and the Organization of American States (OAS).

On October 19, MOFA participated online in the Fourth Association of Caribbean States (ACS) International Cooperation Conference and introduced the Korean government's cooperation projects with the ACS such as the project for enhancing coastal resilience of the Caribbean. The participants also discussed ways to explore post-pandemic cooperation projects in relation to the Korean New Deal policy.

(1) Cooperation within FEALAC

Established in September 1999, FEALAC is the sole inter-regional multilateral forum between East Asia and Latin America, joined by 36 governments of member countries — 16 from East Asia and 20 from Latin America. Korea has been actively engaging in FEALAC activities.

On September 17, 2020, the FEALAC Coordination Meeting was held in the form of an online conference. As the co-chair of the FEALAC Multi-donor Trust Fund Steering

Committee, Korea presided over related sessions and urged member states to explore new projects and yield productive outcomes to secure the continuity and visibility of the fund. Moreover, as one of the co-chairs of the Working Group for Trade, Investment, Tourism, and MSMEs, Korea underlined the necessity to officially adopt the Guideline for FEALAC Cooperation Projects in the next Senior Officials' Meeting, which had been discussed since Korea's proposal at the Ninth FEALAC Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Santo Domingo on November 9, 2019.

On November 26, 2020, the Special Senior Officials' Meeting on COVID-19 was hosted by the Dominican Republic as a virtual meeting. At the meeting, upon the request of the host country, Korea shared its preventive measures against COVID-19 as an exemplary case of pandemic response among member states and emphasized the value of solidarity and cooperation as well as the importance of stronger international cooperation.

Meanwhile, MOFA recruited a group of 36 young people and operated the FEALAC Supporters program from May 15 to December 17, 2020 to promote FEALAC and encourage public participation in diplomacy toward FEALAC. MOFA also held the FEALAC Book Concert event in Seoul from December 14 to 19.

| Date | Format | Event |
|------------|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Aug. 13 | online | 10th FEALAC Cyber Secretariat Workshop |
| Sept. 17 | online | FEALAC Coordination Meeting |
| Nov. 26 | online | FEALAC Special Senior Officials' Meeting: COVID-19 |
| Dec. 14-19 | offline (Seoul) | FEALAC Book Concert |

(2) Cooperation with ECLAC

ECLAC, one of the five regional commissions within the UN, was created to contribute to economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Since it joined ECLAC in 2007 as a member state, Korea has been seeking ways

together with ECLAC to promote cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean by carrying out various cooperation projects such as joint studies, seminars, expert exchange programs, among others.

On July 1, MOFA and the Korean Council on Latin America and the Caribbean jointly held a video conference with ECLAC to discuss social and economic impacts of COVID-19, implications of policy response to COVID-19, and ways to promote economic cooperation between Korea and Latin America amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, MOFA held the Fourth Korea-CELAC-ECLAC CORPYME Workshop on September 24-29. In the seminar, Korea and Latin America shared past experiences and discussed future cooperation methods regarding the use of digital platforms for trade promotion and the use of digital tools for the globalization of SMEs. The seminar provided a venue to discuss support for the economic growth of Latin America and the Caribbean and better opportunities for Korean companies to enter the markets in Latin America and the Caribbean.

(3) Cooperation with MERCOSUR

MOFA continued its work for the conclusion of the negotiations on the Korea-MERCOSUR Trade Agreement. The fourth round of talks was held in Busan in October 2019 and the fifth round in Montevideo, Uruguay in February 2020. MOFA closely cooperated with the governments of MERCOSUR member states as well as the relevant ministries of Korea and actively engaged with the press and industries of MERCOSUR member states for an early conclusion of a trade agreement between Korea and MERCOSUR.

(4) Cooperation with the PA

The PA, a trade bloc founded by four countries — Colombia, Chile, Mexico, and Peru — in 2012 in pursuit of regional economic integration, reinforcement of competitiveness, and expansion of trade with the Asia-Pacific region, is the basis

of extending Korea's reach to Latin American markets. MOFA continued its efforts to join the PA as an associate member in order to strengthen Korea's economic and commercial cooperation with PA members. Korea and the four PA members have long upheld common values such as democracy, free trade, and human rights.

In 2020, MOFA continued its outreach activities to ensure that Korea obtains the associate membership, through a conference with PA members for enhancing the effectiveness of outreach in January and the Second Asia-Pacific PA Cooperation Forum in November.

As a result, at the 15th PA Summit in Santiago, Chile in December, the alliance stated in an official document that it welcomed the agreement on the terms of reference with Korea and that it would begin negotiating with Korea regarding its associate membership after completing negotiations with the primary negotiating countries.

(5) Cooperation with the OAS

The OAS was founded in 1948 to bolster solidarity and cooperation among countries in the Americas. Korea joined the organization as a permanent observer in 1981. Through the Korea-OAS Cooperation Fund, Korea has supported various projects such as the OAS Electoral Observation Mission and thus contributed to strengthening democracy and protecting human rights within the region. In addition, on August 19, MOFA and the National Election Commission jointly held a video conference with the OAS to share Korea's successful experience of holding general elections amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

(6) Internship Programs in Latin American International Organizations

In 2020, MOFA sent a total of 15 interns to 12 regional organizations within Latin America and the Caribbean including ECLAC, the OAS, and the Central American Integration System (SICA) in order to provide opportunities to work in the international arena and to foster next-generation Latin American specialists.

Number of Korean interns sent to regional organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2020

| Organization | Number of Persons |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization | 2 |
| Latin American Integration Association | 1 |
| Development Bank of Latin America | 2 |
| Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean | 2 |
| International Labour Organization | 1 |
| Organization of American States | 2 |
| Organization of Ibero-American States Paraguay Office | 1 |
| Latin American Energy Organization | 1 |
| Latin American Parliament | 1 |
| Central American Integration System | 1 |
| Ibero-American General Secretariat | 1 |
| Total | 15 |

1.8 Promotion of Comprehensive Cooperation with Latin America

(1) 2020 Korea-LAC Future Cooperation Forum

MOFA and the Ministry of Health and Welfare co-hosted the 2020 Korea-LAC Future Cooperation Forum in Seoul on November 23-24 under the theme of "Korea-LAC Health Care and Quarantine Partnership." Minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Kyung-wha; Minister of Health and Welfare Park Neung-hoo; and minister or vice minister-level officials of Ecuador, Panama, Costa Rica, and Colombia attended the forum in person, while high-level participants of Uruguay, Chile, and Brazil participated in the forum through prerecorded videos, to discuss ways to increase cooperation between Korea and Latin America and the Caribbean in healthcare and disease prevention and control in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak.



2020 Korea-LAC Future Cooperation Forum (Seoul, Nov. 23-24)

(2) 30th Anniversary of the Central American Integration System and the Korea-Central America New Cooperation Vision Seminar

MOFA and Hankuk University of Foreign Studies co-hosted a seminar in Seoul on October 14 to seek a new vision for Korea-Central America cooperation. High-ranking representatives of member states of SICA, the Inter-American Development Bank, the General Secretariat of SICA, and the heads of mission of the Central American countries in Korea attended the event in person and online. At the seminar, Deputy Minister Kim Gunn proposed the direction for post-pandemic cooperation, including expansion of high-level exchanges and facilitation of Korea-SICA dialogue, pursuit of mutual growth based on Korea's cooperation strategies tailored to the demand of each Central American country, and promotion of cooperation on global challenges such as climate change.



Seminar on the new vision for Korea-Central America cooperation (Seoul, Oct. 14)

(3) 10th High-Level Forum on the Korea-Caribbean Partnership

MOFA, together with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the ACS, hosted

the 10th High-level Forum on the Korea-Caribbean Partnership under the theme of "Korea-Caribbean Comprehensive Partnership in the Post-COVID-19 Era" in a hybrid format on November 11. Participants¹⁾ had in-depth discussions on concrete ways of cooperation in responding to the public health and food security crises that had become the Caribbean region's biggest challenge since the outbreak of COVID-19. In addition, participants from the two sides reached a common understanding on making use of Korea's technological capabilities to implement cooperation projects tailored to the demand of the Caribbean region for development cooperation, including on digital transformation, renewable energy, response to climate change, and natural disaster.

(4) Business Seminar on the Korea-Central America FTA

MOFA, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy, and the Korea International Trade Association co-hosted the Business Seminar on the Korea-Central America FTA on December 2. Experts from the public and private sectors and Korean businesspeople wanting to make inroads into the Central American market attended the seminar online. Recognizing the growing importance of the Central American market after the entry into force of the Korea-Central America FTA and the restructuring of the global value chain in the post-COVID-19 era, participants discussed ways to further expand their presence in the Central American market based on the Korea-Central America FTA.

(5) Dispatch of a Private-Public Joint Delegation to Paraguay to Support Participation in an Infrastructure Project

1) Participants in the 10th High-level Forum on Korea-Caribbean Partnership: (from the Korean side, in person participation) key figures from the public and private sectors including Vice Foreign Minister Choi Jong Kun, Seoul National University Hospital's Ambassador for Global Health Security Lee Jong-koo, representatives of the Rural Development Administration, the Korean Meteorological Administration, and the Academy of Korean Studies (from the Caribbean side, online participation) CARICOM Secretary-General Irwin LaRocque, ACS Secretary General Rodolfo Sabonge, the Caribbean Public Health Agency's Executive Director Joy St John, the Rural Agricultural Development Authority of Jamaica's Chief Executive Officer Peter Thompson, etc.

MOFA and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport jointly dispatched a delegation consisting of members from the private and public sectors to Paraguay from August 13 to 25 in a bid to support the first attempt of a Korean enterprise to participate in a public-private partnership (PPP) project for overseas railroad construction.

This visit of the delegation laid solid ground for mutually beneficial cooperation with Paraguay in the infrastructure sector and created better conditions for the Korean company's participation in the PPP railroad project through the signing of an MOU on cooperation between the Korea Overseas Infrastructure & Urban Development Corporation and the Paraguay Railroad Corporation.

(6) Operation of the Center for Korea-Latin America Cooperation

On November 19, the Center for Korea-Latin America Cooperation of MOFA²⁾ hosted the 2020 Symposium of the Center for Korea-Latin America Cooperation in Seoul. The symposium was attended by approximately 40 participants, including representatives from governments, public institutions, academia, and companies. The symposium featured presentations on the status of Latin American markets and entry strategies in the fields of the economy and trade, infrastructure, health and medical treatment, ICT startups, and the environment, all highly prospective fields in the post-COVID-19 era.

(7) Video Conference among Heads of Mission of Korea in the Latin American Region

On April 2, MOFA held a video conference with seven heads of Korean mission³⁾ in the Latin American region, chaired by Minister Kang Kyung-wha, and the participants discussed ways to protect overseas Korean nationals and cooperate with LAC countries

2) The center offers information about the resources, infrastructure, and new industries of Latin America on its webpage (energia.mofa.go.kr) and issues a web magazine. It also conducts research, provides business counseling through seminars and symposiums, and publishes weekly newsletters and information on tenders.

3) Korean Ambassadors to Mexico, Bolivia, Brazil, Argentina, Ecuador, Chile, and Colombia

in the context of the rapid spread of COVID-19.

The mission heads briefed on the latest situation of the spread of COVID-19 in each country, cases of protecting overseas Korean nationals, and ways to cooperate with LAC governments in response to COVID-19, among others. Minister Kang emphasized that the government's top priority was to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and protect people's health and safety and urged the missions to do their best to protect overseas Korean nationals while communicating closely with the host government.

(8) Korea-LAC Seminar on COVID-19 Response

On April 21, MOFA co-hosted a webinar with the Ministry of Health and Welfare and the Korea Health Industry Development Institute to discuss ways to enhance the Latin America-Korea joint response to the COVID-19 pandemic. With a total of 1,003 people from 28 countries participating, there were in-depth discussions on Korea's COVID-19 management and response system. In particular, five Korean medical professionals specializing in infectious diseases gave presentations on the domestic infection response system, diagnosis and examination systems, clinical cases of COVID-19, infection prevention within hospitals, and the Community Treatment Centers for COVID-19 patients with minor symptoms.

(9) Virtual Meeting with the Heads of Mission in MERCOSUR Member Countries

First Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Cho Sei-young held a virtual meeting with the heads of five Korean diplomatic missions in MERCOSUR member states⁴⁾ on May 19.

The mission heads exchanged views on various issues including the current status of COVID-19; how their host countries were responding to the pandemic and cooperating with Korea in disease control; promising areas of cooperation in the

4) Ambassador to Brazil, Consul General in São Paulo, Ambassador to Argentina, Ambassador to Uruguay, Ambassador to Paraguay

post-COVID-19 era such as public health and medical care, IT and new industries, bioengineering, and infrastructure; and plans for an early conclusion of a trade agreement between Korea and MERCOSUR.

Vice Minister Cho took note of the efforts made by Korean diplomatic missions to cooperate with their host countries in disease control and public health as well as to protect overseas Korean nationals amid the unabated spread of COVID-19 in South America. He encouraged them to continue to seek cooperation with MERCOSUR member states in various areas including public health and disease control.

(10) Meeting with Seven Korean Ambassadors to Central America

Second Vice Foreign Minister Lee Tae-ho presided over a virtual meeting with seven Korean ambassadors to Central America⁵⁾ on May 29 and reviewed Korean embassies' cooperation and response to the spread of COVID-19. The ambassadors to the Central American region discussed ways to cooperate for enhancement in bilateral and regional diplomacy in various fields including healthcare, ICT and the digital government system, industries related to contactless technology, and energy and transportation infrastructure.

(11) Virtual Meeting to Protect and Support Overseas Korean Nationals

Second Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Lee Tae-ho presided over a virtual meeting on June 17 with the heads of Korean missions to seven Latin American countries⁶⁾, which had emerged as new epicenters of COVID-19 spikes, and discussed ways to protect and support overseas Korean nationals.

Vice Minister Lee asked the missions to make continual efforts for the protection of Korean nationals and businesspeople by providing support for infection prevention

5) Ambassador to Guatemala, Ambassador to Nicaragua, Ambassador to the Dominican Republic, Ambassador to El Salvador, Ambassador to Honduras, Ambassador to Costa Rica, and Ambassador to Panama

6) Ambassador to Guatemala, Ambassador to Mexico, Consul General in São Paulo, Ambassador to Argentina, Ambassador to Ecuador, Ambassador to Chile, and Charge d'Affaires a.i. to Peru

and treatment for overseas Korean nationals and helping their business activities as COVID-19 was rapidly spreading in Latin America.

(12) Meeting with Ambassadors of Latin American and Caribbean Countries to Korea

First Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Choi Jong Kun had a meeting with the diplomatic corps of the Group of Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC) in Korea on September 28. Ambassadors from 15 LAC countries, including Paraguay, Argentina, Brazil, and Chile, participated in the meeting.

Vice Minister Choi suggested that Korea and LAC countries make joint efforts to overcome the COVID-19 crisis and expand health cooperation. He said with confidence that Korean companies would become the most suitable cooperation partners for LAC countries in pursuing large-scale infrastructure projects to overcome the economic downturn caused by COVID-19. He also emphasized that it was important for Korea and LAC countries, which had mutually complementary economic structures, to create a mutually beneficial environment for trade and investment by actively pursuing an FTA and a trade agreement.

LAC ambassadors who participated in the meeting expressed appreciation to the Korean government for offering humanitarian assistance to LAC countries for their response to COVID-19. They strongly agreed on the need to reinforce substantive cooperation in a wide range of areas, including the eco-friendly, digital, and infrastructure sectors, for a post-pandemic economic revival.

1.9 Strengthening Participatory Diplomacy

(1) Tuesday's Latin Square

In 2020, MOFA held a total of four Tuesday's Latin Square events to provide practical information about Latin America in various fields such as society, the economy, and culture.

| Place and Time | Event | Key Content |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Seoul, May | Story of Latin America – Korean Diaspora and Jeronimo | • Understanding the Korean-Cuban community through the life of Jeronimo, a symbol of Korean diaspora |
| Seoul, June | Story of Latin America – Unknown Story of Mexican Veterans in the Korean War | • Understanding the important role of Mexican veterans who participated in the Korean War as US forces and that of modern Mexican culture |
| Seoul, Aug. | Story of Latin America – Meet Development Cooperation in Latin America | • Understanding COVID-19 and the situations in Latin America and characteristics and opportunities for Latin American development cooperation |
| Seoul, Oct. | Story of Latin America – How the Time of the Maya Civilization Goes By | • Communication with the audience through a lecture on the Maya civilization |

(2) Latin American Thesis Contest

MOFA held the Ninth Latin American Thesis Contest from May 6 to November 1 in collaboration with the Latin American Studies Association of Korea to encourage Korean universities and graduate students to take interest in Latin America and to provide them with the opportunity to develop their expertise. Those who submitted high-quality thesis were awarded. MOFA will continue to foster the next generation of experts on Latin America.

(3) National Portuguese Contest

With a view to broadening the scope of diplomatic personnel and promoting exchange and cooperation with Portuguese speaking countries including Brazil, MOFA hosted the Ninth National Portuguese Contest together with the Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, the Embassy of Brazil in Korea, the Korea-Brazil Association, and the Korean Association of Lusophone Area Studies on November 13 and awarded the Foreign Minister's Prize to the grand prize winner.

(4) Supporting the Special Exhibition of the National Painter of Ecuador Oswaldo Guayasamín

MOFA sponsored the special exhibition of the national painter of Ecuador Oswaldo Guayasamín, which was hosted by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Korea from December 19. The exhibition showcased 89 pieces of work by the painter Guayasamín, who is often dubbed the "Picasso of Latin America," for the first time in Korea. It also provided an opportunity to draw Korean people's interest in Ecuadorian history and culture and further promote cultural exchanges between the two countries.

2 Korea-Canada Relations

2.1 Summit Diplomacy

(1) Phone Call between the President of Korea and the Prime Minister of Canada

On the occasion of the G20 Virtual Summit on March 26, President Moon Jae-in spoke on the phone with Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau to exchange views on bilateral cooperation and international cooperation. Prime Minister Trudeau noted that Korea's COVID-19 response had been producing positive results. President Moon explained the current situation in Korea's COVID-19 response and emphasized the need for international cooperation.



President Moon talking on the phone with his Canadian counterpart (Mar. 26)

President Moon spoke over the phone with Prime Minister Trudeau again on October 27 and exchanged ideas on issues of mutual interest, including the upcoming election of the WTO's next director-general, cooperation in response to COVID-19, and collaboration in the multilateral arena. The two leaders agreed to continue close

communication and cooperation on various multilateral stages, such as the WTO and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), as the two countries are strategic partners and like-minded countries in the international arena.

2.2 Prime Ministerial Diplomacy

(1) Phone Call between the Prime Ministers of Korea and Canada

Prime Minister of Korea Chung Sye-kyun spoke on the phone with Deputy Prime Minister of Canada Chrystia Freeland on May 12. They shared their experiences as leaders in charge of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and exchanged a wide range of views on bilateral cooperation to prevent the spread of COVID-19.



Prime Minister Chung talking to his counterpart over the phone (May 12)

2.3 Ministerial Diplomacy

(1) Meeting between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and Canada

Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha met with Foreign Minister of Canada François-Philippe Champagne on the occasion of the Munich Security Conference on February 14. The two ministers noted with appreciation that Korea and Canada had been closely cooperating in a range of areas.

In particular, Minister Kang asked Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to attend the Second P4G Summit in Seoul and share the experience of Canada playing a leading role in the fields of climate change response and



Korea-Canada foreign ministers' meeting (Munich, Feb. 14)

green growth.

In addition, the two ministers spoke on the phone on March 2 and September 11. They exchanged views on issues and situations in and out of the region, including response to COVID-19 and cooperation on global issues. They agreed to further expand cooperation between their countries on the global stage as like-minded partners.

2.4 High-level Exchanges Including Bilateral Meetings

In 2020, the Korean government held multiple high-level meetings with the Canadian government to exchange views on various issues and promote cooperation between the two countries.

| Place and Date | Korean Side | Counterpart | Summary |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Seoul, Oct. 29 | First Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Choi Jong Kun | Canadian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Marta Morgan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phone call between the vice ministers of Korea and Canada - Exchanged views on ways to develop bilateral relations, cooperation in COVID-19 response, and cooperation in multilateral arenas and regional affairs |
| Seoul, Dec. 15 | Deputy Minister for Political Affairs of MOFA Kim Gunn | Assistant Deputy Minister for Global Affairs of Canada Paul Thoppil | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6th Korea-Canada Strategic Dialogue - Discussed substantive cooperation between the two countries, the situation on the Korean Peninsula and in the region, global issues, and COVID-19 response. |

2.5 Inter-parliamentary Exchanges

In 2020, Korea and Canada continued inter-parliamentary exchanges and maintained communication and interaction, although in a virtual format due to the COVID-19 situation. For example, Chairman Song Young-gil of the Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee of the National Assembly had a phone call with Chairman Sven Spengemann of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development in the House of Commons of Canada on November 5.

Section 5 Diplomacy in Africa and the Middle East

1 Summit Diplomacy

1.1 Phone Call between the President of Korea and the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi

President Moon spoke on the phone with Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, on March 5 and discussed bilateral issues and ways to further deepen and expand the relations between the two countries.

President Moon expressed his regret that his planned visit to the UAE in mid-March had been delayed due to the COVID-19 situation and shared opinions with Crown Prince Mohammed on the international cooperation against the virus. Crown Prince Mohammed said that his trust in President Moon would not be affected by the delay in his visit to the UAE and hoped that President Moon would visit the UAE in due course. To mark the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Korea and the UAE, President Moon and Crown Prince Mohammed agreed to continue working closely to expand bilateral cooperation in various fields such as energy and

national defense in order to deepen the Korea-UAE special strategic partnership.

1.2 Phone Calls between the Presidents of Korea and Egypt

In 2020, President Moon Jae-in had two phone calls with President Abdel Fatah El-Sisi of Egypt. During their phone call on March 5, President Moon explained Korea's countermeasures against the spread of COVID-19 and requested Egypt's cooperation in helping Korean nationals to visit Egypt without experiencing inconvenience. President El-Sisi expressed his confidence that Korea would overcome the crisis with its thorough quarantine measures and advanced medical technology and requested Korea to share its experience in such areas as COVID-19 prevention and control.

During their phone call on October 20, President Moon and President El-Sisi discussed cooperation on the international stage such as the WTO. President El-Sisi expressed his hope for an increase in trade and investment between the two countries and a stronger bilateral relationship.

1.3 Phone Call between the President of Korea and the Prime Minister of Ethiopia

President Moon Jae-in had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali of Ethiopia on March 30 and exchanged views on COVID-19 response. The two leaders agreed on the need to jointly respond to the COVID-19 crisis and minimize restrictions on exchanges and trade between the two countries. In particular, President Moon stated that the importance of African health issues was included in the joint statement adopted at the G20 special video summit and reaffirmed Korea's active participation in the international community's efforts to support Africa.

1.4 Phone Call between the Presidents of Korea and South Africa

President Moon Jae-in spoke on the phone with South African President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa on April 24, and they exchanged views on ways to cooperate in COVID-19 response.

President Moon expressed his gratitude to the South African government for supporting the safe return of Koreans in South Africa during South Africa's lockdown and asked for continued interest in and support for the safety of Koreans remaining in South Africa.

The two leaders agreed that exchanges of essential personnel such as businesspeople should be allowed within the scope of each country's disease prevention and control measures and that they should support WHO to fulfill its role in responding to COVID-19.

2 Ministerial Diplomacy

2.1 16th Manama Dialogue

Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha attended the 16th Manama Dialogue, which was held in Bahrain on December 5, at the invitation of the International Institute for Strategic Studies. At the Dialogue's first plenary session on global governance in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, Minister Kang delivered a speech on Korea's accomplishments in cooperation with the international community including Middle Eastern countries in order to overcome the global health crisis caused by COVID-19. Minister Kang also stated that Korea would continue cooperation with its neighbouring countries and the international community. The participants noted that Korea, while maintaining transparency and openness, had been wisely overcoming the COVID-19 situation and appreciated its efforts to promote international cooperation amid the pandemic, such as ensuring essential movement of people across countries.

2.2 Ministerial Meetings on the Occasion of the 16th Manama Dialogue

(1) Korea-Bahrain Foreign Ministers' Meeting

Foreign Minister Kang visited Bahrain to attend the 16th Manama Dialogue and had a bilateral meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani of Bahrain on December 4. The two ministers discussed bilateral cooperation, the situation in the Middle East, and cooperation in international fora.



Korea-Bahrain foreign ministers' meeting (Manama, Dec. 4)

On the occasion of Minister Kang's visit to Bahrain, the first visit by a Korean foreign minister in 35 years, the two sides agreed to hold a Korea-Bahrain joint cooperation committee meeting at a mutually convenient time in order to continue regular communication between the two countries. The two foreign ministers also exchanged in-depth views on the rapidly changing situation in the Middle East.

(2) Korea-Iraq Foreign Ministers' Meeting

On December 4, Minister Kang met with Minister of Foreign Affairs Fuad Hussein of Iraq and discussed economic cooperation between the two countries including Korean companies' entry into Iraq amid COVID-19 and the situation in the Middle East.

Minister Kang expressed appreciation to the Iraqi government for supporting the repatriation of Korean construction workers in Iraq during the COVID-19 pandemic. She also asked Iraq to pay particular attention to Korean companies' participation in the energy, infrastructure, and construction markets in Iraq and requested the Iraqi government's cooperation in ensuring the smooth operation of Korean companies' projects already underway in Iraq despite the COVID-19 situation.

Foreign Minister Hussein said that he was aware that Korea had been of great

help to the Iraqi people when it sent its troops to Iraq, including in the construction of hospitals and schools, and reassured that Iraq would cooperate with Korea so that Korean companies' projects in the country could be carried out as planned.

(3) Korea-Saudi Arabia Foreign Ministers' Meeting

Foreign Minister Kang had a meeting with Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia, on December 5. Minister Kang congratulated Saudi Arabia on the success of the 2020 G20 Riyadh Summit, which was held virtually. Minister Kang also agreed on the importance of equitable and sufficient distribution of COVID-19 vaccines and medicines. Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan said that Saudi Arabia valued cooperation with Korea and noted the significance of Minister Kang's visit to the Middle East.

(4) Korea-Jordan Foreign Ministers' Meeting

Foreign Minister Kang met with Foreign Minister Ayman Hussein Al-Safadi of Jordan on December 5 and shared opinions on major bilateral issues and regional situations.

Minister Kang delivered a letter from President Moon inviting King Abdullah II to the P4G Summit scheduled to be held in Seoul in May 2021, as Jordan is a member of the Global Green Growth Institute.

The two ministers reaffirmed that their two countries would continue to closely cooperate in humanitarian assistance for Syrian refugees. They also exchanged views on recent situations in the Middle East, including the Israel-Palestine conundrum.

2.3 Foreign Minister Kang's Visit to the UAE

(1) Korea-UAE Foreign Ministers' Meeting

Foreign Minister Kang visited Abu Dhabi, UAE on December 5 after attending the 16th Manama Dialogue, which was held in Bahrain on December 4. Minister Kang had

another meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan following their meeting in Seoul on July 10. The UAE is the only country with which Korea had reciprocal face-to-face visits by foreign ministers and two rounds of foreign ministers' meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The two ministers agreed that the two countries had continued to expand their relations to a level on par with their special strategic partnership through continued exchanges and communication despite the COVID-19 situation. The ministers also discussed ways to expand Korea-UAE cooperation in various fields, including education, healthcare, ICT, and science and technology, and exchanged in-depth views on current international affairs, including the situations in the Middle East and on the Korean Peninsula. Minister Kang commended the UAE's recent decision to normalize UAE-Israel relations, saying that the decision would contribute to the stability in the Middle East.



Korea-UAE foreign ministers' meeting (Abu Dhabi, Dec. 5)

(2) Visit to the Venue of the Dubai Expo

On December 6, Minister Kang visited the venue of the Expo 2020 Dubai and had a meeting with Reem bint Ebrahim Al Hashimy, Minister of State for International Cooperation of the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and Director-General of Expo 2020 Dubai. The two ministers discussed ways to further expand cooperation between Korea and the UAE on World Expos. Minister Kang then visited the construction site of the Korea Pavilion. Minister Kang stated



Visit to the venue of the Dubai Expo (Dec. 6)

that Korea was willing to closely consult with the UAE and provide the fullest support possible to ensure the success of the Expo 2020 Dubai.

Subsequently in Abu Dhabi, Minister Kang awarded an Order of Diplomatic Service Merit Gwanghwa Medal¹⁾ to the UAE Minister of Culture and Youth Noura bint Mohammed Al Kaabi.

2.4 Meetings and Phone Calls with Other Foreign Ministers

(1) Meeting and Phone Call between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and Jordan

Foreign Minister Kang met with Foreign Minister Ayman Hussein Al-Safadi of Jordan on February 25 on the occasion of the Second Meeting of the Stockholm Initiative for Nuclear Disarmament and the Non-Proliferation Treaty. They exchanged views on issues of mutual interest, including responses to COVID-19 and pending issues in their bilateral relations and regional situations.

The two ministers highly appreciated that both countries had closely developed the friendly ties since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1962, especially their close cooperation on international issues. They also shared the view that the two countries had great potential for further cooperation, particularly in that they had accomplished economic development despite challenges such as insufficient natural resources and complex security conditions. They agreed to continue to look for possibilities to enhance substantial cooperation in areas including energy and water resources.

Minister Kang also spoke with Minister Al-Safadi over the phone on September

1) Minister Al Kaabi contributed greatly to broadening cultural cooperation between the two countries, such as in organizing cultural events and deepening the bilateral relationship, when President Moon visited the UAE in March 2018. Accordingly, Minister Al Kaabi was awarded the Gwanghwa medal, which is the highest level among the Orders of Diplomatic Service Merit.

28 and discussed issues such as fighting against COVID-19 and cooperation in international fora including the WTO.

As the two countries faced new challenges with the number of new COVID-19 cases growing rapidly, the two ministers agreed that they should overcome these difficult times together through close cooperation in disease prevention and control.

(2) Meeting and Phone Calls between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and the UAE

Foreign Minister Kang spoke on the phone with Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan of the UAE on March 1, March 9, and April 7.

Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed extended deep appreciation to the Korean government, saying that the UAE was responding successfully to COVID-19 thanks to the prompt support from the Korean government in providing the UAE with COVID-19 medical equipment including test kits, and expressed his hope for the continuation of healthcare cooperation between the two countries.

Following the three rounds of phone calls, Minister Kang met with Minister Abdullah face-to-face on July 10 in Seoul, and they discussed ways to cope with COVID-19 and strengthen cooperation between Korea and the UAE in the post COVID-19 era.

Minister Abdullah mentioned that Korea was the first country he has made an official visit to since the outbreak of COVID-19. Minister Kang echoed that it was the UAE where Korea sent its first delegation since the pandemic outbreak and that Minister Abdullah was the first foreign minister to visit Korea. She noted that both countries were setting an example of solidarity and cooperation by continuing to cooperate ahead of other countries.

The two ministers agreed to continue their close cooperation in such areas as public health, food safety, and science and technology for the post COVID-19 era as well as cooperation in tackling the pandemic such as vaccine development and disease control. The two ministers also agreed on detailed procedures regarding the fast track entry

procedure that they had agreed to establish during Deputy Minister for Political Affairs Kim Gunn's visit to the UAE on June 13-15.

(3) Phone Call between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and Iraq

Minister Kang spoke with Minister of Foreign Affairs Mohammed Ali Al Hakim of Iraq over the phone on March 3, during which Minister Kang explained the measures the Korean government was taking regarding the COVID-19 outbreak in Korea and asked for a prompt withdrawal of Iraq's entry ban on Korean nationals, stressing that Korean businesspeople were contributing to Iraq's economy by participating in the country's reconstruction projects.

Minister Al Hakim highly appreciated Korea's transparent and open response and said that Iraq would look into ways to help Korean businesspeople enter the country without inconvenience.

(4) Phone Call between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and Saudi Arabia

Minister Kang spoke on the phone with Minister of Foreign Affairs Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud of Saudi Arabia on March 9. Foreign Minister Kang explained in detail the exact situation in Korea regarding the COVID-19 outbreak as well as the Korean government's efforts to contain the virus. Minister Kang also asked the Saudi government to reconsider the entry ban so that Korean businesspeople can enter the country without inconvenience considering that Korean companies were significantly contributing to Saudi's economic development in its major infrastructure projects. Such efforts put in by the Korean government resulted in the Saudi government's decision to lift the entry ban from September for the Korean businesspeople and citizens holding a valid visa.

(5) Phone Call between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and Morocco

Foreign Minister Kang spoke on the phone with Nasser Bourita, Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates of Morocco on March 30 and exchanged views on the bilateral cooperation to cope with the spread of COVID-19.

Minister Kang asked for the Moroccan government's special care and cooperation in providing necessary support for Korean nationals staying in Morocco and for those hoping to return home, and Minister Bourita promised Morocco's active support. Subsequently, 225 Korean nationals and their spouses returned to Korea via four special flights provided by Morocco.

Minister Bourita highly commended Korea's disease control capabilities to combat COVID-19. He also expressed Morocco's intention to purchase medical equipment, including COVID-19 kits manufactured in Korea, and asked for Korea's cooperation regarding the purchase. As for the equipment requested by Morocco, Minister Kang said that MOFA would make efforts on its part to provide as much assistance as possible, with due consideration of domestic needs. Minister Kang stressed the importance of international cooperation to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic, and Minister Bourita suggested continuing to strengthen cooperation between the two countries in dealing with the pandemic.

(6) Phone Call between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and Kuwait

Foreign Minister Kang spoke on the phone with Ahmed Nasser Al Mohammad Al-Sabah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kuwait, on April 1, and exchanged views on cooperation between Korea and Kuwait in responding to the spread of COVID-19.

Minister Kang asked for an exceptional entry permit for Korean businesspeople who are facing difficulties due to Kuwait's entry ban against foreigners. Minister Ahmed replied that Kuwait would positively consider Korea's request. As a result, 107 Korean nationals were able to enter Kuwait on April 11.

The two ministers agreed to work on consolidating the comprehensive, future-oriented, and mutually beneficial partnership between the two countries by expanding health cooperation based on cooperation on COVID-19.

(7) Phone Call between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and Ethiopia

Minister Kang and Minister of Foreign Affairs Gedu Andargachew of Ethiopia

talked over the phone on June 12, during which they exchanged views on COVID-19 response and the way forward for the relations between Korea and Ethiopia.

The two ministers particularly noted that, in the process of addressing the difficulties caused by COVID-19, the two countries had been able to reaffirm their close relations through Korea's provision of humanitarian assistance and medical supplies to Ethiopia and Ethiopia's cooperation for the safe return of Korean nationals to Korea from Africa. The two ministers also agreed to continue cooperation in COVID-19 response and healthcare.

Minister Kang also spoke on the phone with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Ethiopia Demeke Mekonnen Hassen on December 9, and exchanged views on the situation in Ethiopia and the relations between the two countries.

Minister Kang congratulated the deputy prime minister on his inauguration as foreign minister and suggested that the two countries communicate for the development of bilateral relations in various fields, including COVID-19 response.

In addition, Minister Kang expressed concern over the armed conflict in Tigray Province and requested special attention and support from the Ethiopian side for the safety of the Korean people.

(8) Phone Call between the Foreign Minister of Korea and the Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Kenya

Minister Kang and Cabinet Secretary for Foreign Affairs Raychelle Omamo of Kenya spoke over the phone on June 15 and exchanged views on COVID-19 response.

The two sides noted with appreciation that, in the process of addressing the difficulties caused by COVID-19, Korea and Kenya had been able to reaffirm their close relations through Korea's provision of humanitarian assistance to Kenya, including the provision of diagnostic kits and face masks, as well as Kenya's cooperation for the safe return of the local Korean nationals to Korea. Minister Kang and Cabinet Secretary Omamo also agreed to continue bilateral and multilateral cooperation to respond to COVID-19.

(9) Phone Call between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and Qatar

Foreign Minister Kang spoke on the phone with Mohammed Al Thani, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, on July 8 and discussed cooperation on COVID-19 response and economic cooperation, including LNG development.

The two ministers welcomed the \$19.2 billion LNG vessels slot agreement signed between three Korean shipbuilders and Qatar Petroleum and agreed to further expand economic cooperation between the two countries. The ministers also agreed to actively expand health cooperation in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and continue multilateral cooperation, including in the United Nations Group of Friends of Solidarity for Global Health Security.

(10) Phone Call between the Foreign Ministers of Korea and Nigeria

Foreign Minister Kang spoke on the phone with Foreign Minister Geoffrey Onyeama of Nigeria on August 26, and they discussed maritime security cooperation in West Africa.

Minister Kang noted that, with the rise of piracy in seas off West Africa, there had been a series of piracy incidents, among which a few Korean nationals were kidnapped and then released. She urged the Nigerian government to respond more actively to piracy in West Africa. Minister Kang also suggested that the two countries continue efforts for bilateral and international collaboration on this issue.

Minister Onyeama said that Nigeria would exert efforts to strengthen maritime security in West Africa and stressed the need for collaboration with the international community, including other coastal countries.

3 Other Bilateral Exchanges

The Korean government held a number of bilateral policy consultations and video conferences to share its experience in responding to COVID-19, including international conferences related to the Middle East, in order to deepen and expand its diplomacy and explore ways to expand cooperation with countries in Africa and the Middle East amid the limitations in diplomatic activities caused by the global spread of COVID-19.

3.1 Dispatch of Condolence Delegations

(1) Passing of Sultan Qaboos bin Said

Upon the passing of Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said, the Korean government dispatched a delegation led by Defense Minister Jeong Kyeong-doo to Muscat, Oman from January 13 to 15. President Moon sent a condolence message on January 12 to express the Korean people's condolences on the passing of Sultan Qaboos.

(2) Passing of Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber Al-Sabah

On the passing of Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Amir of Kuwait, the Korean government sent a delegation led by Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport Kim Hyun-mee to visit Kuwait on October 4-6.

Through his message on October 1, President Moon expressed his heartfelt condolences and highly valued Kuwait's political stability and economic prosperity under the leadership of the late Amir Sheikh Sabah, the friendly and cooperative relations between Korea and Kuwait, and the late Amir Sheikh Sabah's humanitarian leadership. Foreign Minister Kang visited the Embassy of Kuwait in Seoul on October 5, where she also offered her condolences.

3.2 Special Delegation's Visit to the UAE

A special delegation headed by Im Jong-Seok, the president's Special Advisor for Foreign Affairs to the UAE, visited Abu Dhabi on February 19. The delegation paid a

courtesy call on Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The delegation had an extensive discussion with Chairman of Executive Affairs Authority Khaldoon Al Mubarak on ways to strengthen the special strategic partnership between the two countries as well as energy and national defense cooperation on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

3.3 Bilateral Policy Consultations

| Place and Date | Name | Head of Delegation | Details |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Seoul, Nov. 12 | Korea-UAE Foreign and Defense Dialogue | Korea: Director-General of African and Middle Eastern Affairs Bureau at MOFA & the Director-General of International Policy Bureau at the Ministry of Defense UAE: Director of the Department of East Asia and Pacific Affairs at MOFAIC & the Assistant Undersecretary for Policy and Strategic Affairs at the Ministry of Defense | • Discussion on Korea-UAE cooperation in defense, international security, public health and agriculture |
| Tokyo, Nov. 18 | 8th Korea-Japan Director-General Level Policy Consultation | Korea: Director-General for African and Middle Eastern Affairs Japan: Director-General for African and Middle Eastern Affairs | • Discussion on the policies for the Middle East and the outlook for the Middle East situation |
| Tokyo, Nov.19 | Discussions between Korean and Japanese director-generals of African affairs at foreign ministries | Korea: Director-General for African and Middle-Eastern Affairs Japan: Director-General of African Affairs Department | • Discussion on the impact of COVID-19 on Africa, the status of the two countries' assistance to the region, and the way forward for the cooperation on Africa |
| video conference, Dec. 2 | 2nd Korea-Rwanda Policy Conference | Korea: Director-General for African and Middle-Eastern Affairs Rwanda: Director-General of Asia and Pacific of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation | • Discussion on bilateral relations, COVID-19 response, development and economic cooperation, cooperation on the international stage, and the situation on the Korean Peninsula |

3.4 International Conference on the Middle East

| Date and Place | Name | Attendees | Details |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jeju Island, Nov. 6 | 2020 Korea-Middle East Cooperation Forum | Middle East experts and government officials from home and abroad | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reaffirming Korea's will to strengthen cooperation with the Middle East in the post-COVID-19 era • Analysis of Korea's expansion into the Middle East by looking into the changes in the Middle East brought about the Abraham Accords |

3.5 Video Conferences for Experience Sharing on COVID-19 Response

| Date and Place | Name | Head of Delegation | Details |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| video conference, Mar. 31 | Korea-Qatar meeting on COVID-19 response | Korea: Seoul National University Bundang Hospital, KOTRA offices, etc. Qatar: Hamad Medical Corporation, the Ministry of Public Health, etc. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing experiences and know-how in COVID-19 response |
| video conference, Apr. 7 | Korea-Tunisia expert video conference regarding COVID-19 response | Korea: MOFA and a medical team from Seoul National University Bundang Hospital Tunisia: Minister of Health, Director of the Observatory of New and Emerging Diseases, Director-General of Health Structures, and a medical expert team on infection prevention | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing various policies, technologies, and experiences in the Korean medical system's swift response to COVID-19 |
| video conference, Apr. 13 | Korea-Cote d'Ivoire Virtual Meeting on COVID-19 Response | Korea: disease containment experts Cote d'Ivoire: Chief of Staff to the President & a director-general from the Ministry of Health and medical staff in charge of disease containment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 testing and treatment method and use of self quarantine safety protection app |
| video conference, Apr. 22 | Korea-Kuwait special video conference for sharing experiences in COVID-19 response | Korea: MOFA, Ministry of Health and Welfare, and medical experts Kuwait: Vice Minister and Deputy Minister of Health, Minister of Development and International Cooperation, and a medical team on infection prevention | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing Korea's medical system, the current situation in infection management, and clinical experience regarding COVID-19 |

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| video conference, May 26 | MOFA-KDCA-Africa CDC Virtual Meeting on COVID-19 Response | Korea: MOFA and the director and staff of KDCA Africa: deputy director of Africa CDC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 test and contact tracing management, clinical experience, experience sharing on quarantine at the government level |
| video conference, July 8 | Korea-Bahrain video conference for sharing experiences in COVID-19 response | Korea: Embassy in Bahrain, medical experts, and professors Bahrain: a major general from the Bahrain Defence Force and medical experts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing Korea's medical system, the current situation of infection management, and clinical experience regarding COVID-19 |
| video conference, Aug. 5 | Korea-Uganda Video Conference on COVID-19 experience sharing in collaboration with relevant ministries | Korea: government officials from MOFA, the Ministry of Health and Welfare, and the Ministry of Education Uganda: government officials from the Ministry of Health | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing experiences in responding to COVID-19 • Offering customized advice |
| video conference, Dec. 3 | Korea-Sudan Video Conference on COVID-19 experience sharing in collaboration with relevant ministries | Korea: Embassy in Sudan & relevant health experts from Korea Sudan: Director of the National Public Health Laboratory & the Director-General of the Disease Control Department of the Ministry of Health | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing experiences in responding to COVID-19 • Offering customized advice |

4 Promoting Friendship and Cooperation with the Middle East and Africa

4.1 Support for COVID-19 Response

The UAE urgently requested via diplomatic channel Korea's support in purchasing of COVID-19 test kits on March 7. MOFA thus approached a domestic test kit manufacturer, and kits were exported to the UAE within a week. The UAE expressed its gratitude in various ways, including a phone call from its foreign minister.

With regard to Saudi Arabia, cooperation between the two countries in COVID-19

response has been active with the Korea-Saudi Vision 2030 Committee Meeting. Upon Saudi's request, test kits and face masks made in Korea have been exported to Saudi Arabia.

Furthermore, the Korean government has contributed about \$200 million in grants and concessional loans to the African Union (AU) and 53 African countries to assist their COVID-19 response. The Korean government particularly selected Ethiopia and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) under the AU as key partners for the COVID-19 Comprehensive Rapid Response Program and provided \$5 million in humanitarian assistance. In addition, the Korean government reallocated a part of the Korea-AU Cooperation Fund to the Africa CDC's COVID-19 Response Fund and held virtual meetings with Cote d'Ivoire, Uganda, and Sudan to share experiences in COVID-19 response with African countries. In this context, MOFA and the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency held a virtual meeting with the Africa CDC and discussed various issues including COVID-19 tests, contact tracing, clinical experience, and quarantine measures at the government level.

4.2 Ninth Arab Film Festival

The Ninth Arab Film Festival was held in Seoul and Busan from July 16 to 21. The festival, which featured 11 Arab movies, helped the Korean audience understand the life and culture of the Arab world. For the opening, *Photocopy* was screened, a film directed by Tamer Ashry from Egypt that depicts conflicts and communication between neighboring communities where various age groups and classes coexist. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 2,000 people attended the festival, demonstrating Korean people's deep interest in Arab culture. Due to COVID-19, virtual dialogue sessions between the film directors and the audience were held instead of inviting the film directors to Korea.

4.3 13th Arab Cultural Festival

The 13th Arab Cultural Festival was held in COEX in Seoul from October 15 to 17 under the title of "Encountering the Arab World in Seoul." Considering that traveling overseas became almost impossible in 2020, the festival was mainly composed of exhibitions to allow Korean people to experience the Arab world.

Through a knowledge quiz, Arabic tattoo prints, and a virtual show of the night landscape of Petra, Jordan, the festival offered visitors an opportunity to experience Arabic culture and atmosphere in Korea.

4.4 13th Korea-Arab Friendship Caravan

The special performance of the 13th Korea-Arab Friendship Caravan took place from December 16 to 17 at the Jindo National Gugak Center without the physical presence of an audience. A performance team of the Jindo National Gugak Center played samulnori music and performed Korean traditional dance. The B-boy dance team "Expression Crew" performed a creative non-verbal show titled "Marionette." The video is available on YouTube. It was the first time online performances were held as part of the Korea-Arab Friendship Caravan. The caravan contributed to increasing the number of Arabs taking interest in Korean culture and arts even during the pandemic.

4.5 2020 Korea-Africa Business Forum

On the occasion of the Africa Industrialization Week on November 16-20, the Korea-Africa Foundation and the AU co-hosted the 2020 Korea-Africa Business Forum on November 19 in a hybrid format. Foreign Vice Minister Lee Tae-ho and Commissioner for Industry and Commerce of the AU Albert Muchanga delivered congratulatory remarks and a keynote speech, respectively, stressing the need to expand economic cooperation between Korea and Africa in the post-COVID-19 era. Scholars and businesspeople from various fields in Korea and Africa attended the forum, and 32 SMEs and start-ups participated in the 2020 Intra-Africa Virtual Trade Fair.

4.6 Third Seoul Dialogue on Africa

Co-hosted by MOFA and the Korea-Africa Foundation, the Third Seoul Dialogue on Africa was held both online and offline on December 8-9, in Seoul under the theme of “Together in Solidarity: Partnership for a New Normal.” Foreign Vice Minister Choi Jong Kun, Commissioner for Peace and Security of the AU Smaïl Shergui, President of the National Assembly’s Forum for a New Era with Africa and the Parliamentary Diplomacy Forum on Africa Sul Hoon, and President of the Korea-Africa Foundation Choi Yeon-ho delivered congratulatory remarks and keynote speeches and discussed a wide range of issues, from the latest political developments and digital transition in Africa to the new model for cooperation between Korea and Africa.

5 Korean Government’s Stance and Activities Regarding Major Middle Eastern Issues

5.1 Response to Violent Extremism

In order to take part in the international community’s efforts to defeat ISIS, Korea has been participating in two of the five working groups of the US-led Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS launched in 2014: the working group for stabilizing liberated areas and the working group for preventing the movement of foreign terrorist fighters.

In 2020, the Korean government continued to provide support for Iraq’s stabilization and for the return and settlement of displaced Iraqi people in the territories regained from ISIS. As part of such efforts, the Korean government provided \$5 million for the Funding Facility for Immediate Stabilization to assist the recovery of the Iraqi government and to respond to the humanitarian needs in territories reclaimed from ISIS.

5.2 Syrian Issue

The Korean government has been supporting the Syrian people-led political solution based on UN Security Council Resolution 2254, which stipulates the procedures and principles for Syria’s political transformation, and the Geneva Communiqué in 2012. In addition, the Korean government has contributed a total of \$88.95 million through international organizations since 2012 to alleviate humanitarian crises such as Syrian refugees. In June 2020, the Korean government participated in the Fourth Brussels Conference on Supporting the Future of Syria and the Region and announced plans to offer approximately \$13 million.

5.3 Iranian Issue

After the withdrawal of the US from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action in May 2018 and the termination of sanctions exemptions in May 2019, Korea stopped importing Iranian condensates, which had been resumed for 180 days since November 2018.

The Korean government held preliminary consultations with the US government to find ways to continue its humanitarian trade with Iran to an extent compatible with the US policy of maximum pressure on Iran. As a result, Korea managed to resume exporting humanitarian products, such as medicines and medical devices, to Iran in early August 2019.

However, humanitarian trade was also suspended after the US reimposed sanctions on the Central Bank of Iran on September 20, 2019.

The Korean government dispatched an economic cooperation delegation to Iran in December 2019 and a public-private delegation to the US in February 2020 to consult on reopening humanitarian trade with Iran by utilizing the Central Bank of Iran’s funds within Korea.

As a result of such consultations, the Korean government resumed humanitarian

trade with Iran using the Central Bank of Iran's funds in Korea, in accordance with the US' emergency permit in February 2020.

In a bid to expand humanitarian trade, the Korean government held a Korea-Iran high-level committee meeting in late July 2020 and established the Korea-Iran Director-General-Level Working Group for Humanitarian Trade.

The Korean government had eight online meetings with Iran as of December 2020 since the launch of the working group on August 19. The working group continued its effort to act as a bridge between importers and exporters of the two countries and to solve issues regarding humanitarian trade.

5.4 Israel-Palestine Issue

The Korean government believes that finding a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is crucial for the establishment of permanent and inclusive peace in the Middle East, which can only be achieved through a two-state solution based on dialogue and compromise between the parties.

The Korean government provided a total of \$1.2 million in assistance to Palestine, including COVID-19 supplies such as test kits, through bilateral channels and international agencies such as the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

The Korean government also welcomed the normalization of relations between Israel and Arab countries such as the UAE, Bahrain, and Sudan in 2020. It announced a commentary expressing its expectations that such movements would serve as a chance for enhancing stability and establishing peace in the region.

5.5 Libyan Issue

The Korean government welcomed the signing of the Libya Ceasefire Agreement

between the two sides of Libya through the 5+5 Libyan Joint Military Commission Meeting held in Geneva on October 23. The Korean government expressed its hope that peace and stability would soon be established in Libya. Meanwhile, the Korean government provided \$1.4 million to Libya, which includes \$1.2 million for Libyan stability and rural development and \$200,000 for COVID-19 response.

5.6 Yemen Issue

The Korean government attended the Virtual High-level Pledging Event for Humanitarian Crisis held in Yemen on June 2 and announced its plans to provide \$18.5 million in humanitarian assistance to help address the humanitarian crisis in Yemen. Also, the Korean government expressed deep concern over the multiple attacks on Saudi Arabia and repeatedly expressed its position that attacks on civilians cannot be justified under any circumstances.

5.7 MOFA Spokesperson's Commentary on the Situation in Ethiopia

In a commentary by a MOFA spokesperson on November 10, the Korean government expressed concern over the armed clashes in the Tigray region of Ethiopia and hoped that stability would be restored through immediate measures to de-escalate tensions. Also the Korean government provided \$300,000 through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for the Ethiopian refugees in Sudan caused by the Tigray crisis.

5.8 Sahel Issue

The Korean government attended the virtual Ministerial Round Table on the Central Sahel on October 20 and announced the Korean government's plan to contribute about \$10 million to the region in 2020-2021. In addition, the Korean government stressed the

need for the international community's coordination and holistic approach to address the entire scope of security, economy, and humanitarian challenges in the region and mentioned that the Korean government was committed to taking an active part in the efforts.

Section 6 Inter-regional Diplomacy

1 ASEAN-related Multilateral Meetings

1.1 Special ASEAN Plus Three Summit

President Moon Jae-in participated in the Special ASEAN Plus Three Summit¹⁾, which was held in a virtual format on April 14, and discussed ways to work together in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic with the leaders of the ten ASEAN member countries, China, and Japan. The leaders adopted a joint statement as the outcome document of the Special ASEAN Plus Three Summit. The joint statement emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts for a swift and transparent exchange of information; provision of adequate medicines and medical supplies; strengthening scientific cooperation including cooperation on the research and development of

1) ASEAN Plus Three (APT) is a regional consultative body participated by the ten ASEAN member countries, Korea, China, and Japan. It was launched in 1997 to jointly respond to the Asian financial crisis. APT cooperation covers a wide range of areas including politics and national security, trade and investment, finance, energy, tourism, agriculture and forestry, the environment, education, health, and culture and arts.

vaccines; ensuring funds for the establishment of the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund; and tackling misinformation and fake news.

The Special ASEAN Plus Three Summit served as a venue for the leaders of its 13 member states to reaffirm their political will to respond jointly to the COVID-19 pandemic and discuss ways to work together in handling and seeking solutions to the impact of the pandemic in public health, the economy, food security, science, and education. As the coordinator for cooperation among Korea, China, and Japan, the Korean government led the discussion on the preparations for the special summit and actively contributed to adopting the joint statement.



Special ASEAN Plus Three Summit (Apr. 14)

1.2 ASEAN-related Summit Meetings

President Moon Jae-in participated in the ASEAN-ROK Summit held in a virtual format on November 12 and took stock of the progress made in cooperation between ASEAN and Korea and discussed its future direction with other leaders. President Moon also talked about the New Southern Policy Plus and its seven core initiatives, which reflects the changes caused by COVID-19 and the new demands of ASEAN countries, and reaffirmed the Korean government's commitment to building a "people-centered community of peace and prosperity" in the post COVID-19 era.



ASEAN-ROK Summit (Nov. 12)

On November 13, President Moon

and the leaders of the five Mekong countries²⁾ met online for the Second Mekong-ROK Summit. At the summit, the leaders discussed the progress made so far and the way forward for cooperation between Korea and Mekong countries in the run up to the 10th anniversary of Mekong-ROK cooperation and the Mekong-ROK Exchange Year in 2021. As an outcome document of the summit, the leaders adopted a joint statement on upgrading the Mekong-ROK relationship to a strategic partnership, Mekong countries' support for the New Southern Policy and the New Southern Policy Plus, and cooperation in COVID-19 response and appreciation for Korea's support.



23rd ASEAN Plus Three Summit (Nov. 14)



15th East Asia Summit (Nov. 14)

At the 23rd ASEAN Plus Three Summit held on November 14, the leaders reviewed the progress made in implementing the follow-up measures to the Special ASEAN Plus Three Summit held in April and exchanged views on ways to increase cooperation. The leaders also adopted an ASEAN Plus Three leaders' statement³⁾ on strengthening ASEAN Plus Three cooperation for economic and financial resilience in the face of emerging challenges. On the same day, the 15th East Asia Summit (EAS) was held

2) Cambodia, the Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, and Viet Nam

3) The statement reaffirms the APT's strong commitment to strengthening the connectivity and resilience of the regional supply chain through cooperation among the economic ministers, finance ministers, and central bank governors; establishing an open, inclusive, transparent, and rules-based multilateral trading system; enhancing cooperation for advancing connectivity; and increasing support for the micro, small, and medium enterprises, vulnerable groups, business start-ups, and economic sectors adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic by means such as leveraging technologies and digital innovations.

online, and President Moon discussed COVID-19 response, the past and future of EAS cooperation, and regional and international issues with the leaders of ASEAN member countries, Japan, China, Australia, India, New Zealand, the US, and Russia.

1.3 ASEAN-related Foreign Ministers' Meetings

Prior to the above-mentioned ASEAN-related summits, their respective ministerial meetings were held in a virtual format in September: the 23rd ASEAN-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting, the 21st ASEAN Plus Three Ministers' Meeting, and the 10th East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting on September 9; the 27th ASEAN Regional Forum Foreign Ministers' Meeting on September 10; and the 10th Mekong-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting on September 28.

At the 23rd ASEAN-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting, the foreign ministers reflected on the progress made in implementing the follow-up measures to the ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit held in November 2019 and exchanged views on ways to strengthen cooperation between ASEAN and Korea. Minister Kang stressed the importance of strengthening cooperation between ASEAN and Korea in advancing the ASEAN-ROK strategic partnership as well as the New Southern Policy.

At the 21st ASEAN Plus Three Ministers' Meeting, the foreign ministers reviewed the progress in the implementation of the follow-up measures to the Special ASEAN Plus Three Summit held in April 14 and discussed cooperation for COVID-19 response and economic recovery. The 10th East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting brought together the foreign ministers of the US, China, Japan, Russia, and India. At the meeting, Minister Kang emphasized international cooperation and efforts to achieve permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula and strengthen the link between the Korean government's New Southern Policy and other countries' regional initiatives.

The 27th ASEAN Regional Forum Foreign Ministers' Meeting was held in a virtual format on September 12. The meeting was attended by foreign ministers from 27

countries, including Korea, ten ASEAN countries, the US, China, Japan, EU countries, and North Korea. The ministers exchanged views on developments in the international landscape and regional security, including the situation on the Korean Peninsula and non-traditional security issues, and discussed ways to build trust and strengthen security cooperation among the participating countries.

At the 10th Mekong-ROK Foreign Ministers' Meeting, the ministers reviewed the outcomes of the First Mekong-ROK Summit held in 2019 and discussed measures to increase substantive cooperation as well as the future direction of Mekong-ROK cooperation. Minister Kang suggested ways to reinforce Mekong-ROK cooperation in the area of health, economic recovery, and the environment in order to enhance the relevance and effectiveness of Mekong-ROK cooperation amidst changes in the global environment such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

By participating in these meetings, Korea maintained the momentum for advancing its diplomatic relations with ASEAN, which were upgraded at the ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit held in November 2019, and contributed to regional peace and stability.



27th ASEAN Regional Forum Foreign Ministers' Meeting (Sept. 12)

2 Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation

The Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) is a regional economic organization established in 1992 at the initiative of Turkey to foster trade and economic cooperation in the Black Sea region. Korea joined BSEC as a sectoral dialogue partner in 2011 to strengthen cooperation with the Black Sea region, which is

located at the crossroads of energy transit routes and has abundant natural resources.

A Korean delegation attended the 42nd Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of BSEC, which was held as a video conference in November. The delegation conveyed the Korean government's hope for a swift resumption of the 2020 Korea-BSEC ICT Workshop, which had been postponed due to COVID-19, and its willingness to further develop the friendly and cooperative relationship between Korea and the Black Sea region.

3 Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia

In 2006, Korea joined the Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA), a regional consultative body that was launched in 1992 with the goal of building mutual trust and preventing conflicts in Asia.

At the CICA special foreign ministerial videoconference held in September 2020, the Korean government shared its experiences in responding to COVID-19 and discussed ways to cooperate with CICA member countries in responding to the pandemic. In addition, the government attended the special working group meeting and the senior management meeting held in December to discuss cooperation among CICA member countries, implementation of CICA confidence-building measures, and development plans.

4 Indian Ocean Rim Association

Amid the growing geopolitical significance of the Indian Ocean region, Korea has

actively participated in the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)⁴⁾'s diverse consultative groups and meetings to strengthen cooperative relations with IORA member states and contribute to regional peace and prosperity.

On June 29, 2020, Korea shared its concrete cooperation plan with IORA on IORA's priority areas such as maritime security and safety, blue economy⁵⁾, trade and investment facilitation, women's economic empowerment, and academic exchanges. Moreover, Korea demonstrated its will to proactively cooperate with the Indian Ocean region countries by attending and speaking at IORA's high-level meetings such as the 20th Meeting of the IORA Council of Ministers on December 17, the 22nd Meeting of the IORA Committee of Senior Officials on December 16, and the Virtual Meeting of IORA Committee of Senior Officials on COVID-19. Korea also participated in a range of virtual working-level consultative meetings such as the First Meeting of the Core Group on Tourism on August 31 and the 25th Meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Business Forum on October 20.

Meanwhile, the First ROK-IORA Partnership Seminar held on October 29, which was Korea's first initiative on cooperation with IORA, served as a turning point in elevating the level of partnership with IORA by providing an opportunity to explore ways to create



First ROK-IORA Partnership Seminar (Oct. 29)

4) Established in 1997 under the leadership of South Africa and India, the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) is an inter-governmental organization for economic and social cooperation among Asian and African coastal states bordering the Indian Ocean and is comprised of 23 member states and 9 dialogue partners. Korea joined IORA as a dialogue partner in November 2018.

5) Blue economy is an economy that ensures sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods and jobs, and healthy marine ecosystems. The blue economy encompasses many activities such as fisheries, maritime transport, and waste management (the World Bank, 2017). Most of IORA member states are highly dependent on the ocean economically, socially, and culturally, and active discussions are taking place on the blue economy to protect the ocean from indiscriminate industrialization and climate change.

links between Korea's New Southern Policy and cooperation with IORA and to discuss ways to cooperate on the areas of the blue economy, trade, and investment.

5 Korea-Pacific Islands Foreign Ministers' Meeting

In order to strengthen cooperative relations with Pacific Island countries, Korea has held the Korea-Pacific Island Countries Foreign Ministers' Meeting every three years since 2011 and the Korea-Pacific Island Countries Senior Officials' Meeting every year when the Foreign Ministers' Meeting is not held. The Fourth Korea-Pacific Island Countries Foreign Ministers' Meeting was supposed to be held in 2020 but it was postponed since flights connecting Pacific Island countries were suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

6 South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

Korea joined the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)⁶⁾ as an observer in 2006 to strengthen its ties with countries in the Southwest Asia region. Since 2010, Korea has held the ROK-SAARC Partnership Seminar every year, bringing together governments, academia, and the private sector. During the 11th ROK-SAARC Partnership Seminar, which took place in Seoul on August 3, participants discussed

the public health crisis and poverty in Southwest Asia caused by COVID-19 and shared ideas on cooperation between the two sides to deal with such challenges.

6) The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was established in December 1985 to promote cooperation on economic, social, and cultural exchanges in the South Asian region. Its member states are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Korea, along with Australia, China, the EU, Iran, Japan, Mauritius, Myanmar and the US participate in SAARC as observers.



2021 DIPLOMATIC
WHITE PAPER

Strengthening Economic Diplomacy and Pioneering New Frontiers

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Section 1 Bilateral Economic Diplomacy

1 Economic Relations with Major Trading Partners

1.1 US

MOFA held the Fifth Korea-US Senior Economic Dialogue virtually on October 14. At the meeting, the two sides reviewed the status of their cooperation in COVID-19 response as well as the Korea-US economic cooperation in trade and investment. The two sides also explored ways to strengthen cooperation in the areas of development, energy, infrastructure, and resources, aligning the New Southern Policy of Korea with the Indo-Pacific Strategy of the US, while discussing ways to expand cooperation at the global level in such areas as women's economic empowerment, ICT, and emerging technologies. As the two countries experienced global supply disruption caused by COVID-19, they agreed on the need for cooperation in securing strong and resilient supply chains and committed to continuing necessary discussions on the matter.

Korea and the US also held the Second Korea-US Roundtable for Women's Economic Empowerment on September 5 to gather opinions from various areas on ways to promote women's economic empowerment. Additionally, Korea, US, and

Japan held the Second Trilateral Roundtable from October 20 to 23 to discuss ways to strengthen women's capacity in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) areas and solidify the economic cooperation partnership.

1.2 China

China is the largest trading partner of Korea, and the two countries have great potential to closely cooperate in various fields. The Korean government has put continuous effort into strengthening economic cooperation with China in many aspects.

At the 24th Meeting of the ROK-China Joint Economic Committee on August 1, the two countries highly appreciated the start of the fast track procedure to guarantee essential economic activities of the companies between the two countries, and exchanged constructive views on the economic cooperation in the post COVID-19 era. The Korean government also actively requested the Chinese government's cooperation to promote exchanges of cultural content and to relieve Korean companies' difficulties in China. This meeting was the first high-level officials' face-to-face meeting between the two countries after the outbreak of COVID-19.

The two countries also held three rounds of follow-up virtual negotiations on the services and investment sections of the Korea-China FTA, which had been put into effect in 2015, in an effort to continue to strengthen investment protection and promote market liberalization.

The two countries held the 24th ROK-China Meeting for Comprehensive Review of Economic Cooperation virtually on December 9, and exchanged views on various issues including the operation of ROK-China fast track, drafting the ROK-China Joint Plan for Economic Cooperation (2021-2025), and expanding cooperation in cultural content. Korea especially welcomed the issuing of a service license on a Korean mobile game, and requested China's cooperation for continued issuance of service licenses on Korean games. In addition, the two countries agreed to continue to support economic activities of the companies in both countries to further and deepen economic

cooperation between the two countries.

1.3 EU and its Member States, and the United Kingdom

Korea and the EU, sharing universal values, have been deepening the strategic partnership based on the institutional framework of the three core agreements: the Korea-EU Framework Agreement, the Korea-EU Free Trade Agreement, and the Korea-EU Framework Participation Agreement on Crisis Management Operations. On January 21, the 16th Korea-EU Joint Committee was held and the two sides reviewed the progress and achievements made in various areas including industrial cooperation between SMEs and clusters, ICT, science and technology, transportation, and culture. The two sides also exchanged views on ways to step up cooperation between respective regional strategies, namely, Korea's New Southern and New Northern policies and the EU-Asia Connectivity strategy. In addition, they agreed to closely cooperate on multilateral issues such as trade, environment, development, and human rights, sharing policies responding to climate change and agreeing on the need for coordination in international fora, including the G20 and the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The Deputy Minister for Economic Affairs hosted a virtual meeting on November 12 with the Director-General for External Economic Policy of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy of Germany, and discussed ways to promote cooperation in COVID-19 response, bilateral economic issues, as well as in the digital and energy sectors. The two sides also shared views on the P4G Seoul Summit, climate change, and the multilateral trading order. This high-level economic consultation came after Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha's visit to Germany in August and the phone conversation between President Moon Jae-in and Chancellor Angela Merkel in October, and served as an opportunity to further reinforce cooperative relations between Korea, Germany's key partner in Asia, and Germany, Korea's largest trading partner in Europe.

Since the UK's withdrawal from the EU (hereinafter referred to as "Brexit") on January 31 and the beginning of the transition period scheduled from February 1 to December 31, MOFA has continued to operate the Brexit Help Desk in the Korean Embassy in the UK and a business Brexit helpline in the Korean Embassy to Belgium and the EU, in cooperation with relevant institutions including the Korea International Trade Association and the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency. MOFA also convened an inter-ministerial meeting called the Brexit Task Force on December 15 to discuss Korea's measures responding to Brexit and look into the inconvenience faced by Korean companies. In addition, MOFA had a virtual vice ministerial-level meeting with the UK on November 10 where the two countries shared and reviewed their views on ways for the future-oriented and sustainable development of bilateral friendly cooperation.

1.4 Japan

The difficulties in bilateral relations due to Japan's export restrictions imposed in 2019 continued into 2020. From July 4, 2019, Japan required individual licenses (previously general licenses) for the export of fluorinated polyimides, EUV photoresists, and hydrogen fluoride to Korea, the three key materials in producing semiconductors and displays. Japan also removed Korea from its white list of countries that benefit from abbreviated export procedures on August 28, 2019.

In September 2019, Korea filed a complaint against Japan's export regulatory measures on the three key materials to the WTO. In November, the two countries agreed to temporarily suspend WTO proceedings and resume bilateral export control policy dialogues. The two countries held dialogues and Korea fully resolved the reasons Japan cited for its export restrictions: export control policy dialogues were resumed, legal basis for catch-all control were defined, and personnel and organizational structure for export control management were expanded. However, as Japan demonstrated a lack in its willingness to resolve the issue, Korea decided to resume WTO proceedings

in June 2020.

The economic and people-to-people exchanges between the two countries showed a declining trend. The number of visitors, which peaked at over 10 million in 2018, fell to 8.85 million in 2019, and plunged to around 919,000 in 2020, a mere 10% of the previous year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, amidst the year-on-year 6.4% decrease in the bilateral trade volume from \$76 billion to \$71 billion, Japan maintained its position as the third-largest trading partner of Korea, and vice versa.

1.5 ASEAN and India

Korea continues its effort to broaden economic cooperation with the New Southern Policy countries. In 2020, President Moon held a summit meeting with Prime Minister of Cambodia Hun Sen on February 4, and made phone calls with leaders of Indonesia on April 21, Viet Nam on April 3, and Malaysia on October 19. These events served to maintain the momentum of the widening substantive cooperation with ASEAN countries.

Amidst the difficulty posed by COVID-19 in face-to-face diplomacy, MOFA promoted cooperation for mutual prosperity and expressed its continued willingness to cooperate for the economic recovery of the post-COVID19 era to the New Southern Policy countries through telephone conversations between Foreign Ministers of Viet Nam on February 28 and July 23; Indonesia on March 3, March 28, August 12, and September 24; Thailand on March 5; Myanmar on May 15; Brunei on July 29; and Singapore on September 2. In particular, Korea and Viet Nam recognized achievements in all areas of economic cooperation, including trade, investment, development, infrastructure, and finance, and discussed ways to further increase and strengthen cooperation through high-level exchanges such as the Foreign Minister's official visit to Viet Nam on September 17-19, Second Vice Minister's visit to Viet Nam on December 3-5, and the 18th Joint Economic Committee Meeting between Korea and Viet Nam on November 18.

Despite the growing uncertainty in global economy and the localization of global supply chains, Korea laid the foundation of the diversification of its trade structure and the expansion of its market through the signing of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) on the occasion of the RCEP summit on November 15 and the signing of the Korea-Indonesia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) on December 8.

Three state-level visits over the past two years provided momentum to deepen the special strategic partnership between Korea and India. During President Moon's state visit to India on July 8-11, 2018, Korea and India shared the common view that they have limitless potential to expand bilateral trade and investment and set the goal of raising the annual bilateral trade volume to \$50 billion by 2030. During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to Korea on February 21-22, 2019, the two leaders reaffirmed their determination to improve the trade and investment environment of both countries, including by further encouraging both countries' negotiation team to swiftly conclude the ongoing negotiations to revise the CEPA agreement. Although the bilateral trade slowed down somewhat in 2020 in the face of COVID-19, Korea and India continued to work closely to overcome the fallout from the pandemic at an early stage and to broaden the horizon of bilateral cooperation to healthcare, digital economy, high-tech, and environment, which are drawing attention as the new growth engines in the post-COVID-19 era.

2 Resolving Trade Remedy Issues

Due to the global economic depression triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic and the widespread resort to protectionism, the number of trade remedies placed on Korean exports by foreign countries has been continually on the rise since 2012. The number of new trade remedy investigations targeting Korean products initiated in 2020

was 31% higher than that of last year (from 29 cases to 38 cases). By the end of 2020, the total number of trade remedy measures imposed on Korean exports amounted to 233 cases, including 51 cases undergoing investigation, among which 173 were anti-dumping cases, 10 were countervailing duty cases, and 50 were safeguard cases.

The Trade Remedy Reaction Team of MOFA, tasked to respond to these foreign trade remedies on behalf of the Korean government and led by the Deputy Director-General of the Bilateral Economic Affairs Bureau, conveyed the Korean government's position to the governments of importing countries through meetings with investigation authorities, government letters, non-papers, and high-level dialogues. These efforts yielded positive results: the Indian government terminated its safeguard investigation on phenol, the Brazilian government terminated its safeguard measure on polyvinyl chloride, the Canadian government revoked anti-dumping duties on hot-rolled steel plate and oil country tubular goods exported by a certain Korean company due to negligible dumping margins, and the EU Commission increased Korea's country specific quota for certain items in its steel safeguard measure.

Key activities of the Trade Remedy Reaction Team in 2020

- Constant interaction with relevant industries during the investigation process
 - The Team consulted closely with the relevant industries to grasp each unique situation and develop appropriate strategies.
 - * As of 2020, the Team consulted 16 times with companies and relevant ministries.
- Frequent meetings with investigation authorities to consult about trade remedy measures on Korean products.
 - To convey the position of the Korean government, the Team had bilateral consultations with the investigation authorities conducting the trade remedy investigations and participated in hearings held by the investigation authorities.
 - * The team attended 10 hearings and had 15 bilateral meetings with foreign investigation authorities.
- Position papers and letters to foreign governments stating the Korean government's views on trade remedy investigations
 - On behalf of the Korean government, the Team sent letters and position papers to foreign governments to draw their attention to ongoing trade remedy issues.
 - * A total of 24 position papers, non-papers, and letters were sent to foreign governments.
- Publication of *UK Trade Remedies: Easily Explained*
 - This guidebook provides detailed information on the UK trade remedy system so that Korean businesses can respond accordingly to trade remedy investigations initiated by the UK government after Brexit.
 - * The guidebook can be downloaded from the MOFA website.

In addition, MOFA also provided support to Korean exporters through its On-Site Reaction Teams, enabling the exporters to duly respond to trade remedies. The On-Site Reaction Teams, established in 15 diplomatic missions located in the US, India, China, Turkey, and other countries that impose the most trade remedies on Korean products, constantly monitored and shared information on ongoing investigations and measures with the Korean exporters, and held frequent consultations with the investigation authorities.

3 Diplomacy to Promote Economic Cooperation

3.1 Support for Korean Companies Regarding Overseas Business in Infrastructure Development

MOFA actively supported the efforts of Korean companies to win overseas projects at a number of high-level diplomatic occasions including summit meetings, foreign ministers' meetings, and joint economic meetings. As a trustworthy partner of Korean companies, diplomatic missions of Korea provided information about such projects as well as support in the bidding process.

Since 2016, MOFA has established overseas business support councils within 28 of its diplomatic missions, a public-private cooperation mechanism to help Korean companies secure contracts for overseas construction projects. Diplomatic missions are also actively providing support through high-level networks and diplomatic consultations so that more Korean companies win overseas infrastructure contracts.

In December, the 2020 Global Infrastructure Cooperation Conference was jointly held by MOFA and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MOLIT). Although the Conference took place virtually because of COVID-19, high-level meetings with 12 countries, project briefings in which 44 institutions, multilateral development

banks, and overseas investment agencies participated, and 1:1 business meetings were held, through which domestic construction and engineering stakeholders established partnerships.

3.2 Support for Foreign Market Access

MOFA continued helping Korean companies advance into new foreign markets and diversify their export destinations through support activities such as promoting Korean companies' participation in the UN procurement market, implementing export promotion projects, and offering information on various types of markets.

Furthermore, MOFA has held annual seminars on the UN procurement market since 2007 to enhance Korean companies' understanding of the UN procurement market and help them enter the market. In 2020, MOFA co-hosted the virtual UN procurement seminar with the Public Procurement Service (PPS) on September 3 and held the 2020 Global Public Procurement Market Place from November 23 to December 4 with the PPS and KOTRA to help companies understand the UN marketplace and vendor registration process.

MOFA also concluded an MOU with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs in April 2007. Through the MOU, MOFA put special effort into paving the way for agricultural and food companies to advance into new markets and promote Korea's agricultural and food products through its diplomatic missions. In 2020, 22 Korean missions conducted projects to support the export of Korea's agricultural and food products.

In addition, MOFA operated an e-mail service to provide important data on economic trends to relevant economic organizations and local governments and posted the information obtained by diplomatic missions regarding economic trends, expositions, exhibitions, government procurement projects, and bids on the MOFA website.

3.3 Support for Addressing Issues in Overseas Business Activities

MOFA helped Korean companies overcome the challenges in conducting business overseas by providing legal consultation services, implementing business support projects through its missions, and publishing various casebooks.

Korean diplomatic missions also conducted a number of projects to support companies in addressing issues related to customs clearance, licensing, and collecting past-due receivables. In 2020, 58 Korean diplomatic missions held local consultative group meetings to consult and communicate with Korean companies.

MOFA also provided legal consultation services for Korean SMEs through its diplomatic missions to help them address the legal difficulties of doing business abroad, such as issues involving labor laws, environmental laws, tax systems, and customs clearance. MOFA also published books and held seminars to enhance the Korean companies' understanding about the laws of foreign countries.

In addition, MOFA provided support to encourage and help Korean companies carry out corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities particularly in regions where Korean companies were actively expanding their businesses such as China and Southeast Asia. The aim was to encourage Korean companies to contribute to local communities and help them build a positive image overseas, which would, in turn, boost bilateral economic relations with Korea. The missions raised awareness on the importance of CSR activities and reached out to local governments and the media to promote the CSR activities conducted by Korean companies. In 2020, 28 diplomatic missions provided support for the CSR activities of Korean companies.

Meanwhile, MOFA annually publishes *A Casebook of Missions' Support for Companies Abroad* to introduce cases where issues were successfully resolved with the help of diplomatic missions. Overseas missions also offer online business consultation services for Korean companies on their websites to swiftly respond to any inquiries.

4 Support for Employment Overseas

The Korean government has announced a set of comprehensive measures focused on increasing youth employment rate on March 15, 2018. As part of these measures, MOFA has been implementing various measures to help young job seekers find quality jobs overseas.

First, MOFA provides various overseas internships and volunteer programs, including Junior Professional Officer, World Friends Volunteers, Overseas Korean Business Youth Internships, Public Diplomacy internships, and career counseling services to equip the younger generation with quality experiences, to improve their work performance and help them eventually secure jobs overseas. In addition, MOFA holds task force meetings chaired by the second vice minister to monitor progress and to set future directions. In 2020, three rounds of task force meetings were held in July, September, and December to check each program's state of play and to discuss ways to improve the anticipated result of the projects.

Starting from 2015, overseas employment consultative bodies have been established within diplomatic missions and were expanded to a total of 31 diplomatic missions as of December 2020. Based on the work of these bodies, diplomatic missions provide a variety of support programs including job fairs, career workshops, and mentoring programs. At the same time, diplomatic missions continue to develop tailored strategies for overseas employment and closely consult with their host governments to ease regulations on work permits and visas.

As Japan is one of the countries most preferred by job seekers due to its good employment conditions, Korea launched the Korean-Japanese University 3+1 program which helps Korean students finish their overseas study at Japanese universities and find jobs in Japan.

Although various support programs for youth employment overseas were faced with challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, MOFA continued its efforts to overcome these challenges by actively advertising overseas programs through

its website (mofa.go.kr/youth) and sharing model experiences of those who were successfully employed overseas with other job seekers. Moreover, MOFA continued to protect the health and safety of young Koreans employed overseas.

Section 2 Regional and Global Economic Diplomacy

1 2020 G20 Riyadh Summit

The G20 Summit started as a finance ministers' meeting in Berlin in 1999 in order to prevent future international financial crises and promote stable growth of the global economy. In the wake of the Financial Crisis in 2008, the meeting was elevated to a leaders' summit and the G20 summit has since served as the premier economic forum for international cooperation. The 15th G20 Summit took place on November 21-22, 2020, in a virtual format.

Under the main theme of "Realizing Opportunities of the 21st Century for All" and main working agenda items, such as empowering people, safeguarding the planet, and shaping new frontiers, the G20 leaders discussed ways to cooperate in various areas, including health, global economy, international financial architecture, international taxation, investment in infrastructure, sustainable development, employment, education, tourism, and displacement and refugee. As a result, 34 outcome documents, including the G20 Leaders' Declaration and the Ministerial Declaration, were adopted.

Recognizing that solidarity and multilateral cooperation were essential more than

ever to respond to COVID-19 and promote global economic recovery, the G20 leaders made progress with various agenda items, including the Debt Service Suspension Initiative, cross-border movement of people, and the digital economy. They also highlighted the need to maintain their high level of interest in women's empowerment.

In his remarks at the summit, President Moon Jae-in explained to the leaders that Korea was able to overcome the COVID-19 crisis because the Korean people played a central role in preventing the spread of the virus. He also mentioned that the Korean government quickly identified confirmed cases and prevented the transmission of the virus by staying transparent about the COVID-19 situation based on the principles of openness, transparency, and democracy. President Moon highlighted Korea's commitment to developing COVID-19 vaccines and treatments and to strengthening cooperation and humanitarian aid through cooperation with the International Vaccine Institute. Underscoring the importance of swift recovery of the global economy, the president suggested that countries facilitate cross-border movement of people and necessary goods and called for strengthened cooperation and solidarity between the G20 countries in the fight against COVID-19.

2 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Economic Leaders' Meeting

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) was launched in 1989 as a ministerial meeting joined by 12 economies, and it was upgraded to a leaders' meeting in 1993 at the proposal of US President Bill Clinton. Since then, the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting (AELM) has established itself as a top-level forum for policy coordination pursuing the gradual realization of a single economic community for the Asia-Pacific region.

At the 27th AELM hosted by Malaysia on November 20, APEC leaders discussed

COVID-19 response and regional economic cooperation under the main theme of “Optimising Human Potential Towards a Resilient Future of Shared Prosperity: Pivot. Prioritise. Progress.”

Leaders made great progress by adopting a new APEC vision for the next 20 years, the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040, succeeding the previous Bogor Goals. The vision covers trade and investment, the digital economy, and inclusive and sustainable growth in a balanced manner. Moreover, leaders adopted the Kuala Lumpur Declaration to reaffirm the willingness to work together in mitigating COVID-19 impacts, improving discussions on trade and investment, participating in an inclusive economy, and facilitating innovative, inclusive, and sustainable development.

Korea highlighted that it provided humanitarian assistance and made efforts to develop COVID-19 vaccines and treatments to contribute to the international community and proposed to expedite the discussions on essential movement of people for business purposes to ensure free business activities. Moreover, Korea reinforced its standing as a digital powerhouse by introducing its participation in various APEC projects related to accelerating the digital economy and the Korean government’s Digital New Deal policy. In addition, by presenting its efforts to strengthen the social safety net in accordance with the government’s Innovative and Inclusive National Vision for Living Well Together as a leading example of strengthening inclusiveness, Korea expressed its willingness to actively contribute to the APEC discussions on promoting inclusiveness going forward. The meeting was an opportunity to lay the groundwork for developing the national vision into a wider discussion on co-prosperity of the Asia-Pacific community. The APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040 consists of three core elements — trade and investment liberalization, innovation and the digital economy, and inclusive and sustainable growth. Such elements are in parallel with Korea’s national development strategies such as the Digital New Deal, Green New Deal, and Innovative Inclusive State, allowing Korea to expect to expand its activities and roles within APEC in the long term.

3 Korea’s Activities within the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an intergovernmental organization established in 1961 to achieve economic growth and trade expansion through policy coordination and cooperation among member countries. It has been playing a leading role in forming global norms in the rapidly changing global economic landscape.

In 2020, the Ministerial Council meeting of the OECD was held virtually on October 28-29 under the theme of “The Path to Recovery: Strong, Resilient, Green and Inclusive,” and participants had extensive discussions on sustainable economic stimulus packages; holistic social, economic, and environmental approaches for better recovery; and ways to harness the opportunities and challenges derived from digital transformation. In the plenary session, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Finance Hong Nam-ki, who led the Korean delegation, stressed the need for a powerful stimulus package, assistance to the vulnerable, transformation of economic and societal structures, and harmonized policies of the international community to create synergy as ways to overcome the economic crisis. In the breakout session themed “Globalization and the Recovery: The Role of Trade and Investment; Enhancing Resilience in Global Value Chains; Fostering International Economic Co-operation,” Korea suggested that member countries guarantee cross-border movement of goods, services, and people necessary for business and other key economic activities to facilitate trade and investment and that they tap into the potential of the digital economy. These suggestions were reflected in the Ministerial Council Statement as a clause stressing the importance of cross-border movement of people necessary for business and other key economic activities.

4 Korea's Activities at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) is one of the regional commissions under the UN Economic and Social Council and plays a pivotal role in promoting economic cooperation and social development within the region. Korea, one of the commission's 62 members, has been actively taking part in the work of UNESCAP.

The 76th Commission Session of UNESCAP was held virtually under the theme of "Promoting Economic, Social, and Environmental Cooperation on Oceans for Sustainable Development" on May 21. At the session, the participants adopted a resolution on "Strengthening cooperation to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific," in which Korea participated as a co-sponsor. The adoption of the resolution paved the way for member states to step up cooperation in the region for the conservation of marine resources and their sustainable use. In addition, the Korean government underscored the need for international collaboration for effective response to COVID-19 and shared its experience in disease prevention and control with the international community.

5 World Economic Forum

The annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) is held every January in Davos, Switzerland and is widely known as the Davos Forum. It provides a venue for business leaders, political leaders, and government officials from various countries to discuss challenges facing the global economy as well as their solutions.

The 2020 Davos Forum, celebrating the 50th anniversary of its establishment,

was held on January 21-24 under the theme of "Stakeholders for a Cohesive and Sustainable World." On behalf of the Korean government, the Minister of SMEs and Startups and the Minister for Trade attended the forum and exchanged views on ways for SMEs and startups to seize the opportunities presented by the Fourth Industrial Revolution and measures to promote trade and investment. In addition, the WEF launched the COVID Action Platform to discuss response measures against COVID-19 and hosted a virtual meeting on March 25, bringing together experts from various sectors including governments, international organizations, and businesses. In the meeting under the theme of "World Update," Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha shared information about Korea's policy measures to combat the pandemic and to stabilize the serious situations caused by COVID-19 as well as cooperation from Korea's civil society.

6 Korea's Activities in the World Trade Organization

Since its establishment in 1995 as a result of the Uruguay Round, the WTO has been serving as the backbone of the multilateral trading system by providing a venue for negotiating and implementing trade norms and for settling trade disputes. However, the recent emergence of anti-globalism and protectionism has been posing threats to the WTO.

The aim of the WTO is to perform the following three key functions: negotiate new trade rules, implement and monitor trade rules, and settle trade disputes. Diverse discussions on ways to reform the WTO have been taking place since 2018 to address concerns that the WTO is not properly performing its core functions. WTO member states have been working particularly hard to resolve the impasse over the start of the selection process for new Appellate Body members. In addition, member states have been working to build foundations for achieving practical outcomes from the

negotiations on fisheries subsidies and e-commerce. The WTO has also continued active discussions on the challenges that the international community has been facing such as the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change.

As the 71st country to join the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and one of the founding members of the WTO, Korea has been committed to performing an active and constructive role for WTO reform and suggested numerous options to enhance the WTO's dispute settlement function. Additionally, Korea has actively participated in WTO negotiations by submitting its proposals in negotiations on e-commerce, fisheries subsidies, and investment facilitation and has led the discussions on proposals in the Trade and Environmental Sustainability Structured Discussions, a plurilateral consultative body established in November 2020. Meanwhile, in an effort to expand the WTO membership, Korea's Ambassador to Geneva has been serving as the chair of the Working Party on the Accession of Uzbekistan since 2013.

In addition, as a leading country in international trade, Korea nominated Minister for Trade Yoo Myung-hee as the next WTO director-general candidate to contribute to the development of the multilateral trading system and provided support in various ways. In particular, the Korean government directly and indirectly involved in the supporting activities for the election campaign. President Moon Jae-in asked his counterparts from such countries as Germany, Russia, and Brazil to support Minister Yoo's bid to lead the WTO. Highest-ranking officials, including the Speakers of the National Assembly and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, also had multiple telephone consultations and interviews, sent letters, and made visits to other WTO member states' government officials to support Minister Yoo. For its part, MOFA took a step-by-step approach in establishing strategies for each round and phase of the election, provided analysis of the developments in the race, helped draw up the candidate visions and pledges, frequently monitored major countries' opinions, and dispatched the Economy and Trade Ambassador to several countries. Korea's diplomatic missions, including the Permanent Mission in Geneva, played a central role throughout this work. As a result, the Korean candidate advanced to the final round of the election process for the first time in

Korea's trade history, further solidifying Korea's standing in the WTO.

7 Building a Foundation for Economic Cooperation in Various Areas

7.1 Concluding and Amending Economy-related Agreements

The Korean government has strived to conclude a number of agreements in the economic field to expand the economic horizons for Korean nationals and companies and to establish and further strengthen Korea's economic and diplomatic networks with countries around the world, including emerging economies.

The Korean government signed air service agreements with the EU on June 25 and Rwanda on November 27 and concluded complete amendments with the Czech Republic on November 25, in the situation where COVID-19 was a hurdle in having smooth consultations with other countries. For the process of concluding and amending agreements in other fields, text-based consultations were carried out through diplomatic missions.

A number of economic agreements entered into force in 2020. The double taxation avoidance agreements with Turkmenistan, the UAE, Uzbekistan, and Switzerland and the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting came into effect on February 6, February 29, October 18, October 28, and September 1, respectively. These agreements provided the institutional ground for preventing tax evasion abusing tax treaties and for strengthening information exchange. In addition, revised air service agreements with Kyrgyzstan and Spain came into effect, strengthening aviation safety regulations.

7.2 Response to Overseas Intellectual Property Rights Infringement

The Korean government designated 40 diplomatic missions — including those located in the US, China, Japan, Geneva, and Belgium — as key missions for intellectual property protection. Also, MOFA is working closely together with the Centers for Overseas Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), also known as IP-Desks and run by the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), and the Centers for Overseas Copyrights, run by the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism, to jointly respond to overseas cases of IPR infringement.

In December 2020, MOFA, jointly with KIPO, the Presidential Council on Intellectual Property, and KOTRA, held an IPR capacity building virtual workshop for intellectual property officers in overseas missions. Participants shared IPR policies of each country and best practices in responding to IPR infringement.

MOFA launched the Overseas IPR Protection Support Project in 2017 to help overseas missions plan and promote projects tailored to their local needs. In 2020, five diplomatic missions planned and carried out their own projects, including the holding of IPR seminars for Korean companies and monitoring infringement. Also, the IP Guide for Overseas Missions, a manual for diplomatic missions on protecting IPR of overseas Korean companies and related cases, was distributed to all Korean embassies and consulates.

Some overseas missions provided Korean businesses with assistance in registering IPRs to help them avoid infringements and in resolving patent disputes.

Section 3 Energy, Climate Change, and Environmental Diplomacy

1 Energy and Natural Resources Cooperation

MOFA continued to support the domestic energy and water industries in their efforts for overseas market expansion and actively participated in international and regional discussions regarding energy security.

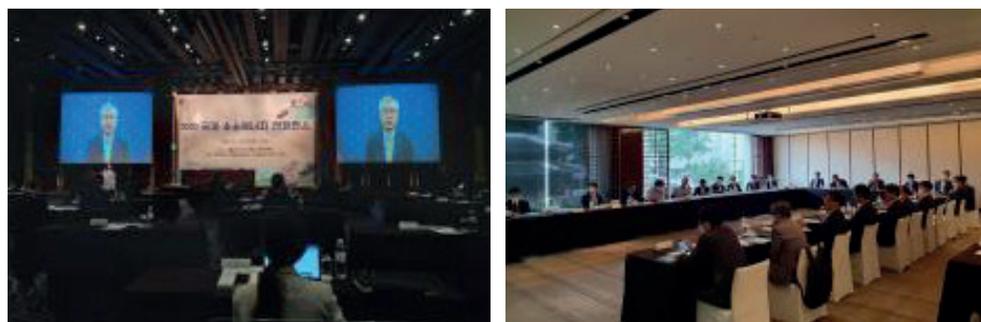
1.1 Supporting the Energy Industry for Overseas Market Expansion

In January, MOFA and related research institutes, including the Korea Institute of Science and Technology, the Korea Institute of Energy Research, and the Korea Energy Economics Institute, visited their counterparts in Germany and the Netherlands to discuss hydrogen cooperation and to support Korean hydrogen companies' efforts to make inroads into overseas markets.

In October, MOFA hosted the International Conference on Hydrogen 2020. The event was attended by hydrogen experts from major countries and international organizations, such as the US, China, Japan, and the International Energy Agency (IEA), and participants had discussions on major topics in hydrogen cooperation, such

as hydrogen shipping and the development of hydrogen mobility. They also explored opportunities for Korean companies' global expansion.

MOFA held the Natural Gas Industry Conference in June to address the difficulties faced by the industry in reaching overseas markets. Representatives from the Korea Gas Union, the World Gas Conference, and private gas companies attended the conference to discuss the current trends and main issues of the industry and to share ideas on how to overcome the hardships brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.



International Conference on Hydrogen 2020
(Seoul, Oct. 7)

Natural Gas Industry Conference (Seoul, June 25)

1.2 Engaging in Discussions on Global Energy Issues

MOFA continued to engage in global energy discourses with international organizations, such as the IEA, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), and multilateral consultative groups, such as the G20 and APEC.

As a country that actively participated in the establishment of IRENA, Korea took part in the 10th General Assembly in January and the 19th and 20th meeting of the IRENA Council in November. The Korean government reaffirmed its commitment to energy transition by sharing with the international community recent trends in Korea's renewable energy developments and related policies such as the Green New Deal and efforts to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. In addition, Korea was elected as an

IRENA Council member for 2021-2022, paving the way for enhancing cooperation with and continuing its contribution to IRENA.

1.3 Regional Cooperation for Energy Security

MOFA hosted the Seventh ROK-US Energy Security Dialogue in August to discuss energy security cooperation with the US and other major countries to enhance the region's energy security. Moreover, MOFA established the Roadmap for Northeast Asia Regional Power Interconnection and participated in the North-East Asia Regional Power Interconnection and Cooperation Forum in December.

1.4 Public-Private Energy Infrastructure Cooperation through Energy Diplomacy

MOFA designated 47 diplomatic missions to gather information on energy projects and recruited energy and infrastructure advisors to actively support the advancement of Korean companies into overseas energy markets by building and maintaining the foundation for energy diplomacy. The designated missions host events on energy and resources, build business networks, and collect information on local energy markets and bidding information on major energy projects.

The Global Energy Cooperation Center, an affiliation of the Energy and Scientific Affairs Division of MOFA, has been providing Daily Energy Reports and International Energy and Resource Bidding Information to approximately 1,050 subscribers, including domestic energy-related companies, organizations, and associations. The content is based on the latest information regarding energy and natural resources collected from diplomatic missions. In 2020, the center provided a total of 152 daily reports and 35 pieces of bidding information. It also offers consultation services, both face-to-face and via telephone, to help Korean companies better address challenges in entering the overseas markets. A total of 110 such consultations were conducted in 2020.

1.5 Engaging in Discussions on Global Water Issues and Supporting the Water Industry in Their Advancing Into Overseas Markets

Climate change and population growth have brought about the global water crisis, a common challenge for humanity. In 2020, MOFA contributed to the international community's efforts to address this issue by actively taking part in international water-related discussions, such as the OECD Water Governance Initiative in January and the UN High-Level Meeting on Water in July.

To assist Korean water companies in making inroads into overseas markets, MOFA held the ROK-Russia Technical Cooperation Seminar for Water Management and Business Consultations for Water Companies Targeting Central Asia in October. These events were attended by various water-related public and private stakeholders, who shared their strategies for overseas market expansion and business practices in the Central Asian region. Notwithstanding the difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, MOFA, in collaboration with KOTRA's Almaty and Tashkent offices, hosted online business consultations for companies in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, respectively.



Business consultations for companies targeting Central Asia (Seoul, Oct. 22)

2 Green and Sustainable Development Diplomacy

Korea is making diplomatic efforts to contribute to the global green transition and achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs). In particular, since the launch of

the Korean Green New Deal in July 2020, the Korean government has made continued efforts to share its experience and strengthen cooperation with the international community.

2.1 Partnering for Green Growth and the Global Goals 2030

Korea is engaging in the Partnering for Green Growth and the Global Goals 2030 (P4G) initiative to promote public-private partnerships in the development of the green economy. The P4G focuses on five key areas of the green economy — food and agriculture, water, energy, cities, and the circular economy — in which it seeks to strengthen cooperation between the public and private sectors and accelerate the implementation of the Paris Agreement and achievement of the SDGs. The P4G was officially launched at the initiative of Denmark in September 2017 on the occasion of the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly. As of 2020, 12 country partners, including Korea, Denmark, the Netherlands, Mexico, Viet Nam, Ethiopia, Chile, Kenya, Colombia, Bangladesh, Indonesia, and South Africa; international organizations, such as the Cities Climate Leadership Group, the Global Green Growth Institute, the World Economic Forum, the World Resources Institute, and the International Finance Corporation; businesses; and civil society were participating in the P4G.

President Moon Jae-in attended the inaugural P4G Summit in Copenhagen, Denmark in October 2018 and, in his keynote speech, underscored international solidarity and inclusiveness for overcoming the environmental crisis. At the UN Climate Action Summit and an event titled “Winning Together: Sustainability in Action” held in September 2019, President Moon announced that Korea would host the second P4G Summit in Seoul in 2020. Although the Seoul Summit had to be postponed in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, President Moon announced in his keynote speeches at the 75th session of the UN General Assembly and the Jeju Forum in late 2020 that Korea was planning to host the second summit in 2021 as part of its firm commitment to contributing to global climate response and the SDGs through action

and implementation. The P4G Seoul Summit is scheduled to take place on May 30-31 under the theme of “Inclusive Green Recovery Towards Carbon Neutrality,” and it will provide an important opportunity to strengthen international solidarity and climate action for building back better and greener in the post-pandemic era.

The Korean government also launched the P4G National Platform in 2018 as a channel for fostering public-private partnerships and facilitating knowledge sharing and networking. Korea continues to play a key role in the operation of the P4G, including through regular meetings of the Board of Directors.

2.2 Cooperation with International Organizations for Global Green Transition

The Korean government played a leading role in the establishment of the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), which is dedicated to supporting and promoting strong, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth in developing countries and emerging economies. Since its establishment in October 2012, the GGGI has been recognized as an international organization instrumental in helping developing countries pursue green growth by various institutions, such as the UN, the OECD, the United States Agency for International Development, and the UK Department for International Development. Its membership has increased to 38 with the accession of Cote d’Ivoire in August 2020.

The Korean government has actively engaged in the discussions on the GGGI’s current and future project plans, budget, operations, and other matters by attending the 11th and 12th Management and Program Sub-Committee meetings held in April and July 2020, respectively. Korea was re-elected as Vice President and Chair of the GGGI for the term of 2021-2022 on the occasion of the Ninth Assembly and the 13th Council Meeting of the GGGI held on October 28 in 2020. Moreover, Ban Ki-moon, the Eighth Secretary General of the UN, was re-elected in February 2020 as the President and Chair of the GGGI for a two-year term with the full support of member countries.

The Korean government held a series of events in close collaboration with the GGGI such as the Green Round Table in June, the Green New Deal Session at the Jeju Forum in November, and the Climate Action Round Table in December in order to promote the Korean Green New Deal policy, 2050 carbon neutrality goals, and the P4G Seoul Summit.

Korea is home to the headquarters of the Green Climate Fund (GCF), a fund that secures financial resources for long-term climate action of developing countries to help them reduce greenhouse gas emissions and respond to climate change. The 25th, 26th, and 27th GCF Board Meetings were held on March 8-12, August 17-21, and November 9-13, respectively.

As the host country of the GCF Secretariat and a member of the third term GCF Board for 2019-2021, Korea is committed to fulfilling its responsibility by supporting the climate action of developing countries. Although Korea is not obligated to provide financial resources to the GCF as it is listed as a Non-Annex I country in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Korean government voluntarily contributed \$100 million over the initial resource mobilization period between 2015 and 2018. Korea has also played a leading role in GCF’s First Replenishment period (2020-2023), including President Moon Jae-in’s pledge at the UN Climate Action Summit 2019 to double Korea’s contributions to the fund.

2.3 Korea-Danish Green Growth Alliance

The Korean government signed the Agreement on Green Growth Alliance with Denmark in October 2012. Since then, Korea and Denmark have been holding ministerial-level meetings every year to increase cooperation on promoting an efficient and sustainable economy, green technology, and global green growth.

Through the annual Green Growth Alliance meetings, the two countries have been facilitating public-private partnerships and sharing their policies in the field of the green industry, energy transition, eco-friendly shipping, and a circular economy. Korea and

Denmark have been also expanding their cooperation to promote green growth by supporting international organizations such as the GGGI and the P4G.

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the 10th Korea-Denmark Green Growth Alliance Meeting was held virtually in November 2020 to facilitate public-private partnerships in green growth. This meeting served as an opportunity for the two countries to enhance their mutual understanding on the respective climate response policies. Korea introduced its Green New Deal policy and Denmark shared its greenhouse gas reduction targets. In particular, cooperation in the water sector was explored in depth.

2.4 Green New Deal

The Korean government has continued to promote the Korean Green New Deal in the international community and explored ways to cooperate with partner countries. MOFA held the Seventh Green Round Table on June 24, 2020, in close collaboration with the UN Climate Action Team, the Ministry of Environment, and the Ministry of Economy and Finance so as to share with the international community the Korean government's commitment to the Green New Deal.

After the Korean Green New Deal was unveiled on July 14, MOFA held more than 60 virtual meetings to share the details of the policy with international organizations, including the UN and partner countries, to seek cooperation. The Green New Deal Session at the Jeju Forum, which took place in November 2020 on the heels of the US presidential election, served as an opportunity to discuss the diplomatic implications of policy changes in partner countries.

Moreover, Korea and the EU held two rounds of policy dialogue to enhance mutual understanding on the Korean Green New Deal and the European Green Deal and to explore ways for cooperation. MOFA also engaged in outreach activities regarding the Korean Green New Deal with the Korea-Danish Business Network, the US Congressional Study Group on Korea of Former Member of Congress, and the US participants in the Next Generation Leaders Program organized by the Korea Foundation.

3 Climate Change Diplomacy

3.1 Leading the International Efforts to Respond to Climate Change

Korea, as a responsible member of the international community, is leading the international efforts to respond to climate change.

On October 28, 2020, the Korean government has officially announced the goal of 2050 Carbon Neutrality, or net-zero emissions, before the international community.

And as part of the effort to implement the goal, Korea conducted thorough research on the international trends in the field of climate change response, and related ministries worked together on establishing Korea's long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategy (LEDS) and updating Korea's nationally determined contribution



President Moon Jae-in announcing Korea's goal of 2050 Carbon Neutrality (Oct. 28)

(NDC). Korea submitted the LEDS and the updated NDC to the UN in December 2020. Korea's updated NDC has significance in that it includes an increased share of domestic reduction and that it sets an absolute emissions reduction target with higher predictability. Aligned with these efforts, Korea announced the 2050 Carbon Neutral Strategy Action Plan, an inclusive vision to achieve carbon neutrality, economic growth, and improved quality of life of people through active climate action, in December 2020.

Climate response needs to be underpinned by an individual country's strong political will and determination, which makes the role of summit-level climate diplomacy crucial. President Moon Jae-in attended the Climate Ambition Summit held in a virtual format on December 12, 2020 and declared Korea's firm commitment to climate action including its vision of carbon neutrality by 2050. Such efforts solidified Korea's standing in the international community as a leading country in climate response.

3.2 Contribution to Climate Change Negotiations

Unfortunately, the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference was not able to take place in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, the international community continued its efforts to make progress in climate change negotiations. Korea was also committed to the efforts to bring positive contributions to the negotiations and elaborated its negotiating position through close cooperation between related ministries.

Participating in major climate change conferences, such as the 2020 UNFCCC June Momentum and Climate Dialogue, Korea has shown its leadership in advancing discussions on specific agenda items in climate change negotiations, including guidelines on the international carbon market. Korea suggested ways to embrace the positions of developed and developing countries while pursuing its national interests as well, at various conferences and informal meetings on climate action, such as the OECD Climate Change Expert Group meetings.

3.3 Expanding Global Cooperation

All forms of action are crucial for the combat against climate change. They include each country's active climate change response policy as well as continuous reinforcement of consistency in domestic and foreign policies by strengthening bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the international arena.

As a follow-up on the 2019 ASEAN-Republic of Korea Commemorative Summit, Korea held the ASEAN-Republic of Korea Carbon Dialogue Workshop in a virtual format on November 14, 2020. This occasion paved the way for both sides to launch a carbon-themed dialogue to expand climate change response cooperation in the future. In December 2020, Korea and ASEAN agreed to establish the ASEAN-ROK Dialogue on Environment and Climate Change, which will serve as the foundation for advanced cooperation between the two sides in the field of the environment and climate change.

4 Strengthening Environmental Cooperation

Most of the current environmental challenges, such as particle pollution and biodiversity loss, are transboundary issues. While strengthening bilateral and regional cooperation with neighboring countries, the Korean government is actively participating in global environmental discussions, including the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.

4.1 Environmental Cooperation in Northeast Asia

The year 2020 was the first year to commemorate International Day of Clean Air for blue skies, a UN anniversary designated at Korea's suggestion and held on September 7. In commemoration of this day, the Korean government held a virtual ceremony, which was featured by commemorative remarks by President Moon Jae-in and a congratulatory speech by UN Secretary-General António Guterres. With support from international organizations, such as the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UNESCAP, Korea successfully conducted a global campaign on International Day of Clean Air for blue skies, calling for global cooperation for improving air quality and introducing Korea's efforts to cope with air pollution.

The problem of particulate matter, one of the primary issues in the air pollution agenda, has to be addressed through close cooperation among countries in Northeast Asia, including China. To strengthen cooperation, Korea implemented various bilateral cooperation projects and led discussions in regional consultative bodies such as the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC). At NEASPEC's 24th Senior Officials Meeting, Korea and other member states adopted the North-East Asian Clean Air Partnership (NEACAP) Work Plan 2021-2025, which brought meaningful contribution to the implementation of NEACAP programs.

4.2 Strengthening International Cooperation for Environmental Protection

The environmental challenges we face encompass a wide range of issues concerning air, ecosystems, oceans, hazardous waste and chemical substances, forestry, and land, among others. To address such diverse and comprehensive issues, more than 160 environment-related international conventions are in effect with the support of the UN and the OECD. Korea has acceded to a number of leading international conventions on environmental protection and has taken part in the discussions on, and response to, global environmental issues, such as the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, protection of marine ecosystems, and international management of chemical and toxic substances.

Korea has actively participated in multilateral environmental cooperation, such as the G20 Environment Ministerial Meeting in September and the sixth session of the UNESCAP Committee on Environment and Development, even though a number of international environmental meetings were postponed or held online amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Korean government promulgated the Amendments to the Annexes to the Stockholm Convention in March 2020 and the Minamata Convention on Mercury in March 2020 to strengthen its cooperation with the international community in protecting people and the environment from the risk of exposure to mercury and persistent organic pollutants.

The global discussion on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity currently revolves around the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, or the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, ends in 2020 and will be replaced by a new framework. Negotiations are underway to develop a post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and Korea has submitted its views based on its consultations with diverse stakeholders, organizations, and experts. Korea also participated in the Second Extraordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties

to CBD held on November 16-19, resumed on November 25-27 and the Special Virtual Sessions of two subsidiary bodies, the SBSTTA and the SBI, of CBD held on September 15-18 to take part in the process for developing a post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

The Korean government also continued working on reducing marine debris, especially marine plastic waste, which has become an important environmental agenda in the international community. Korea participated in various international meetings such as the Fourth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Expert Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics in November 2020 to introduce Korea's plans to reduce marine plastic waste. Moreover, in 2022, the Seventh International Marine Debris Conference will be held in Busan in collaboration with UNEP to strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation to this end.

Section 4 Arctic Cooperation and Science Diplomacy

1 Strengthening International Cooperation on the Arctic

Following the Arctic Policy Master Plan I (2013-2017), the Korean government adopted the Arctic Policy Master Plan II (2018-2022) in July 2018 and has exerted continued efforts to strengthen its cooperation with Arctic countries and related organizations. The Korean government has been actively participating in the Arctic Council since it joined the council as an observer state in May 2013.

In 2020, Korea actively participated in the Arctic Council meetings, such as the Senior Arctic Officials' Meeting and six working group meetings held virtually due to the pandemic. Korea submitted an observer activity report to the Arctic Council secretariat in December and shared Korea's activities to contribute to the Arctic's sustainable development.

Meanwhile, the Korean government continued to have consultations with Arctic countries to strengthen bilateral cooperation. In particular, the Fourth Korea-Russia Arctic consultation was held in November to commemorate the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations and discuss various Arctic cooperation issues, such as the Northern Sea Route, shipbuilding, and Arctic science.

Moreover, MOFA launched the Arctic Club in Korea, an informal forum, with the ambassadors from seven Arctic states — the US, Russia, Canada, Norway, Finland, Denmark, and Sweden — to facilitate Korea's cooperation with those countries. MOFA and the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of Korea organized Arctic Cooperation Week in December to ensure scholars, businesses, and the general public have a better understanding of Arctic cooperation.

2 Science and Technology Diplomacy

MOFA established the Science and Technology Diplomacy Strategy for an Inclusive and Innovative State in 2019. In order to lay the domestic and international foundations for this strategy, MOFA has expanded the role of its science and technology missions to monitor the trends of science and technology in advanced countries and to discover and promote new agenda for science and technology cooperation.

As the discourse on international norm-building and standardization continues to progress with the advancement of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, MOFA actively participated in major multilateral fora regarding science and technology, such as the OECD Committee for Scientific and Technological Policy and the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence.

With regard to smart cities, MOFA hosted the Second Infrastructure and Smart City Networking Seminar for the ASEAN region in August, where officers from Korea's missions in ASEAN countries, MOLIT, and the Korea Overseas Infrastructure and Urban Development Corporation gathered to discuss ways to strengthen Korea-ASEAN cooperation.

Meanwhile, to counter the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, MOFA monitored global trends in the development of COVID-19 vaccines and treatments and supported vaccine procurement. MOFA, through its science and technology missions, kept track

of the COVID-19 vaccine research status in scientifically advanced countries and shared the latest information with related ministries. Moreover, the Korean government joined the COVAX Facility, a global vaccine supply mechanism co-led by the World Health Organization and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.

3 Space Diplomacy

The Korean government established the Third Master Plan for Space Development in February 2008 and has pursued space development with the aim of enhancing the safety and well-being of the people. Korea actively participated in the discussion on international cooperation in space development with leading countries in the field such as the US and with the international community. Korea strengthened the foundation for domestic cooperation among related ministries and institutions.

Although major conferences were canceled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Korean government continued to engage in the global discussion on space cooperation by attending the 57th Session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in February and NASA Preparatory Meeting on Manned and Unmanned Space Exploration in June. Korea also hosted the Korea Space Forum in November.

In addition, the Korean government strengthened government-wide space cooperation by holding meetings on space situational awareness, lunar exploration, and satellite information utilization with related ministries and institutions, such as the Ministry of Science and ICT, the Ministry of National Defense, the Korean Aerospace Research Institute, the Korea Astronomy and Space Science Institute, and the Agency for Defense Development. The government also stepped up its efforts to support the development of the space industry with a specific focus on SMEs.

VI

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Section 1 Middle Power and Minilateral Diplomacies

1 MIKTA

MIKTA is a consultative group comprised of Mexico, Indonesia, Korea, Turkey, and Australia. Assuming the chairmanship of MIKTA in 2020, Korea led the issuance of 15 joint remarks or statements on various global issues. The Korean government also led close coordination between MIKTA members through holding dialogues at multiple levels, including two foreign ministers’ meetings, three senior officials’ meetings, and one parliament speakers’ consultation. In particular, Korea delivered the first-ever MIKTA joint statement at the head of state level. President Moon Jae-in of Korea spoke on behalf of MIKTA on the occasion of the high-level meeting to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the United Nations and reaffirmed MIKTA’s role in promoting multilateral cooperation.

Furthermore, despite the complex challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Korea also organized the launch of new dialogue channels among MIKTA members, including senior health officials, ministers in charge of women’s rights and gender equality issues, and development cooperation agencies. Adding new layers to the existing network served as an opportunity to strengthen the cooperation between

member countries and further enhanced the visibility of MIKTA on the multilateral stage. Looking ahead to a successful hand-over of its chairmanship to Australia, the Korean government asked for the continued support of MIKTA member countries for continuing the achievements of our chairmanship throughout the upcoming year.

Major MIKTA milestones in 2020

| Event | Place and Date | Activity and Outcome |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 16th MIKTA Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (FMM) | Mexico City Feb. 7 | Adoption of a joint communique and handover of MIKTA chair to the ROK |
| 8th MIKTA Senior Officials’ Meeting | Videoconference Apr. 16 | Discussions on promoting MIKTA cooperation |
| 9th MIKTA Senior Officials’ Meeting | Videoconference June 10 | Discussions on preparing for next MIKTA FMM |
| 17th MIKTA FMM | Videoconference July 17 | Discussions on strengthening multilateralism under COVID-19 pandemic and adoption of a joint statement on congratulating MIKTA members on UN election |
| MIKTA Academic Dialogue | Webinar Sept. 18 | Exchanging opinions on the post-COVID-19 world order and MIKTA’s future role |
| Joint Statement Delivered at the Head of State level | Videoconference Sept. 21 | Underscoring the bridging role of five MIKTA countries in promoting unity, solidarity, and cooperation in the wake of the pandemic |
| 1st Dialogue Among Ministers in Charge of Women Affairs | Videoconference Oct. 8 | Discussions on the challenges for achieving gender equality under COVID-19 and sharing relevant policies of each member states |
| 1st Foreign and Health Senior Officials’ 2+2 Meeting | Videoconference Nov. 26 | Discussions on strengthening multilateral health architecture and promoting MIKTA coordination |
| 6th MIKTA Parliament Speakers’ Consultation | Videoconference Dec. 17 | Inter-parliamentary cooperation and contribution for international community amid the pandemic |

2 The Korea-Central Asia Cooperation Forum

The Korea-Central Asia Cooperation Forum is a venue for multilateral cooperation to promote comprehensive cooperation and friendship between Korea and Central Asia. The 13th forum was held in Seoul on November 25, 2020 in a hybrid format in consideration of the COVID-19 situation. The foreign ministers of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kazakhstan and the vice foreign minister of Kyrgyzstan visited Korea to attend the forum. The foreign minister of Turkmenistan attended online to discuss the direction of Korea-Central Asian cooperation.

At the 13th forum, each country shared their experiences in responding to COVID-19 in four separate sessions under the themes of public healthcare, remote education, quarantine standardization, and response to climate change and discussed ways to overcome the COVID-19 crisis together. The participants agreed to upgrade the forum to the ministerial level and hold it on a regular basis, creating momentum to take Korea-Central Asian relations to the next level. On November 26, the day after the forum, the First Korea-Central Asia Business Council was held. This meeting provided an opportunity for businesspeople from Korea and five Central Asian countries to share successful cases of economic cooperation and discuss ways to promote mutual exchange.

Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha held bilateral meetings respectively with the foreign ministers of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Tajikistan, who visited Korea to attend the Korea-Central Asia Cooperation Forum, and exchanged views on bilateral relations, COVID-19 response, and substantive cooperation, among others. The foreign ministers confirmed their support for the peace process on the Korean Peninsula and Korea's New Northern Policy.

The foreign ministers from CIS countries also paid courtesy visits to Prime Minister Chung Sye-kyun and Speaker of the National Assembly Park Byeong-seok and expressed their appreciation for Korea's humanitarian assistance for COVID-19 response and hoped to strengthen substantive cooperation with Korea.

3 Korea-Visegrad Group Cooperation

The Visegrad Group (V4) is a regional cooperation body, which consists of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia. It was established in February 1991 under the goal of increasing mutual cooperation and joining the EU and NATO. The V4 countries are Korea's largest export destinations in the EU, taking up 28.3% of Korea's total exports to the EU. Korean companies are actively expanding their business in the region and investing in many areas, including EV batteries.

In 2020, MOFA had a series of bilateral deputy ministers' meetings with its V4 counterparts through teleconferences from June 5 to 11 to discuss ways to cooperate for COVID-19 response and in the post-pandemic era. In the meetings, both sides appreciated that Korea and the V4 countries had been maintaining exchanges of essential personnel and cooperation through close communication even amid the continued COVID-19 situation.

The V4 countries noted with appreciation that Korean companies were increasing investment on their soil and expressed their will to further cooperate to support Korea's investment activities in their countries. In addition, both sides agreed to promote substantive cooperation in areas of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, including EV batteries, healthcare, ICT, and cyber security, among others.

Section 2 Promoting of International Peace and Security

1 Diplomacy in the United Nations

1.1 75th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

In his virtual keynote speech at the General Debate of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly, President Moon Jae-in highlighted the importance of inclusiveness in promoting international cooperation. President Moon attributed Korea's successful response to the COVID-19 crisis to its people acting under the spirit of "freedom for all," respecting multilateralism and community solidarity. President Moon reaffirmed that the Korean government was willing to join the international community's efforts to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, distribute vaccines, create economic recovery, and cope with climate change. He proposed launching the Northeast Asia Cooperation for Health Security, whereby North Korea would participate as a member along with China, Japan, Mongolia, and Korea.

President Moon delivered a joint statement on behalf of MIKTA at the High-Level Meeting to Commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations for the first time at the head of state level at the UN. In his speech, he appreciated the UN's

contributions to international peace and prosperity and reiterated MIKTA's commitment to promote multilateral cooperation with the UN at the core.

1.2 Participation in United Nations Peace Operations

(1) Peacekeeping Operations

Korea has been participating in UN peacekeeping operations since it first deployed its engineering battalion, the Evergreen Unit, to Somalia in July 1993. Korea is a major contributor of troops, deploying 582 personnel for UN peacekeeping missions as of December 2020. In December 2020, the Korean National Assembly approved a one-year extension of the deployment of Korean troops to the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (Dongmyeong Unit) and the UN Mission in South Sudan (Hanbit Unit).

Peacekeeping operations deployment

(Five units and 582 officers deployed as of Dec. 2020)

| Unit | | No. of Agents | |
|----------|----------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Infantry | UNIFIL (Lebanon) Dongmyeong Unit | 275 | |
| | UNMISS (South Sudan) Hanbit Unit | 280 | |
| Military | UNIFIL (Lebanon) | 4 | |
| | UNMISS (South Sudan) | 7 | |
| | UNMOGIP (India and Pakistan) | 8 | |
| | MINURSO (Western Sahara) | 3 | |
| | UNAMID (Darfur, Sudan) | 1 | |
| Police | Individuals | UNMISS (South Sudan) | 4 |
| Total | | 582 | |

Korea became the 10th largest contributor to the UN peacekeeping budget in 2019, increasing its share of assessed contributions to 2.267%.

In addition to its troop deployment and financial contributions, Korea led the discussions on UN peacekeeping operations. The Korean government pledged to

host the next UN Peacekeeping Ministerial, one of the most important ministerial gatherings on UN peacekeeping issues, in Seoul in 2021. Since the pledge, Korea is preparing to consolidate the international community's commitment to strengthening UN peacekeeping through a successful Ministerial. The Seoul Peacekeeping Ministerial will highlight technology and medical capacity building in UN peacekeeping, some of Korea's strongest points, as its cross-cutting themes. Korea plans to increase the visibility of its contributions to UN Peacekeeping Operations and further its leadership in the discussions on the issue through successfully hosting the Ministerial.

(2) Peacebuilding

UN Secretary-General António Guterres has been spearheading the implementation of peacebuilding and sustaining peace resolutions based on the recognition that efforts to sustain peace are necessary not only in post-conflict situations but also across all stages through diverse means, such as preventing conflicts, strengthening the rule of law in the process of peace restoration and reconstruction, encouraging reconciliation through dialogue, and promoting democracy and human rights.

Korea is avidly participating in the UN's peacebuilding efforts as a continued member from 2019-2020 and 2021-2022 of the UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), an intergovernmental advisory body to the Security Council, the General Assembly, and the Economic and Social Council of the UN on matters of peacebuilding. Currently, Korea is serving its fifth term as a PBC member. It also served as chair of the PBC in 2017 and vice-chair in 2018, helped enhance the PBC's role, and brought the peacebuilding agenda to the forefront within the UN.

2 Career Support in International Organizations

The Korean government has been helping young people and junior experts seek

career opportunities in international organizations through a number of measures including its Junior Professional Officer (JPO) program and the UN Volunteers (UNV) program.

In 2020, 20 JPOs were dispatched to various organizations, including the UN Secretariat, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Food Programme, the World Meteorological Organization, the International Criminal Court, and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

In addition to the JPO program, the Korean government also funds the UNV Specialist program and the UNV Youth programs, which offer volunteering opportunities in field offices. In 2020, 20 UNV Specialists and 30 UNV Youths were dispatched.

On top of that, the International Organizations Recruitment Center was established in 2011. The primary function of the Center has been providing Korean people with valuable information on career opportunities in international organizations. The Center also invites human resources managers from various organizations.

In November, the 13th International Organizations Career Fair was held virtually in light of the nationwide COVID-19 outbreak. Recruiters from 10 international organizations gave the audience an in-depth briefing on their hiring processes and practical job application tips, including how to write proper cover letters, followed by a Q&A session. Furthermore, the recruiters conducted mock interviews, which was enthusiastically greeted by the participants.

3 Enactment of the Bill on the Management of Contributions to International Organizations

As financial contributions of Korea to international organizations have constantly been on the rise, it has become increasingly significant to institutionalize a government-wide management system. Accordingly, the MOFA has been organizing an annual

consultative meeting with relevant government organs since 2017 to gather and share information on the status of each contribution.

Against this backdrop, the 21st National Assembly passed the Bill on the Management of Contributions to International Organizations on December 9, 2020, which Representatives Lee Jae-jung and Kim Young-joo proposed. The legislation will come into effect starting January 1, 2022.

The law institutionalizes a reviewing committee led by MOFA to promote future contributions to international organizations consistent with national interests and foreign policy goals without redundancies.

4 Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Democracy

4.1 Participation in the Efforts of the International Community for the Improvement of the Human Rights Situation in North Korea

In accordance with its basic principle of working with the international community to substantively improve the human rights of the people of North Korea, the Korean government continued to join the efforts of the UN to address the human rights situation in North Korea. In 2020, the Korean government particularly focused on the impact of COVID-19 on the human rights situation in North Korea.

The 43rd session of the Human Rights Council (HRC), which commenced in late February, was suspended amid the COVID-19 pandemic and resumed in June. The HRC, through its resolution on the human rights situation in North Korea adopted by consensus, expressed its concern that the humanitarian and human rights situation in North Korea may further deteriorate by the threat of COVID-19 and urged North Korea to work with the international community in its efforts to prevent an outbreak of

COVID-19.

The UN General Assembly, during its 75th session in November 2020, also adopted a resolution on the human rights situation in North Korea by consensus. The General Assembly stressed the urgency and importance of the separated families issue, dialogue, and engagement. At the same time, it had noted the urgency and importance of the issues in the same resolution a year ago. Furthermore, the resolution underscored that any restrictions to address the COVID-19 pandemic must be in line with international law, including international human rights law.

The Korean government participated in the interactive dialogues with the Special Rapporteur on human rights in North Korea, held during the 43rd session of the HRC and the 75th session of the General Assembly. The Korean government expressed its concern that the human rights and humanitarian situation in North Korea may deteriorate due to the rapid spread of COVID-19 in the region.

4.2 Activities in the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly

The Korean government vigorously participated in human rights discussions at the UN HRC and the General Assembly, using contact-free formats, including virtual meetings.

In 2020, the Korean government took an active part in the international discussion on promoting global human rights while the HRC adopted a total of 97 resolutions and 32 decisions. In 2020, the HRC reviewed the human rights situation in 28 countries, including Turkey and Libya, through the Universal Periodic Review, which examines the human rights records of all UN Member States. Through this process, Korea provided constructive recommendations to promote human rights while taking into account the human rights situation in those states and international human rights standards.

At the 75th session in 2020, the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly adopted 51 resolutions — including country-specific resolutions on North Korea, Myanmar, Iran, Syria, and Crimea — to address human rights and social issues,

such as the rights of women and children and the protection of refugees. The Korean government set its views and policies during the dialogues with the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the President of the HRC, the High Commissioner for Refugees, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in North Korea.

4.3 Efforts to Promote Democracy

As a member of the Community of Democracies Governing Council and Executive Committee, Korea actively participated in the global discourse on promoting democracy and supported the Online Kathmandu Democracy Forum organized by the Community of Democracies and Asia Democracy Network in November 2020.

In addition, to emphasize the role and contribution of local governments in protecting and promoting human rights, Korea has submitted the resolution on local governments and human rights since 2013, which has been adopted by consensus with international support. Korea submitted a follow-up resolution, which mainly included the importance of human rights-based response of local governments amidst the COVID-19 situation, to the 45th session of the HRC in September 2020. It was adopted by consensus.

4.4 Stronger Cooperation with the International Community to Address the Global Refugee Crisis

Even amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the Korean government continued to make efforts to address the global refugee crisis, including discussing the ways to promote cooperation between Korea and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on the occasion of the telephone conversation between Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha and High Commissioner Filippo Grandi on April 20, 2020.

Korea has been further strengthening its partnership with the UNHCR by remaining as a constant member of the 20+ million club, a group of donor countries that

contributed more than \$20 million to the UNHCR, for five consecutive years since it first joined in 2016.

4.5 Contribution to International Efforts to Eliminate Sexual Violence in Conflict

The Korean government launched the Action with Women and Peace initiative to join in the efforts of the international community to eliminate sexual violence in conflict. As part of this initiative, the Second International Conference on Action with Women and Peace took place in November 2020 in a hybrid online and offline format. The conference brought together various stakeholders from governments, international organizations, academia, and civil society.

4.6 Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Vulnerable Persons

At the 13th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities from November to December 2020, the Korean government participated in the international discussions on realizing the right to work in diverse, inclusive, and accessible environments for persons with disabilities, and ensuring rights-based COVID-19 emergency responses inclusive of persons with disabilities. Also, the Korean government participated in the MIKTA Joint Statement led by the Commonwealth of Australia.

4.7 Stronger Cooperation with the UN Human Rights Mechanisms to Promote and Protect Human Rights at the National Level

Due to the travel constraints in the COVID-19 context, there was no visit to Korea by the HRC special procedures in 2020. The Korean government, nevertheless, closely cooperated with the UN human rights mechanisms.

During the 44th session of the HRC, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights presented the Korean government's COVID-19 responses. In response to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights' request for Member States' input and information regarding COVID-19 and human rights, the Korean government submitted a written presentation of its measures to protect human rights amid the pandemic. The Korean government also faithfully responded to the inquiries of the special procedures on Korea's human rights issues. The Korean government will continue its cooperation with the UN human rights mechanisms.

Furthermore, Prof. Soh Changrok was elected to serve on the Human Rights Committee between 2021 and 2024, one of the UN's major human rights mechanisms, in the election held in September 2020. He is the first Korean who became a member of the Committee since the Korean government acceded to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in 1990.

5 Contributing to the Strengthening of Global Nuclear Governance and the International Disarmament and Non-proliferation Regime

5.1 Participating in the Efforts to Reinforce Global Nuclear Governance and the International Disarmament and Non-proliferation Regime

(1) Proactive Approach to Global Nuclear Governance and the International Disarmament and Non-proliferation Regime

Korea contributed to strengthening the international non-proliferation regime and became a model country in promoting non-proliferation by assuming chairmanships of international dialogues and committees in disarmament, non-proliferation, and nuclear governance. Korea served as a co-chair of the ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional

Meeting on Non-proliferation and Disarmament for the 2018-2020 term, a co-chair of the Creating an Environment for Nuclear Disarmament Working Group for the 2019-2021 term, and the chair of the Arms Trade Treaty Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation for the 2019-2021 term.

Korea is taking the initiative to discuss new challenges in the areas of disarmament and non-proliferation, such as space security and autonomous weapons systems. First, a resolution entitled "Reducing space threats through norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviours" was adopted at the First Committee of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly in cooperation with like-minded countries, including Korea, the UK, and the US. Also, Korea played an active role in consultative bodies on specific disarmament issues, such as the Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, to contribute to setting international norms in the area.

Moreover, the resolution entitled "Youth, Disarmament and Non-proliferation," which Korea proposed as the sole main sponsor for the first time, was adopted at the First Committee of the 74th session of the UN General Assembly in 2019. Since then, Korea has served as a leading champion of Action 38 of the UN Secretary-General's Agenda for Disarmament. For its part, Korea has implemented various projects, such as holding the 2020 Youth Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Conference on July 10 and the Special Youth Session at the 19th ROK-UN Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation on December 2-4 with youth groups of Korea and the UN taking part.

Ever since Korea hosted the Seoul Nuclear Security Summit in 2012, it has been recognized as the leader of international nuclear security and played its role accordingly. In addition to chairing the Second IAEA International Conference on Nuclear Security hosted in December 2016 and continuing its contributions to the nuclear security regime, Korea partook in the Third International Conference on Nuclear Security as the former chair country and emphasized the need to enhance the international nuclear security framework. Moreover, as part of the efforts of the New Southern Policy, the Korean government continues to support projects to enhance the nuclear security response

capabilities of ASEAN member states. Namely, it identified the cooperation needs in nuclear forensics for ASEAN member states through the Workshop on Nuclear Forensics for ASEAN, held in Seoul on January 8-9, and organized the Regional Training Course with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), set to be held in Daejeon in 2022.

(2) Collaboration with the International Community

Korea has actively participated in the UN and multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation regime, where most countries worldwide discuss common global agendas, securing the international community's support for its position. In particular, Korea's ministerial-level officials participated in high-level meetings, including the Conference on Disarmament held in Geneva on February 24, the only multilateral negotiation forum in the field of disarmament, and the Stockholm Initiative in February and June, to seek joint positions on nuclear disarmament among major non-nuclear states. At these meetings, Korea explained its government's efforts for denuclearization and permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula while expressing its commitment to contribute to global disarmament and the non-proliferation regime under a changing international security environment.

Furthermore, in line with efforts to expand the IAEA's roles, such as responding to infectious diseases using nuclear-derived technology, in 2020 the Korean government made a special contribution of \$300,000 to equipment and training programs for enhancing IAEA member states' response capabilities against COVID-19. It furthered its contributions by pledging extra-budgetary donation of \$1 million to the Zoonotic Disease Integrated Action initiative, which the IAEA launched as an integrated approach to control the outbreak of zoonotic diseases.

As a member state of the four multilateral export control regimes, i.e., the Wassenaar Arrangement, Nuclear Suppliers Group, Missile Technology Control Regime, and Australia Group, Korea also partakes in preventing the proliferation of controlled items and technology.

(3) Faithful Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions Regarding North Korea

The ROK has maintained its efforts to faithfully implement the UN Security Council resolutions regarding North Korea. While working closely with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 and the Panel of Experts, the Korean government also engaged with the relevant ministries and organizations through interagency meetings to coordinate such efforts. In addition, the ROK actively participated in the efforts of the international community to faithfully implement the Security Council resolutions through multiple bilateral and multilateral consultation channels.

The Korean government continues to promote inter-Korean exchange and cooperation projects within the international community's framework of UN Security Council resolutions regarding North Korea. Based on this stance, the ROK worked closely with the 1718 Committee and its members to ensure that humanitarian assistance projects to North Korea are carried out smoothly. The 1718 Committee has swiftly approved exemption requests based on urgent humanitarian needs, such as combating COVID-19 and natural disasters. On November 30, 2020, it amended the Implementation Assistance Notice No. 7, which provided guidelines for obtaining exemptions to deliver humanitarian assistance to North Korea.

5.2 Reinforcing International Nuclear Energy and Disarmament and Non-proliferation Network and Outreach Activities

The Korean government and the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs jointly organized the 19th ROK-UN Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Issues in Seoul on December 2-4, 2020. Participants discussed the impact of emerging technologies on the disarmament and non-proliferation regime and its implications in international fora, focusing on four areas: lethal autonomous weapons, hypersonic weapons, space security, and biological weapons.

As part of its efforts to reinforce multilateral diplomacy in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, the Korean government strengthened and expanded its bilateral networks for cooperation in major international issues through holding bilateral consultations with countries such as Germany on June 24, India on August 20, and Australia on November 12. In particular, Korea held the Third ROK-US Space Policy Dialogue in July to strengthen communication and cooperation between Korea and the US in addressing potential challenges in the space domain.

The Korean government has hosted high-level policy consultations with the IAEA every year since 2013. Despite the global outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, it held the Ninth ROK-IAEA High-Level Policy Consultation in a face-to-face format in Seoul on November 3, 2020, with the Deputy Minister for Multilateral and Global Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Head of the Department of Safeguards of the IAEA as the respective heads of the delegations, to discuss ways to deepen cooperation between the two sides.

6 Enhancing International Cooperation on Security Issues

6.1 Strengthening Cooperation with Multilateral Security Institutions and Participating in International Security Discussions

Korea has built cooperative relationships with multilateral security institutions, including the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and actively participated in the global discussions on security affairs, such as the Munich Security Conference. Through this active engagement, Korea has contributed to strengthening cooperation on global security issues and promoted the international community's understanding of its foreign and security policies.

(1) North Atlantic Treaty Organization

As a global partner of NATO since 2005, Korea continued to enhance cooperation with NATO in various fields.

In October 2020, the 11th ROK-NATO Policy Consultation was held virtually. Through the meeting, both sides enhanced mutual understanding of the situation on the Korean Peninsula, Northeast Asia, and Europe and widely discussed the ways to increase substantive cooperation between Korea and NATO. Specifically, Korea explained its key policies — achieving permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula and establishing the Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation Platform — and requested NATO's support for them.

(2) Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

The OSCE is the world's largest regional security organization that takes a comprehensive approach to security encompassing political, military, economic, environmental, and human domains. As one of the OSCE's Asian Partners for Co-operation, Korea continued to enhance cooperation with the OSCE in countering violent extremism and cybersecurity, among other key areas.

Commemorating the 25th anniversary of establishing a partnership with the OSCE in 2020, Korea and the OSCE jointly hosted the OSCE Asian Conference in October, under the theme of "Multilateral Response to the Global Security Challenges." At the conference, the participating states discussed transnational threats that Europe and Asia are mutually facing, such as environmental risks and health security challenges in the COVID-19 situation, and sought to increase international cooperation.

In December, the Deputy Minister for Multilateral and Global Affairs of MOFA attended the 27th OSCE Ministerial Meeting, which was held virtually. At the meeting, the Deputy Minister introduced the Northeast Asia Cooperation Initiative for Infectious Disease Control and Public Health and also requested the international community's interest and support for achieving denuclearization and establishing permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula.

(3) Munich Security Conference

Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha attended the 56th Munich Security Conference held in Munich on February 14-16, becoming the first Korean foreign minister to participate in its main session as a panel member. Minister Kang explained the necessity of strengthening multilateralism and introduced the peace process on the Korean Peninsula.

On the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference, Minister Kang had bilateral meetings with the foreign ministers of 12 countries, including Japan and Germany, the Under-Secretary-General of the UN Department of Peace Operations, and the Executive Director of the WFP. She used these meetings as an opportunity to explain Korea's foreign policy and discuss COVID-19 responses of each side and pending bilateral issues.

6.2 International Cooperation on Countering Terrorism and Piracy

Korea strongly opposes terrorism and holds a firm position that terrorism should be eradicated and not be tolerated in any form as it threatens international peace and security.

(1) Cooperation on Counter-terrorism

Korea closely collaborated with the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (OCT), supporting projects that create an e-platform for the enhanced security of major sporting events and improve border security and management. During the Virtual Counter-Terrorism Week hosted by the OCT on July 6-10, the Ambassador for International Security Affairs participated in its sessions and discussed terrorism risks, including violent extremism and hate speech in a pandemic environment.

In October 2020, Korea held a virtual meeting with the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team of the UN Security Council. Both sides exchanged their analysis and assessment on terrorism threats, foreign terrorist fighters, and

implementation of sanction measures of the UN Security Council while creating a further opportunity to expand cooperation in the field of counter-terrorism. In addition, Korea attended the Financial Action Task Force Plenary held in February, June, and October to join the global efforts to prevent the financing of terrorism.

(2) International Cooperation on Combating Piracy

Following 2019, Korea's Cheonghae Unit remained stationed in the Gulf of Aden in 2020 to help combat piracy and secure the safe passage of vessels in the region. The Cheonghae Unit participated in international counter-piracy operations conducted by the Combined Maritime Forces and the European Union Naval Forces.

Korea also made a financial contribution of \$90,000 to the International Maritime Organization's West and Central Africa Maritime Security Trust Fund in 2020. The contribution will be used to provide communications equipment to West African countries in order to facilitate their coordinated response against piracy attacks that frequently occur in the region.

6.3 International Cooperation in Responding to Cybersecurity Threats

Transnational cyber threats have become a grave challenge to national security across the globe. With advances in ICT, the methods of cyber attacks have become more sophisticated and diversified.

In response to cyber threats, Korea, as a leading country in ICT, redoubled its efforts to closely cooperate with major countries and strengthen cooperation in international fora, including the UN and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF).

(1) Multilateral Cooperation on Cybersecurity

Korea actively participated in the discussions within the UN on strengthening international norms on cybersecurity. In particular, Korea was closely engaged in the discussions of the Open-ended Working Group established in 2019 under the First

Committee of the UN General Assembly, underscoring that all UN member states need to faithfully implement the existing norms on cybersecurity to develop a safer cyberspace.

(2) Bilateral and Regional Cooperation on Cybersecurity

Korea held bilateral cyber policy consultations with major countries to strengthen cooperation on cybersecurity. In 2020, Korea had a consultation on cybersecurity with the UK in January and the EU and Singapore in November. Also, Korea looked for ways to enhance trilateral cooperation by holding a trilateral cyber policy consultation with China and Japan in December. Meanwhile, Korea and the US held a cybersecurity capacity-building working group session in August as a part of the New Southern Policy/Indo-Pacific Strategy Dialogue.

Korea also took part in regional cybersecurity dialogues, such as the ARF and the OSCE. In January, Korea attended the ARF Open Ended Study Group on ICT security and exchanged views on strengthening the connection between the multilateral approach, represented by the UN, and the regional approach.

Furthermore, in cooperation with the OSCE, Korea hosted the Inter-Regional Conference in October, under the theme of the Impact of Emerging Technologies on International Security and Terrorism.

Section 3 Increasing Korea's Contribution to Sustainable Development through Strategic Development Cooperation

1 Contribution to the Global Efforts for Development Cooperation

1.1 Contributing to the Implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

In order to contribute to the efforts of the international community to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)¹⁾, the Korean government has been helping developing countries to implement the SDGs by steadily increasing its official development assistance (ODA) and forging partnerships with diverse stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society, even amidst the challenging time of COVID-19.

1) The SDGs, enshrined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, were adopted unanimously by the UN General Assembly on September 25, 2015. The SDGs are a step-up from the Millennium Development Goals, which were centered on eradicating severe poverty, and comprise of 17 comprehensive and far-reaching goals on social and economic development, environmental protection, ensuring access to justice, and building an inclusive institution to end all forms of poverty and inequality.

To faithfully take part in reviewing SDGs implementation, Korea participated in the Seventh Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development on May 20, the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development on July 14-17, and the North-East Asia Multi-stakeholder Forum on SDGs on November 3-4 and shared the efforts to implement the SDGs in the pandemic situation at the regional and global levels. The government also hosted the Third Open SDGs Forum in November in partnership with civil society to share Korea's progress in implementing the SDGs and highlight the importance of solidarity and cooperation for sustainable development. In addition, the prime minister attended the Meeting of Heads of State and Government on Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development on September 29 to introduce the Korean New Deal and share the Korean government's efforts for sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.



Meeting of Heads of State and Government on Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Sept. 29)



Third Open SDGs Forum (Nov. 24)

1.2 Making Continued Contribution to Global Development Cooperation

Discussions through Active Participation in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee

In addition to assuming vice-chair of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC)

of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2019, Korea became the co-chair of the OECD Private Finance for Sustainable Development Community of Practice in September 2020 and actively participated in setting norms and discussing issues in international development cooperation. In November, the Korean government attended the OECD High Level Meeting, which was held for the first time in three years, to discuss ways for the international community to work together for sustainable green recovery of developing countries in the challenge of COVID-19.

The Korean government also participated actively in the development cooperation discussions at the G20. Korea attended three meetings of the G20 Development Working Group and contributed to the adoption of the G20 Support to COVID-19 Response and Recovery in Developing Countries at the 2020 G20 Riyadh Summit. At the summit, President Moon Jae-in reaffirmed the Korean government's commitment to working together with the international community to support equitable access to vaccines and expanding humanitarian assistance to help developing countries' recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Furthermore, the Korean government maintained a strong presence in the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, a multi-stakeholder platform for enhancing the effectiveness of development cooperation. Korea had been a member of its Steering Committee from the launch of the partnership in March 2012 to July 2015, and it reassumed membership in August 2019.

Korea also attended the meetings of the International Aid Transparency Initiative to contribute to enhancing aid transparency.

1.3 Enhancing Cooperation with Major Donors

The Korean government held policy consultations with major donors in the international community to discuss policy directions and shared mutual experiences in development cooperation.

The Korean government endorsed the work plan between the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in October as a follow-up to the MOU signed between USAID and MOFA a year ago. In addition, Korea had a roundtable meeting with the US Brookings Institution in December to explore ways to increase Korea-US development cooperation partnership in areas related to the New Southern Policy. Korea had laid the foundation for strengthening its cooperative ties with Australia by signing an MOU in December 2019. In 2020, the two countries exchanged information about the status of support for COVID-19 response. At high-level meetings with the EU and the UK, such as the 16th Korea-EU Joint Committee Meeting on January 21 and the Korea-UK Ministerial Strategic Dialogue on September 29, Korea sought ways to cooperate in the field of development cooperation and discussed ways to achieve meaningful outcomes in key joint development cooperation projects with the EU and the UK, respectively. Also, Korea continued to discuss development cooperation policies with Japan, and the two countries had a director-level consultation on January 22.

As the chair of MIKTA, the Korean government participated in working-level video conferences with MIKTA development cooperation agencies to increase development partnership among MIKTA members.

Meanwhile, Korea is also a member of the Governing Committee of the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative, an international partnership established by 14 countries, including the US, at the G20 Hamburg Summit in July 2017 to support female entrepreneurs in developing countries.

2 Building a More Systematic, Integrated, and Efficient Institutional Framework

MOFA, as the supervising ministry of Korea's grant aid, has been coordinating with

other ministries, civil society, academia, and other relevant parties in a variety of ways to make Korea's development institutional framework more systematic, integrated, and efficient.

To promote integration and connection among grant aid projects, MOFA has been convening Inter-Agency Grants Committee meetings and, since 2018, private experts have participated in the ODA reviewing process to enhance the review and coordination function of the committee.

Moreover, MOFA established a monitoring and reporting system at the embassy level in 2018, as requested by the Committee for International Development Cooperation at its 29th annual meeting in June 2017, to strengthen the role and participation of embassies and enhance transparency throughout the entire ODA process. Also, many embassies have actively held ODA council meetings with the field offices of aid organizations such as KOICA, the Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF), and other ODA implementing agencies.

MOFA is also implementing various ODA projects to support the implementation of the New Southern Policy and the New Northern Policy. In August 2018, MOFA established the New Southern ODA Policy, a regional grant aid strategy to aligning to the New Southern Policy. Accordingly, the Korean government has continuously increased its grant aid for the New Southern Region, allocating ₩274.4 billion in 2020, a 45% increase compared to the previous year. In addition, to support the implementation of the New Northern Policy, the Korean government increased its budget for grant aid to the New Northern Region by 60% to ₩70.8 billion in 2020.

In 2020, the Framework Act on International Development Cooperation was fully amended for the first time in 10 years. The amended framework act clarified the functions of major actors such as the Committee for International Development Cooperation chaired by the prime minister, the supervising ministry, implementing agencies, and embassies. In particular, the amended framework act includes a new provision on the Committee on Grant Strategy, whose main functions are establishing strategies and policies, examining and coordinating grant aid projects, and monitoring

the implementation of strategies and policies in the area of grant aid. With this newly added provision, a legal and institutional basis has been laid for the systematic, integrated, and efficient implementation of grant aid projects.

3 Current Status of Official Development Assistance

3.1 Steady Increase in Official Development Assistance

Since its accession to the OECD DAC, Korea has steadily increased its ODA to meet the higher expectations of the international community and to solidify Korea's standing. In 2020, the Korean government allocated ₩3.59 trillion as ODA, a 12% increase from 2019 and a twofold increase from 2012.

| Korea's Official Development Assistance ²⁾ | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------------------|
| | 1987~2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 (provisional) |
| Total Volume of ODA | 16,189.6 | 2,246.2 | 2,201.4 | 2,358.3 | 2,463.2 | 2,249.4 |
| ① Bilateral ODA | 11,563.1 | 1,548.5 | 1,615.0 | 1,734.5 | 1,857.0 | 1,763.9 |
| • Grants | 7,030.5 | 985.0 | 1,033.9 | 1,131.0 | 1,170.8 | 1,165.6 |
| • Loans (EDCF) | 4,532.6 | 563.5 | 581.1 | 603.4 | 686.3 | 598.3 |
| ② Multilateral assistance | 4,626.5 | 697.7 | 586.3 | 623.8 | 606.1 | 485.5 |
| ODA/GNI (%) | | 0.16 | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.15 | 0.14 |

Source: OECD, International Development Statistics Online Database

2) Net disbursements up until 2017 (net ODA: the total amount of ODA excluding EDCF loans) and grant equivalents from 2018 to 2020 (provisional) reflecting the changes in the OECD DAC statistics reporting criteria (disbursements excluding the principal and interest converted at current value)

Furthermore, the Korean government launched the Global Disease Eradication Fund (GDEF) in 2017 to support the disease prevention and eradication efforts in low income countries. The fund is sourced by collecting a ₩1,000 fee from every international flight passenger departing from Korea. The government uses the fund to actively contribute to the prevention and eradication of the three major infectious diseases (AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria), waterborne diseases, and neglected tropical diseases in collaboration with international organizations, global health institutions, and NGOs.

In 2020, due to the decrease in international flight demand caused by the spread of COVID-19, the Korean government faced difficulty maintaining previous fund levels amidst a 70% decrease in the fees collected. However, thanks to its efforts to manage the GDEF stably by adjusting the budget or timing of projects that became inoperable due to the spread of the coronavirus, the government was able to keep on contributing to the global disease eradication efforts using the fund.

For instance, at the 2020 Global Vaccine Summit held on June 4 by the Global Vaccine Alliance to receive donations for its projects, the Korean government pledged to donate \$30 million over the next five years through the GDEF. The government also became a member of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations in November, which supports the development of vaccines for contagious diseases including COVID-19, and contributed \$3 million.

3.2 Bilateral Official Development Assistance

In order to use its ODA budget more efficiently, the Korean government designated 24 countries — 11 Asian, seven African, four Central and South American, and two Middle East and CIS countries — as its Priority Partner Countries and allocated 70% of its total ODA budget to these countries.

Korea's Official Development Assistance: Regional Breakdown³⁾

(USD millions, %)

| | ODA Volume | | | | | Percentage of Bilateral ODA | | | | |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------------------|
| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 (provisional) | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 (provisional) |
| Asia | 685.6 | 715.0 | 724.2 | 876.3 | 819.5 | 44.3 | 44.3 | 41.8 | 47.2 | 46.5 |
| Africa | 415.6 | 408.0 | 484.1 | 490.9 | 402.6 | 26.8 | 25.3 | 27.9 | 26.4 | 22.8 |
| America | 137.8 | 176.7 | 170.7 | 188.7 | 134.6 | 8.9 | 10.9 | 9.8 | 10.2 | 7.6 |
| Middle East | 65.9 | 71.5 | 78.07 | 82.7 | 62.6 | 4.3 | 4.4 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 3.5 |
| Oceania | 8.9 | 11.6 | 16.1 | 15.9 | 14.3 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.8 |
| Europe | -1.5 | -4.1 | 2.0 | 7.5 | 7.0 | -0.1 | -0.3 | 0.1 | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| Unspecified | 236.2 | 236.3 | 259.4 | 195.1 | 323.3 | 15.3 | 14.6 | 15.0 | 10.5 | 18.3 |
| Total | 1,548.5 | 1,615.0 | 1,734.5 | 1,857.0 | 1,763.9 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Source: OECD, International Development Statistics Online Database

(1) Asia-Pacific Region

In 2020, approximately 47% (\$819 million) of Korea's bilateral ODA was allocated to countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

In the New Southern Region, the Korean government focused its ODA on improving economic infrastructure and public health by carrying out projects such as the Project for the Establishment of the Viet Nam-Korea Institute of Science and Technology (2014-2020/₩39.2 billion); the Integrated Rural Development Project in Laos (2014-2020/₩16.3 billion); Establishment of a Master Plan and Pilot System for Intelligent Transport System in the Jakarta Metropolitan Area in Indonesia (2019-2022/₩6 billion); Integrated Package for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health in the Western Region in Cambodia (2017-2021/₩13.1 billion); and the Quirino Integrated

Rural Development Project II in the Philippines (2018-2023/₩10.7 billion).

In the New Northern Region, the Korean government provided ODA to Priority Partner Countries to support progress in priority areas such as water management and health sanitation. The government carried out projects such as the Establishment of a Masterplan and Pilot Project for ICT-based Integrated Water Resources Information System in Uzbekistan (2016-2020/₩7.9 billion), Community-based Climate Resilient WASH Interventions in Mongolia (2019-2022/₩4.9 billion), and Integrated Rural Development for IDP Communities in Azerbaijan through Revitalization of the Kahriz Water Supply System (2018-2022/₩5.1 billion). The Korean government also stepped up development cooperation with other countries in the New Northern Region by providing ODA for carrying out projects such as Capacity Building for and Establishment of an Advanced Administrative Information Sharing System in Kyrgyzstan (2020-2024/₩5.9 billion), the Project for Power Grid Construction and Improvement of the Health Environment in Romit District in Tajikistan (2017-2021/₩6.9 billion), and Capacity Building for the Vocational Training Institute in Mary Province in Turkmenistan (2014-2021/₩6.6 billion).

In Southwest Asia, the Korean government focused mainly on areas such as public health, vocational training, and public administration, carrying out projects such as the Project for Integrated Rural Development of Nepal through Strengthening Research and Development Capacity of Kathmandu University (2016-2023/₩11.4 billion), Eye Health Promotion and Prevention of Blindness in Bangladesh (2014-2023/₩9.4 billion), and Training and Re-educating Technology Teachers in Sri Lanka (2015-2025/₩15.6 billion).

For countries in Oceania, the Korean government carried out training programs, dispatched experts, and provided material support to help improve their climate change response and water management.

(2) Africa

The Korean government contributed \$402 million, 23% of its total bilateral ODA budget, for the sustainable development of Africa and carried out projects such as

³⁾ Net disbursements up until 2017 (net ODA: the total amount of ODA excluding EDCF loans) and grant equivalents from 2018 to 2020 (provisional) reflecting the changes in the OECD DAC statistics reporting criteria (disbursements excluding the principal and interest converted at current value)

the Integrated Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Program in Ethiopia (2019-2023/₩11 billion); the Project for Rice Value Chain Development in the Senegal River Valley (2020-2025/₩13.1 billion); and the Project for Institutional Capacity Support to the National Farmers Leadership Center in Uganda (2021-2028/₩14.5 billion).

(3) Other Regions

In 2020, the Korean government allocated about 8% (\$134 million) of its total bilateral aid budget to Central and South American countries and carried out projects such as Improving the Urban Transport System in Medellin in Colombia (2018-2021/₩15 billion); Formation of a Health For All Program and Consolidation of Health Micro-networks in Limpio, Central Department in Paraguay (2016-2022/₩15.8 billion); Improvement of the Agricultural Productivity in the Highlands Through the Mechanization and Capacity Building of Farmers in Bolivia (2017-2022/₩10.3 billion); and the Project for the Strengthening of ICT-based Innovation and Technical Entrepreneurship for the Arequipa Region in Peru (2016-2020/₩11.4 billion).

3.3 Multilateral Assistance

The Korean government strived to strengthen cooperation in multilateral development assistance with major international development and humanitarian assistance organizations. Although the global spread of COVID-19 caused difficulties in multilateral development assistance and aggravated the pre-existing global humanitarian crises in 2020, the Korean government continued contributing to humanitarian crisis response and sustainable development by enhancing the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

Furthermore, the Korean government continued to increase its role in addressing sexual violence under conflict by connecting the international community's women, peace, and security agenda with Korea's Action with Women and Peace, which was launched in June 2018 to deal with such issues. In 2020, the government started

a new project in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to address gender-based violence through means such as providing support for survivors of sexual violence under conflict in the Darfur region of Sudan.

The Korean government has also been participating in the decision-making process of organizations such as the UNDP, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) as a member of their executive board. In 2020, Korea was elected as a board member of UNICEF for 2021-2023 for the sixth consecutive term. The Korean government also discussed ways to strengthen cooperation with the UNDP, UNICEF, the WFP, and UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) through online policy consultations amidst the pandemic.

4 Expansion of Humanitarian Assistance Including Overseas Emergency Relief

4.1 Overview of Korea's Humanitarian Assistance

In 2020, the Korean government provided humanitarian assistance more effectively and efficiently based on its Humanitarian Assistance Strategy, which was revised in July 2019, and the Grand Bargain, to which it acceded in February 2020. Even though most of the international community's resources were put into domestic and global response to COVID-19, Korea continued to carry out essential relief activities to fulfill its duty as a responsible middle power. The Korean government provided a total of \$67.89 million to help address 54 humanitarian crises, including chronic crises caused by prolonged conflicts in Syria and Yemen and large-scale natural disasters such as the fires in Australia.

Furthermore, the Korean government worked with major humanitarian assistance

organizations such as the WFP, UNHCR, and UNICEF to alleviate chronic humanitarian crises. The government focused on meeting the urgent needs of the most vulnerable groups such as women, children, and refugees and strengthening their resilience. It also supported projects for refugee protection and assistance, response to food crises, and protection of women and children in countries such as Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Yemen, and Iraq.

In addition, the Korean government provided active support for responding to emergencies such as unexpected natural disasters. The government contributed \$4 million to Africa and the Middle East to help resolve the food crisis aggravated by the appearance of locusts in deserts and COVID-19.

4.2 Assisting Reconstruction and Peace Efforts in Fragile States

In order to contribute to sustainable peace in Afghanistan, one of the most fragile states, the Korean government continued carrying out its 2017-2020 plan for supporting Afghanistan's economy and society. The government worked closely with a total of nine international organizations, including the WHO in COVID-19 response, UNICEF in child protection under armed violence, and UNHCR in the integration of refugees and internally displaced persons.

4.3 Strengthening the Capacity of the Korea Disaster Relief Team

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Korean government conducted the annual joint exercise of the Korea Disaster Relief Team in November via video conference in order to check the cooperation system between related agencies for a swift decision making on deployment of personnel, mobilization of personnel, and logistics and to share international trends in relevant areas.

The government also organized regular consultation meetings for related agencies to improve the overseas relief system and finalized the Fifth Basic Measures for Overseas

Emergency Relief, which includes measures for managing the human resource pool for rescue and medical teams and conducting education and training for their capacity building.

5 Expanding Public-Private Partnerships

The Korean government sought to strengthen its partnership with diverse actors including civil society, businesses, and academia to increase public understanding and support for development cooperation.

After establishing the Policy Framework for Government-Civil Society Partnership in International Development Cooperation in January 2019, the Korean government worked closely with civil society to develop implementation measures for the policy framework in order to diversify the scope and increase the scale of its joint projects with civil society.

Korea held various events to commemorate the 10th anniversary of its membership in the OECD DAC in 2020. From November 23 to 27, MOFA hosted the Development Cooperation Week under the theme of "Beautiful Miracle, Dream for a Better World" in collaboration with various development cooperation actors such as international organizations, implementing agencies, the National Assembly, civil society, and academia. The event provided an opportunity to look back on the achievements made and exchange views on the direction for the next 10 years. In addition, a development cooperation communication event for the youth was held on November 5-6. This event was organized by university students, and a special documentary was made about the event in collaboration with the Seoul Broadcasting System.

As part of the efforts to expand development cooperation partnerships, the Korean government supported prospective entrepreneurs, start-ups, and social venture innovators through the Creative Technology Solution program, which is

participated by 88 companies. In addition, through the KOICA Overseas Volunteer Program, 2,947 Koreans were provided with the opportunity to gain field experience and grow as experts in development cooperation.



Communicating with the young generation on the issue of development cooperation (Seoul, Nov. 5-6)



A banner on the outside of MOFA building (Nov. 20-Dec. 2)

Section 4 Strengthening the Legal Basis for Foreign Relations and Diplomatic Activities

International law serves as a fundamental base and an effective tool for steering Korea's foreign policy amid changes in the domestic and international environment. Furthermore, Korea's heightened international standing calls for its more active role in ensuring the faithful implementation of and compliance with international law as well as in helping to develop and codify new rules of international law.

Therefore, MOFA has been focusing its efforts to ensure that Korea's foreign relations and diplomatic activities are founded on solid legal grounds. MOFA has taken a range of reasonable and practical measures to address international law-related issues, including concluding treaties, contribute to the development of multilateral norms, and strengthen Korea's capacity in dealing with ocean affairs and matters of international law. Along with such efforts, MOFA has been striving to increase communication and interaction with the public on various issues related to international law.

1 Treaties Concluded in 2020

The Korean government has been concluding treaties in a variety of areas to bolster the legal foundation needed to increase predictability, expand its diplomatic scope, and enhance international cooperation. In 2020, 19 treaties were signed and 27 treaties entered into force.

Many of the treaties concluded in 2020 have to do with economic cooperation, which has a direct effect on the daily lives of Korean people. Most notably, Korea signed the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, which is participated by 15 countries including 10 ASEAN countries, and the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement with Indonesia. By signing these two agreements, Korea strengthened its cooperation with ASEAN, an important region for the New Southern Policy, and laid the institutional framework for diversifying its trade structure.

Korea also signed the Horizontal Aviation Agreement with the EU, which had created a single European aviation market, in order to strengthen aviation safety and promote comprehensive aviation cooperation with the EU and concluded air service agreements with the Czech Republic and Rwanda. In addition, Korea signed Economic Development Cooperation Fund loan agreements with countries such as Egypt, Mongolia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Viet Nam to support their economic and societal development and increase business opportunities for Korean companies in these countries.

Furthermore, Korea actively took part in advancing international norms in various fields by acceding to and ratifying a number of multilateral treaties. The Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Amendments to Annexes A and C to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the aim of which is to regulate hazardous substances and protect the international environment, came into effect for Korea in February. Korea acceded to the Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances in April to protect the rights of audiovisual performers such as actors and dancers. Korea also ratified the Multilateral Convention to Implement Tax Treaty Related Measures to Prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting in May to prevent tax evasion and protect the rights and interests of taxpayers.

2 Participation in International Law-related Organizations and Contribution to the Establishment of International Norms

MOFA, in close collaboration with other government agencies and private sector experts, participated in the activities of international organizations and conferences in the field of international law. MOFA contributed to the formulation of international norms, shared its professional opinion and experiences, and helped to build consensus in the negotiations. In the same vein, MOFA sent delegations to participate in the global discussions on drafting international law and provided support for Korean experts seeking to work in international legal organizations.



Fifth International Conference on the Law of the Sea (Seoul, Dec. 3-4)

MOFA hosted the Fifth International Conference on the Law of the Sea on December 3-4 in Seoul together with the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) and the Korean Society of International Law. The conference was held in a hybrid format under the theme of “Regional Cooperation and Marine Environmental Protection under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) Regime” and was joined by 200 online and offline participants. Many renowned experts on the law of the sea including Vice-President of ITLOS Tomas Heidar; Paik Jin-Hyun, current judge and former president of ITLOS; and former ITLOS judges attended the conference, making it a fitting occasion for MOFA, ITLOS, and academics of the law of the sea to establish stronger ties.

As one of the key members of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute

of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Korea has been actively involved in the work of the International Criminal Court (ICC) since the drafting of the Rome Statute. In September, an independent expert review was completed under the leadership of Kwon O-gon, President of the Assembly of States Parties, to increase efficiency and lay the groundwork for reform within the ICC. Korea was re-elected as a member of the ICC Bureau for 2022 to 2023, following the term of 2018 to 2020, and Korea's Board of Audit and Inspection was appointed as the External Auditor of the ICC for 2021 to 2024 for the first time.

Korea also put together a team of government officials and experts from related ministries and agencies to take part in the discussions at the UN on drafting an international legally binding instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. The Korean delegation submitted a draft text of the instrument and actively participated in the discussions at intersessional meetings.

Korea, as a member of the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), has been participating in the discussions at the council on matters such as revising the ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices in order to make them more suitable for the ever-changing environment of international civil aviation. In 2020, Korea took part in the Council Aviation Recovery Taskforce as an official member and contributed to the discussions on ways to help the aviation industry overcome the COVID-19 pandemic. Korea also took the lead in promoting best practices in international civil aviation by sharing with other council members its experience in the prevention and control of infectious diseases at airports and in airplanes.

Meanwhile, Korea participated in the 39th Meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, which was held online in October, and joined the discussions on conservation measures for Antarctic marine living resources, approval for Korean vessels to operate in the Antarctic, and designation of Marine Protected Areas.

Korea also attended the 30th Meeting of States Parties to UNCLOS to introduce

its contributions and activities within ITLOS, the International Seabed Authority, and the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf and share its views about the Guidelines on Deposit with the Secretary-General of Charts or Lists of Geographical Coordinates under the Convention and other issues with regard to the Law of the Sea Convention.

The first part of the 26th session of the Council of the International Seabed Authority was held in Kingston, Jamaica in February, and Korea actively participated in the discussions on drawing up regulations on the exploitation of mineral resources in the Area. The second part of the 26th session of the Council and the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority, which was scheduled to take place in July, was substituted by circulating written documents under a silence procedure.

3 Maritime Delimitation Negotiations with Neighboring States

As it is bounded by water on three sides, Korea attaches great importance to establishing and promoting a sound regional maritime order. Korea's exclusive economic zone and continental shelf overlap with those of its neighboring countries, according to the definitions laid out in UNCLOS. Consequently, MOFA has built an intergovernmental system to enable close cooperation with relevant authorities and carried out diplomatic negotiations on maritime delimitation based on international law, mainly UNCLOS. MOFA is striving to stably manage the waters surrounding Korea and secure its national interests in maritime affairs.

At their summit meeting on July 3, 2014, the leaders of Korea and China agreed to launch a formal negotiation process on the delimitation of maritime boundaries between the two countries in 2015, and the first official negotiation took place as planned in 2015. Since then, continuous progress has been made in the negotiations

with the convening of two vice minister-level meetings, seven director-general-level meetings, and numerous director-level meetings. Even amidst the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the seventh director-general-level meeting was held in the form of a video conference in order to maintain the momentum for bilateral negotiations and exchange in-depth views on issues related to the delimitation of maritime boundaries between Korea and China.

4 Continued Efforts to Gain Global Recognition of the Name “East Sea”

The Korean government continued its multipronged efforts to raise awareness and promote the international community's understanding on the need to use the name “East Sea” for the body of water between the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese archipelago.

The government attended the Second Session of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) Assembly, which took place in a virtual format in November. The assembly adopted by consensus the original draft of the Report on the Informal Consultation Process for the Future of S-23. The key element of the report is development of a new digital standard, known as S-130, which marks sea areas with unique numerical identifiers rather than specific names. As the report was adopted by the consensus of its member states, the IHO made it clear that, in effect, S-23, which only uses the name “Sea of Japan” can no longer serve as a valid standard. The decision of the IHO Assembly to adopt this report is considered to be a turning point for promoting the use of “East Sea.”

Meanwhile, in order to raise international awareness on the legitimacy of the name “East Sea” and secure support for its use, the Korean government continued to make multifaceted efforts, including closely collaborating with relevant organizations such

as the Korea Hydrographic and Oceanographic Agency as well as domestic research institutes such as the Northeast Asian History Foundation.

5 Promoting Awareness on International Law and Strengthening Capacity-building

MOFA worked closely with Korean academic circles in the field of international law to improve its expertise in dealing with international legal issues. MOFA also made various policy efforts to increase domestic understanding of international law and strengthen Korea's overall capacity.

These efforts included organizing meetings with international legal experts and collaborating with academic societies to carry out joint international law projects. For example, MOFA hosted the 12th International Law Moot Court Competition in October and the 20th International Law Thesis Competition in November to help extend the reach of international law to a wider public.

Moreover, MOFA continued to publish *Trends and Practices in International Law*, a quarterly journal that features the latest rulings of international courts, updates on recently concluded treaties, trends in discussions at international organizations, and academic articles on international law.

Furthermore, MOFA held 24 briefing sessions at schools and civic organizations to promote interactive communication with the public and raise domestic awareness on Dokdo and East Sea issues. Survey results showed that 71.2% of the participants were generally satisfied with the briefing sessions.

Since 2018, MOFA has been convening town hall meetings to increase communication with the public on international legal affairs. The aim of the meetings is to provide updates on international law issues directly to researchers, students, and other stakeholders. In 2020, due the constraints caused by the COVID-19 pandemic,

MOFA was only able to hold one virtual meeting at Seoul National University.

Through the "International Law Communication" section of its website, MOFA has also been delivering a range of information about the trends of discussions on international law and related events in order to provide easy access to the latest information on developments in international law to policymakers, international law professionals, and the public. In 2020, 16 new posts were uploaded on the website including posts about the inspection on the King Sejong Station in the Antarctic, the results of the 18th session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and the fourth report on succession of States in respect of State responsibility by the Special Rapporteur of the International Law Commission.

VII

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Section 1 Pursuing Integrated and Creative Public Diplomacy

1 Pursuing Integrated Public Diplomacy

1.1 Strengthening Systematic Public Diplomacy

In 2020, COVID-19 posed an unprecedented challenge upon MOFA and other ministries in carrying out their public diplomacy programs. However, the government has turned this challenge into an opportunity to make Korea's public diplomacy more adaptive and future-oriented.

Above all, the central and local governments put their efforts into diversifying the contents of the public diplomacy programs to actively respond to the COVID-19 situation. Aspiring to overcome the pandemic together with the international community, various government agencies of Korea provided prevention materials such as masks and test kits for vulnerable countries, while sharing their experience of coping with the virus through webinars and online materials.

Faced with difficulties in organizing face-to-face public diplomacy events due to the pandemic, Korea has quickly turned to innovative methods of public diplomacy using digital technology. Digital public diplomacy has allowed people around the world to

easily access Korea's culture and policy with less constraints of time and space.

Inter-agency cooperation has also increased. For example, different ministries and relevant agencies jointly published an English compendium titled *All about Korea's Response to COVID-19* to introduce Korea's experience with fighting the virus. The Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs and MOFA collaborated to deliver one million masks to the foreign veterans of the Korean War in 22 countries.

On December 21, Second Vice-Minister Lee Tae-ho chaired the fourth annual meeting of the Public Diplomacy Committee online, which is a pan-governmental body mandated to coordinate public diplomacy programs. At this meeting, the participating ministries and local governments shared their achievements of and experience with conducting public diplomacy activities during the pandemic. The committee also selected exemplary cases among the public diplomacy projects carried out by the central and local governments as well as the diplomatic missions abroad to further strengthen Korea's capacity for public diplomacy. In addition, the committee endorsed the 2021 Comprehensive Action Plan and agreed to further strengthen coordination among relevant ministries, local governments, and private sector.

MOFA continued its efforts to increase the budget for public diplomacy. As a result, the annual budget for 2021 reached approximately ₩38.9 billion, a 23% increase from ₩31.5 billion in 2020.

1.2 Strengthening Cooperation in Public Diplomacy with Local Governments and the Private Sector

To help local governments increase their exchanges with foreign authorities, MOFA dispatched 18 of its officials to 17 local governments as Ambassadors for International Relations. MOFA also strengthened communication with local governments by participating in various consultation mechanisms between government agencies and local governments in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior and Safety.

By compiling and disseminating relevant information on disease control experiences

and know-how from local governments, MOFA assisted local governments to effectively exchange information on COVID-19 prevention measures with foreign authorities.

MOFA has been operating the Support Program for the Public Diplomacy of Non-Governmental Organizations, which aims to enhance the private sectors' engagement in public diplomacy activities and to expand the foundation of Korea's public diplomacy infrastructure. In 2020, the Ministry supported four non-governmental organizations; the Korea-Arab Society, Korean Council on Latin America & the Caribbean, 21st Century Korea-China Exchange Association, and Korea-China Association for Cultural Exchange. They organized and conducted various international exchange programs, such as the Korea-Middle East Film Festival, Korea-Latin America & the Caribbean Film Festival, Korea-China Film Festival, cultural events, lectures, business forums, and female leaders' forums. Such public diplomacy activities contributed to strengthening people-to-people and cultural exchanges between non-governmental organizations around the world.

1.3 Strengthening Public Diplomacy Capacity of Overseas Missions

In order to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of policy-based public diplomacy, MOFA has designated its missions in key regions as the bases for policy communications and operated a collaborative system for sharing public diplomacy information and contents with consulates-general in the area. In 2019, MOFA launched a pilot project by designating the Korean Embassy in the US as the first base, which was then expanded to China, Japan, and Russia in 2020.

After the Korean film *Parasite* won Academy Awards in 2020, four webinars on Expanding the Influence of Korean Culture in North America were organized in the US to tap the rapidly increasing interest in Korean culture. MOFA also hosted two webinars with the Korean-American Women in Science & Engineering (KWise) to build a network of female professionals working in the field of science and technology and

to create opportunities for networking and cooperation.

In China, a collaborative system among nine diplomatic missions, including the embassy, consulates-general, and branch offices, has been established as a foundation for a policy-based public diplomacy database. Among the outcomes of this system was the production of documentaries about corporate social responsibility projects of Korean companies in China.

In an effort to share good deeds done between Korea and Japan, the embassy and consulates-general in Japan have created an animated video entitled *Miracle on Children's Day* about a Korean child receiving treatment for leukemia with the help of the Japanese Embassy in India. Also, in celebration of the 100th anniversary of Korean films, the Korean Film Council's special program, *A Gift of 100 Years*, was translated into Japanese and promoted in Japan.

Diplomatic missions across Russia launched a joint YouTube channel to share Korea's experience and achievements in responding to COVID-19, as well as to promote the Stay Strong campaign which calls for international solidarity to overcome the pandemic. In addition, a variety of online content were produced and shared to mark the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Korea and Russia.

Since 2019, MOFA has been organizing annual meetings for public diplomacy officers at its overseas missions, categorized into geographical and cultural regions with similar public diplomacy environments, so as to enable in-depth discussion on ways to develop a tailored approach for effective public diplomacy activities. In 2020, a meeting was held for public diplomacy officers from 16 overseas missions in the Middle Eastern region (from June 16 to 17). At the meeting, the officers reached a common understanding that the current approach that relies on physical events requires change and shared ideas on more effective and tailored public diplomacy activities in the region amid the pandemic situation.

2 Pursuing Creative Public Diplomacy

2.1 Strengthening Contactless & Digital Public Diplomacy amidst the COVID-19 Situation

MOFA integrated and reorganized its public diplomacy social media channels under the name of KOREAZ in preparation for a new public diplomacy environment where face-to-face events are restricted due to COVID-19.

MOFA hosted several webinars such as the ROK-US Strategic Forum (June 24 to 26), the Korea-Europe Policy Network Meeting (Aug. 31 to Sept. 1), the MIKTA Academic Dialogue (Sept. 18), and the second ASEAN-ROK Think Tank Strategic Dialogue (Oct. 6). In 2020, to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Korean War, MOFA produced two documentary films titled *Enduring Partnership*, which shed new light on the ROK-US partnership, and *US-South Korea Relations* to showcase the bilateral relations between Korea and the US.

MOFA also launched the TRUST campaign to use momentum from Korea's exemplary response to COVID-19. It encouraged global solidarity and cooperation to combat COVID-19 by producing a video on K-quarantine in collaboration with global influencers that introduced Korea's advanced medical system and civic consciousness.

MOFA launched the Stay Strong global campaign aimed to support the global fight against COVID-19, contributing to building an international network as well as strengthening the sense of solidarity across the world. The Stay Strong campaign spread to 128 countries through the active participation of domestic and foreign celebrities, diplomatic missions in Korea, and related organizations, which received more than one million likes on social media. In addition, the campaign was covered more than 700 times in major media outlets and was listed in the Knowledge Encyclopedia of Naver, one of the major internet portal service providers in Korea.



The Stay Strong Campaign logo



Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha

2.2 Promoting Cultural and Public Diplomacy by Utilizing Abundant Attractive Assets

(1) Korea Week

MOFA hosts Korea Week every year, a series of comprehensive public diplomacy events introducing various political, economic, and cultural aspects of Korea to help the international community better understand Korea as well as to promote Korea's image as an advanced country. In 2020, despite difficult situations posed by the pandemic, approximately 100 diplomatic missions held Korea Week events both online and offline, featuring traditional art performances, exhibitions, lectures, film festivals, as well as K-Pop cover dances, which drew great attention from the local population.

For example, the Korean Embassy in Myanmar held an online Korean movie screening event with Myanmar language subtitles, attracting keen interest of the Myanmar people. The Consulate General in Saint Petersburg hosted the third Korea Festival consisting of 15 programs including the Korea-Russia Cultural Talk Show, which contributed to broadening the friendly sentiment between the people of Korea and Russia especially as the two countries celebrated the 30th anniversary of diplomatic ties. In addition, the Consulate General in Toronto held online programs for Korea Art Week, Korea Movie Week and K-Pop Night, in celebration of Korean Heritage Month in Ontario, which contributed to the promotion of various Korean culture.

(2) Commemorating the Establishment of Bilateral Relations and Important Diplomatic Events

MOFA has been organizing comprehensive public diplomacy events to commemorate the anniversaries of diplomatic relations with each country every 10 years as well as occasions of special diplomatic significance (such as the 10th anniversary of strategic partnership).

In 2020, although the COVID-19 outbreak restricted travel between countries and made it difficult to hold face-to-face events, more than 50 commemorative events in 20 countries (26 diplomatic missions) were held. By quickly converting the originally planned face-to-face events to non-contact ones and actively utilizing online platforms such as social media, various commemorative events were held. They included the production of documentaries and photo books, promotional events using well-known landmarks, such as the Czech Prague Castle and City Tram, Burj Khalifa Building, and Sydney Light Rail, and online exhibitions, which served as an opportunity to discover the significance of diplomatic ties and cooperative relationships between two countries. Also, on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Korean War in 2020, MOFA and other relevant government agencies collaborated to deliver one million masks to elderly Korean War veterans and their bereaved families who are vulnerable to the virus.

(3) Public Diplomacy for Foreigners Residing in Korea

MOFA has been operating a domestic-based public diplomacy project called Unboxing Korea to deepen the foreigners' understanding of Korea's history, tradition, society, values, and culture.

As part of this program, MOFA invited public diplomacy officers from 11 foreign embassies in Korea to the MOFA-Diplomatic Missions Meeting on Public Diplomacy (July 24) to take stock of the current status and share the prospects of public diplomacy in times of the pandemic. Also, as part of the Korea Tour, MOFA held eight online and offline special lecture series on Korea and five face-to-face cultural exchange events

for the diplomatic corps in Korea, employees of international organizations, and other foreigners living in Korea.

In addition, 20 foreign nationals living in Korea were selected as Korea Allimi honorary reporters to introduce to the international audience their daily lives in Korea, experience with Korean culture, and participation in the Unboxing Korea events through MOFA's official and their personal social media channels, so that in-depth, first-hand information about Korea is disseminated to the world in various languages and contents.



Opportunity to experience the Changdeokgung Palace Moonlight Tour (Oct. 29)



Visiting the SKT ICT Experience Center (Nov. 25)

(4) Visual Arts Exhibitions in Diplomatic Missions of Korea to Build a National Brand

MOFA enhanced the national brand of Korea and promoted the excellence of Korean culture by displaying artworks in its diplomatic missions across the world. In 2020, around 100 Korean diplomatic missions displayed Korean art pieces on their premises — 943 artworks rented from the Art Bank of the National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art and around 4,000 pieces of artwork owned by MOFA.

In major Korean embassies such as those in China and Japan, MOFA also launched special exhibitions to improve the visual environment of the embassy premises as well as to showcase the high-end art scene of Korea. In addition, as it became challenging to hold offline exhibitions due to the pandemic, MOFA organized a virtual

reality exhibition titled “Dream Believer” with the Korean Embassy in Berlin as a virtual backdrop.



Poster for Dream Believer Starting page of Dream Believer

(5) Strategic Cultural Exchange Promotion Program

MOFA organized the ASEAN Film Festival 2020 through online platforms from December 5 to 13 as part of the cooperation in the two-way cultural exchanges to promote cultural solidarity and exchanges between Korea and the ASEAN countries. Twenty movies from 10 ASEAN countries (two from each country) were screened and special talk shows were held with film directors and experts, which helped Korean citizens better understand the society, cultures, and movies of ASEAN countries.



ASEAN Film Festival 2020 Special Talk Program: Conversation on ASEAN – My Country, My Story (Dec. 5-13)

ASEAN Film Festival 2020 Special Talk Program: Road Ahead – ASEAN Film Industry (Dec. 5-13)

(6) Future Dialogue for Global Innovation

MOFA is annually hosting the global forum, Future Dialogue for Global Innovation,

as a follow-up to the 2019 ASEAN-ROK Culture Innovation Summit, which was a special event of the 2019 ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit. The forum is dedicated to seeking solutions with a cultural approach to major issues facing the international community. The 2020 forum was held both online and offline on November 16 under the theme of “Corona Divide: Beyond Border.” Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha, world-class scholars such as Professor Jared Mason Diamond and Professor Paul Krugman, and internationally renowned artists such as violist Richard Yongjae O’Neill and soprano Park Hye-sang participated in the forum as speakers. They diagnosed the deepening phenomenon of discrimination and hate caused by the spread of COVID-19 and shared their ideas for seeking cultural remedies for those challenges. The forum was broadcast live on the MOFA YouTube channel in real-time, after which the main contents of the forum were aired as two special episodes of tvN’s program *The Future Class*. The forum attracted much attention from the Korean and international audience when it was aired live, reaching 700,000 YouTube views.



Keynote speech by Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha (Nov. 16)

Conversation with Professor Jared Mason Diamond (Nov. 16)

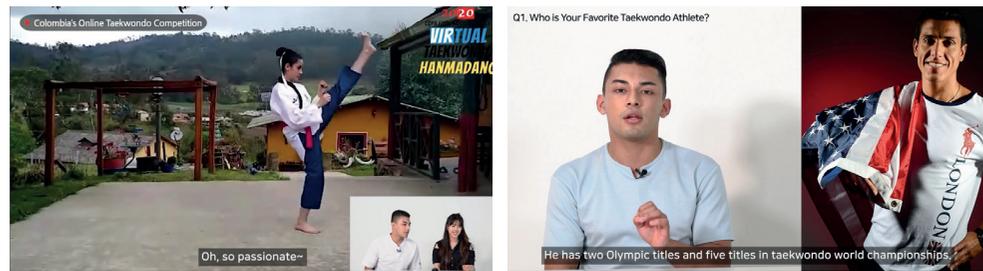
(7) Korea Contest Project

In 2020, Quiz on Korea was held in 17 Korean diplomatic missions across the world. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, however, it was not possible for the winners from each country to travel to Korea for the grand finale. Instead, special preliminary rounds and the grand finale were held for international students living in Korea. The grand finale took place with 18 winners of the preliminaries out of the 500 applicants

and was broadcast as a special Hangeul Day program on KBS 1TV and aired in over 100 countries through KBS World.

(8) Public Diplomacy in Sports

As part of sports public diplomacy, MOFA was planning to hold the Korean Ambassador’s and Consul-general’s Cup Taekwondo Championships at 114 of its diplomatic missions around the world. However, due to the spread of COVID-19, MOFA converted some of them to online competitions, and also created and distributed digital contents that introduced the charm of Taekwondo and Korea’s preventive measures in sports facilities during the pandemic.



Colombia’s online Taekwondo competition (June 10) Producing Taekwondo related videos and promoting them through social media channel

(9) Promoting K-Pop

Faced with the difficulty of organizing the K-Pop World Festival due to the COVID-19 situation, MOFA produced and distributed K-Pop content for people around the world to enjoy. These included a video clip on how the participants of the past K-Pop World Festivals were coping with COVID-19 and a video showing previous performances of various global teams with commentaries by K-Pop experts. These efforts enabled MOFA to continue public diplomacy programs using the Korean culture content despite challenges posed by the pandemic.



A video addressing how the participants of past K-Pop World Festivals were coping with COVID-19 A video showing previous performances of various global teams with commentaries by K-Pop experts

(10) Korean Audio Guide Services in Major Tourist Attractions Overseas

In 2020, MOFA launched Korean audio guide services in major tourist attractions of 14 countries in order to promote the international reputation of Korea as a culturally advanced country and to help Koreans enjoy the convenience of Korean service abroad.

Korean audio guide services launched in 2020

| Country | Tourist Attractions | Country | Tourist Attractions |
|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Russia | National Russian Museum, Dostoevskii Museum, Pushkin Museum, Sakhalin State Local Museum, Faberge Museum | Czech Republic | Prague Castle |
| | | US | National Gallery of Art, Boston Art Museum |
| | | Colombia | Golden Museum |
| Spain | FC Barcelona Museum | Latvia | National Art Museum |
| China | Museum of Qin Terracotta Warriors and Horses | Italy | Milan Cathedral, Colosseum |
| Viet Nam | Vietnamese Women’s Museum | Vatican | Vatican Museum |
| Myanmar | Yangon National Museum | Portugal | Lisbon & Portu City Tour Bus, Lisbon Story Center |
| Honduras | Maya Museum | Belgium | Belgium Royal Art Museum |



Lisbon City Tour Bus in Portugal

Korean audio guide in Milan Cathedral

2.3 Enhancing Awareness and Understanding of Korea through Knowledge and Public Diplomacy

(1) Promoting Overseas Korean Studies and Disseminating Korean Language

Through the Korea Foundation (KF), a government-affiliated organization, MOFA has helped establish 145 professorships at 96 universities in 17 countries since 1992 and supported 7,836 professors and students majoring in Korean studies abroad. In 2020, the KF helped establish new professorships at 24 universities in 10 countries and dispatched visiting professors to 79 universities in 49 countries. The KF also provided Korean studies courses at 113 universities in 39 countries under the KF Global e-School Program which provides real-time online lectures on Korean studies between Korean universities and foreign universities.

With the objective of fostering foreign experts on Korea, the KF provided scholarships for 176 graduate students majoring in Korean studies at 50 universities in 18 countries and fellowships for postdoctoral research for 14 rising Korean studies scholars from six countries. Furthermore, the KF operated a three-month Korean language and culture program for 28 diplomats from 28 countries to enhance their knowledge and expertise on Korea. Similarly, the KF provided fellowships to 25 public officials from 10 Southeast Asian countries, laying the groundwork for creating a network of foreign officials with advanced knowledge on Korea.

(2) The Korea Corner

In 2020, the Korean government newly opened Korea Corners at 14 education institutions in 13 countries, including the UAE, Jordan, Greece, and Latvia, through the KF. A total of 98 Korea Corners are currently in operation in 67 countries to provide a multi-sensory experience of Korean culture and promote Korea to people around the world. The Korean government also distributed 8,150 research materials to support the education and research activities on Korea and assisted with the payment of the subscription/user fees required to access online Korean Studies resources at 51 institutions in 16 countries.

(3) Support for International Exchange and Cooperation in Education and Academic Fields

In 2020, the Korean government awarded Global Korea Scholarships to 1,320 undergraduates and graduates from 134 countries. To achieve global cooperation in education, MOFA continued supporting the signing of MOUs between the Ministry of Education of Korea and other foreign education ministries. In 2020, MOFA assisted the signing of MOUs with Belarus, Indonesia, and Malaysia.

2.4 Promoting Understanding and Communication through Policy-based Public Diplomacy

MOFA conducted policy-based public diplomacy activities by spreading policy messages tailored to each region and strengthening the policy-based public diplomacy platform. In addition, the target group of policy-based public diplomacy has been expanded to include experts, journalists, younger generation of new experts, and foreigners residing in Korea.

(1) Tailored Approach to Policy-based Public Diplomacy

① US

MOFA carried out activities to enhance Korea's image by expanding the support base for the ROK-US alliance and promoting deeper understanding of Korea in the US even when people-to-people exchanges and communication were severely limited due to the global spread of COVID-19.

In 2020, to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Korean War, a documentary film was aired to shed new light on the ROK-US partnership. The documentary *Enduring Partnership: South Korea-US Relationship* showcased how the bilateral relations between Korea and the US have evolved from a traditional security alliance to a more comprehensive one that encompasses the economic, cultural, health, and other fields. The video-clip *South Korea*, produced in collaboration with the US Foreign Policy Association, introduced Korea's economic development and the potential of Korean culture through interviews with key figures who contributed to the development of bilateral relations, such as former NSC advisor John Bolton and former US ambassadors to Korea Mark Lippert and Kathleen Stephens (currently the director of the Korea-US Economic Research Institute).

MOFA also held several webinars to explore the prospect of bilateral cooperation after the US presidential election. At the webinar titled *The Biden Transition and Prospect for ROK-US Cooperation*, held on December 10, experts from both countries discussed the new US administration's policy toward North Korea and measures to strengthen cooperation in traditional and non-traditional security areas between Korea and the US. At another policy webinar held on December 17, with the younger Korean-American generation, participants discussed how the change in Korea's status impacted the Korean-American society in the United States. MOFA and the Korea-US Political Science Association co-hosted the joint academic forum on socio-political impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on democracy and international cooperation. It had contributed to enriching the network among academic organizations and to diversifying thematic areas of policy communications between Korea and the US.



Discussion with the younger Korean-American generation
(Dec. 17)



Webinar: The Biden Transition and Prospect for ROK-US
Cooperation (Dec. 10)

② China

On December 8, MOFA held the Eighth Korea-China Public Diplomacy Forum through video conference to strengthen policy network and broaden the scope of public diplomacy between the two countries. This forum was co-hosted by the foreign ministries of Korea and China, with the participation of the KF and the China Public Diplomacy Association. In this forum, speakers from various areas such as government, academia, and media participated and discussed ways to foster comprehensive cooperation and exchange between the two countries in the post COVID-19 era.

On October 15, MOFA also held the Eighth ROK-China Research Forum on Public Diplomacy with Sungkyun Institute of China Studies and the School of International and Public Affairs at Jilin University. In addition, on November 12, MOFA hosted the Second KOREA-China Think Tank Dialogue with Sejong Institute and China Foundation for International and Strategic Studies. By hosting these forums, MOFA

explored ways to expand and vitalize the platform of two-way public diplomacy between Korea and China. In China, Korean diplomatic missions conducted the Outreach Policy Briefing in China Program for undergraduate students and the younger generation in China, which involved forums and lectures to increase the understanding of Korea's major policies and discuss issues of cooperation between the two countries.



8th Korea-China Public Diplomacy Forum (Dec. 8)

③ Japan

MOFA made various efforts to lay the foundation for friendly and cooperative relations between Korea and Japan by promoting grassroots exchanges. The Introducing My Korean/Japanese Friends and Neighbors Story Contest was held for the first time in 2020 to discover and spread stories of friendship



Awards ceremony for Introducing My Korean/Japanese Friends and Neighbors Story Contest at MOFA (Nov. 5)

and exchanges between ordinary people of both countries who contributed to the development of the friendship between the two countries. The seminar with experts and journalists on the ROK-Japan relations, held on October 17, discussed the direction for the future-oriented development of the bilateral relations. The Korean missions in Japan jointly organized the Future Forums with Korea and Japan, and provided venues for experts from both countries to explore ways to address common challenges facing Korea and Japan such as the Fourth Industrial Revolution and urban regeneration.

④ Russia

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties

between Korea and Russia, MOFA carried out various locally-tailored policy-based public diplomacy projects amidst the COVID-19 situation. First, a policy research project was conducted on the measures to strengthen policy-based public diplomacy for Russia in order to analyze Russia's public diplomacy environment and to lay the foundation for policy direction and tailored strategies of Korea's public diplomacy. The Korean Embassy in Russia held the Digital Contents Contest for Peaceful Unification of the Korean Peninsula to enhance awareness and understanding of the Korean Peninsula situation in Russia. For the contest, Russian university students were invited to create digital contents about the Korean Peninsula, its unification, and other Korean Peninsula issues. Due to the pandemic situation, the Korea-Russia Joint Seminar commemorating the 120th anniversary of the establishment of the Korean Department at the Far Eastern Federal University, which was originally planned by the Consulate General in Vladivostok to celebrate the 30th anniversary of diplomatic ties between Korea and Russia, was converted into a contactless project involving documentary production and broadcast.

⑤ Europe

MOFA organized the First Korea-Europe Think Tank Policy Dialogue, a platform for policy dialogue at the private level, with major policy research institutes in Europe. For example, the German State Research Institute (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik), together with Sejong Institute, hosted a seminar entitled Policy Dialogue for Mutual Understanding and Trust between Korea and Europe: Peace and Co-Prosperity on the Korean Peninsula. From the European side, nine think tanks, including Sweden's Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, UK's Chatham House, and France's Sciences Po (Paris University of Political Science), participated in the seminar. Ideas and views were exchanged on denuclearization and non-proliferation of the Korean Peninsula, sustainable North Korea policies, and cooperation between Korea and Europe for international peace and prosperity in the era of US-China strategic competition.

⑥ ASEAN

MOFA co-hosted the Second ASEAN-ROK Think Tank Strategic Dialogue with the ASEAN Institutes of Strategic and International Studies that represents 10 ASEAN member countries. Due to the COVID-19 situation, the dialogue was held both online and offline, connecting the meeting rooms in Seoul and Hanoi. The participants engaged in in-depth discussions on the way forward for the Korean government's New Southern Policy and ways to increase cooperation between Korea and ASEAN. Furthermore, MOFA helped overseas missions in ASEAN countries organize seminars on Korean Peninsula issues to enhance understanding on, raise awareness of, and promote support for Korea's foreign policy.



2nd ASEAN-ROK Think Tank Strategic Dialogue (Oct. 6)

(2) Diversifying Policy-based Public Diplomacy

MOFA continued efforts to expand its diplomatic realm by diversifying its policy-based public diplomacy target regions. In order to deepen the understanding of Korea's foreign policy by international students, MOFA held D-Talks and Junior Scholar Fellowship events. Under the COVID-19 situation, D-Talks switched to an online live event broadcast live through social media, and two sessions were held (Oct. 15 & Dec. 18) respectively on the topic of South Korea's global and middle-power diplomacy in the time of COVID-19 and the Fourth Industrial Revolution and the future of human rights.

On September 18, as part of the diversification efforts, the MIKTA Academic Dialogue webinar was held on the occasion of Korea's assumption of the Seventh MIKTA Chairmanship. The meeting was attended by key experts and officials from MIKTA member states, who discussed the significance of MIKTA in the international

order of the post-pandemic era, as well as ways for cooperation to strengthen multilateralism and global health security.



Junior Scholar Fellowship (June 25)



MIKTA Academic Dialogue (Sept. 18)

3 Strengthening Partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

MOFA strived to build a mutually beneficial partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the largest UN-specialized body in education, science, and culture.

Korea is one of the key contributors to UNESCO among the 193 member states, paying the 10th largest share of the regular budget as well as voluntary contribution fund as of 2020. As a member of the UNESCO Executive Board and about 10 intergovernmental commissions and committees within the Organization, Korea actively participates in major discussions and decision-making processes of the UNESCO programs, and administrative and financial matters.

To further promote Korea's position as a key contributor, MOFA hosted the 10th annual review meeting on ROK-UNESCO Funds-in-Trust on January 16 and 17 and a domestic donor agencies meeting on November 5 to discuss 40 Funds-in-Trust

projects worth approximately \$60 million in total.

The Korean government launched various commemoration projects as the year 2020 marks the 70th anniversary of Korea's accession to UNESCO. For example, it held a special exhibition at the National Museum of Korean Contemporary History and promoted through special TV programs such as KBS's *Documentary World* and *Open Concert*. It also organized social media events and virtual reality programs for the people to enjoy and experience the World Heritage.

In 2020, the Lotus Lantern Festival, *Yeondeunghoe*, was inscribed as the 21st UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Korea and the Hantan River area was designated as a UNESCO Global Geopark, all of which contributed to promoting Korea's unique cultural and natural assets to the broader public in Korea and abroad.

MOFA has led the process of establishing the Group of Friends for Solidarity and Inclusion with Global Citizenship Education (GCED) in UNESCO which aims to promote dialogue to cope with hate and discrimination provoked by COVID-19. On the occasion of the 211th session of the Executive Board, Korea, as Chair of the Group, played a leading role in adopting the Global Call against Racism on December 7, which calls for international solidarity and underlines the importance of GCED in the fight against discrimination, stigmatization, and xenophobia.

Meanwhile, MOFA co-hosted the Fifth International Conference on the Global Citizenship Education from November 3 to 5, and facilitated discussions on the pandemic situation from the perspective of the GCED and presented alternative visions for education in the current global crisis. Furthermore, MOFA highlighted the importance of comprehensive and inclusive heritage interpretation during the 2020 International Conference on UNESCO World Heritage Interpretation under the theme of "Rights-based Approaches in Heritage Interpretation." This conference served as an opportunity to discuss the protection and promotion of human rights through World Heritage.



A special exhibition in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of Korea's accession to UNESCO at the National Museum of Korean Contemporary History (July 15–Sept. 15)



Virtual reality program to experience the World Heritage

Section 2 Enhancing Participatory Diplomacy

1 Introduction

MOFA has been practicing participatory diplomacy to realize diplomacy centered on people and national interest by strengthening communication with the public, gathering opinions from the public, and promoting public participation in the process of making and implementing foreign policies. As the demand for public participation in government policies has increased due to the maturity of democracy and the development of communication technologies in Korea, policy efforts have become necessary to strengthen interactive communication with people in the diplomatic sector and promote public participation in the foreign policy-making process. To fulfill this need, MOFA has been making various efforts to establish a participatory diplomacy system.

2 Increasing Public Participation

MOFA made efforts to realize “diplomacy together with the people” by collecting opinions from the public and increasing public participation in developing and implementing Korea’s foreign policy.

MOFA held the 2020 Open Contest for Foreign Policy Recommendations in May. A total of 118 policy recommendations were reviewed and eight recommendations were accepted. The policy recommendation that won the grand prize was reflected in MOFA’s actual public diplomacy policy, which led to the integration of various existing social media channels of the Public Diplomacy and Culture Affairs Bureau into one single channel, KOREAZ.

Public Participation Project refers to efforts to specifically realize public participation in the process of making and implementing foreign policies on an issue or topic that is closely related to the public’s lives. The project is not about unidirectional promotion of foreign policy, but pursues listening to and collecting public opinions. The 2020 Public Participation Project was conducted online through a video conference platform due to the COVID-19 situation under the theme of “Direction of Diplomatic Response to Climate and Environmental Problems Related to the P4G Summit.” In December, MOFA chose 229 citizens with a wide range of regional, gender, and age backgrounds to participate in online orientation and discussion sessions. They listened to experts’ presentations on key issues such as the direction of P4G partnerships and the role of summit meetings and future environment diplomacy. In the process, the participants expressed opinions that Korea’s international status in relations to the global environmental problems should be further enhanced, that MOFA should make utmost efforts to solve air pollution and climate change among other environmental problems, and that cooperation with the international community, especially the UN and states surrounding the Korean Peninsula, is important to solve environmental problems. Such public opinions will be reviewed for future foreign policies on global climate and environmental issues.



Award ceremony of the 2020 Open Contest for Foreign Policy Recommendations (July 27)



2020 Public Participation Project (Dec.)

In July, MOFA formed a Participatory Diplomacy Design Group that consisted of 40 people who are interested in communication with the public in the process of making and implementing foreign policy. MOFA doubled the number of the group members compared to 2019 to collect and reflect broader public opinion. The members themselves organized and conducted online events to promote participatory diplomacy even amid the COVID-19 situation.

MOFA also published stories of people who returned home from abroad with the help of the Korean government. This publication tells stories of many Koreans who were abroad for various reasons such as business trips, traveling, overseas studies, and volunteer services but returned to Korea due to the spread of the pandemic as well as Koreans whose safe return was supported by the government. The book contains 79 stories of returning home from 38 countries, and four of them were recreated as videos and posted on YouTube for more people to watch. The Participatory Diplomacy Design Group suggested ideas on the storybook's design and editing and also took part in the creation of the videos.



Stories of People Who Returned to Korea



Video of Koreans returning from Uzbekistan

3 Establishing a Participatory Diplomacy Platform

In 2020, MOFA Korea National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA) reclaimed the Center for Participatory Diplomacy that was entrusted to the private sector in 1996, and established the concept of the Korea Diplomacy Center as a way to effectively utilize the Center for Participatory Diplomacy. The Center for Participatory Diplomacy is a new form of open national platform that is centered on the Korea Diplomacy Center and mutually connects the KNDA and Diplomatic Archives in an organic and functional way. This platform not only provides consular services, but also various functions of MOFA that serve to communicate with the people. The Korea Diplomacy Center was launched on October 19, in commemoration of which the Chancellor of the KNDA gave a lecture and an opportunity to talk with the diplomats was offered.

The Center for Participatory Diplomacy includes education, training, and research of the KNDA, and the organization and education of diplomatic history of the Diplomatic Archives. This center will be used as an open platform that represents participatory and public diplomacy. Furthermore, starting in 2021, the Korea Diplomacy Center is planning to operate a Public Academy for Diplomacy that expands extra-institutional education and participatory diplomacy.



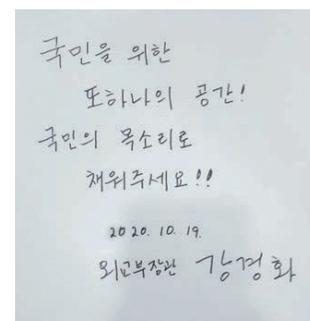
Launching ceremony for the Korea Diplomacy Center (Oct. 19)



Chancellor of the Korea National Diplomatic Academy's lecture (Oct. 19)

4 Strengthening Communication with the People

MOFA actively made efforts to facilitate communication with the general public. Since the opening of the Center for Participatory Diplomacy at MOFA in May 2018, it has held various diplomatic communication and participation events. MOFA heard the public's call for additional, more accessible space for communication, and thus opened the second center for Participatory Diplomacy in the Korea Diplomacy Center on October 19, increasing accessibility and enhancing public convenience. Other government ministries, public institutions and non-profit private organizations can use the second center as a public communication venue, if certain conditions are met. MOFA will continue to organize various events to gather public opinions using the centers. In 2020, despite the difficulties of the pandemic situation, both centers held 86 various events online and offline, and



Minister's congratulatory message for the opening of the second Center for Participatory Diplomacy

about 2,300 people attended the events.

MOFA held 10 open communicative programs at the Center for Participatory Diplomacy, in which it explained major foreign policies, pending issues, and trends, communicated with the people, and collected the people's opinions. MOFA also visited five universities — Korea University, Sogang University, Kyung Hee University, Busan University of Foreign Studies, and Sookmyung Women's University — and communicated with the students and people. During the Free Speech session, participants expressed their opinions on diplomacy.

In addition, MOFA collaborated with a lifelong education institute affiliated with the Seoul Metropolitan Government to hold the Open Campus for Participatory Diplomacy. The program provided information on diplomacy and field trips to foreign embassies in Korea and gathered opinions on foreign policy. In 2020, it held four online and offline sessions in Switzerland, Russia, Egypt, and Malaysia.

MOFA held the Participatory Diplomacy Forum under the theme of "The Path for Participatory Diplomacy and Public Diplomacy in the Post-Corona Era." Participants proposed diversifying participatory diplomacy contents such as creating videos and posting them on social media so that more people can enjoy them and they can be useful to people's everyday lives.

MOFA's Participatory Diplomacy mobile app, which was launched in 2019 and downloaded 103,000 times as of December 2020, contributes to further strengthening communication with the public. Any Korean citizen can always suggest opinions on foreign policy and receive various materials and information on diplomacy through the various functions of the app.

Section 3 Consolidating the Public's Support for Foreign Policy

1 Overview

MOFA continued its efforts to enhance the public's understanding of its key foreign policies and related events and secure public support. As part of such efforts, MOFA actively carried out promotion campaigns on social media as well as public outreach programs, including Visit MOFA (contact, contactless), Visit Schools, and Friends of MOFA programs, amid the spread of COVID-19. Also, MOFA carried out special, multi-channel promotion campaigns on diplomatic issues and projects that are closely related to people's lives, and sought to effectively communicate with the public on these issues.

Furthermore, MOFA stepped up its promotion activities targeting the media to effectively inform the public about key foreign policies and to show its commitment to implementing these policies. Korea's overseas missions also made efforts to enhance the understanding of Korea's foreign policy among media outlets of their host countries, which led to positive and favorable reports on Korea.

2 Outreach through Online Platforms

MOFA actively utilized various digital media platforms, such as YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, to strengthen real-time communication with the public. MOFA worked to enhance the public's understanding of foreign policies by creating and distributing online content, including infographics and video clips, and by holding quiz events on important issues such as summit meetings, safe overseas travel, and job opportunities in international organizations.

MOFA launched Live MOFA in September 2012 to increase interaction with the public, and a total of 137 episodes were aired as of December 2020. Live MOFA serves as a means for mutual communication between MOFA and the public through live shows about key diplomatic issues or topics of interest. The number of viewers has gradually increased since the launch of this service nine years ago, and in 2020, an average of 60,478 viewers watched the eight episodes broadcasted throughout the year. The episode titled "*UNGA75 Virtual High-level Side Event: Protraction of the COVID-19 Crisis*," in particular, recorded more than 400,000 views. As seen in these numbers, MOFA's diversified efforts to strengthen communication via digital media succeeded in raising public interest and increasing the number of its subscribers.

As of 2020, there are about 380 websites managed by MOFA and its diplomatic missions. The Korean- and Vietnamese-language websites of the Consulate General of Korea in Da Nang have been launched. In the midst of the COVID-19 situation, MOFA has focused on stably managing the websites of the overseas diplomatic missions that provide the latest information on safe overseas travel.

MOFA provides overseas missions with various types of content on Korea's foreign policy priorities and Korean culture so that they can upload the content on their social media accounts and attract more subscribers. MOFA also provides design platforms to help diplomatic missions create content that meet the needs of their local communities.

Moreover, MOFA runs an online platform for children and teenagers as well as a

policy blog called MOFA-rang, which provides news and information on domestic and foreign affairs in a way that intrigues the interest of young people. In addition to the blog, MOFA also has a separate MOFA-rang account on Instagram and YouTube to strengthen communication with young people and college students.

3 Public Outreach Programs and Special Public Relations Campaigns

MOFA conducted a variety of public outreach programs to promote its policies to the public.

MOFA holds the Visit MOFA event every month for elementary, middle, and high school students as well as college students and adults interested in seeing what diplomats do. In addition, diplomats visit middle and high schools and speak to students about Korea's foreign policy through MOFA's Visit Schools program. In 2020, however, under the COVID-19 guideline proposed by the government, the Visit MOFA program was only held twice in January (with 120 participants) and has been on hold ever since. The Visit Schools program was also suspended. MOFA plans to hold these programs in a virtual format.

MOFA also works with Friends of MOFA, a group of college student supporters, to promote Korea's foreign policy from the creative perspectives of the younger generation. Together with Friends of MOFA, MOFA held the Diplomatic Talk Talk talk show covering a range of topics in international relations that were of interest to college students.

Since 2011, MOFA has conducted special public relations campaigns on a few selected diplomatic issues and projects that require nation-wide promotion. In 2019, MOFA continued its promotion campaign called "Jigucheongnyeon" that began in 2017 to provide information about overseas training programs run by MOFA and its

affiliates to young people seeking career opportunities abroad. MOFA also produced various types of content and used them to enhance the public understanding on its Korea Diplomacy Center, launched in October 2020, incorporating the Korea National Diplomatic Academy, the Diplomatic Archives, and the Diplomatic Center.



MOFA Supporters

Jigucheongnyeon Webtoon

Korea Diplomacy Center

MOFA's major public relations activities in 2020

| Category | Key Activity |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Social media | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube content in Korean and English Provided real-time information in various forms Conducted interactive communication with the public |
| Online Promotion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uploaded reports, videos, and photos on various diplomatic events, global issues, and topics in international relations that were of interest to college students Posted articles written by college student reporters (Friends of MOFA) Adopted a full-scale card news production method according to the mobile-first strategy |
| Website | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A total of 389 websites are run by MOFA and its overseas diplomatic missions. Official website: one in Korean, one in English Overseas missions' websites: 185 in Korean, 87 in English, and 114 in other foreign languages Website for children and teenagers |
| Newsletter/ Policy e-mail | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sent 54 newsletters and policy e-mails |

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Public Outreach Program | Visit MOFA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Held a total of two sessions for 120 participants Suspended after two sessions in January |
| | Visit Schools | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temporarily suspended due to COVID-19 |
| | Friends of MOFA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruited on a biannual basis (a total of 50 people from home and abroad) Diplomatic Talk Talk - suspended due to COVID-19 |
| Special Public Relations Campaign | Campaign for Jigucheongnyeon | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducted active online promotion instead of offline due to COVID-19 Delivered information through webtoons and stories of former participants Conducted video interviews with former participants Carried out various types of online and offline promotion activities including advertisements and card news clips |
| | Korea Diplomacy Center | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opened an Instagram account (@mofa_youth) Various online and offline promotion events including card news clips and short videos about the newly launched Korea Diplomacy Center Promotional events encouraging public participation, including online surveys and quiz events |

4 Strengthening Relations with Domestic and Foreign Press

In 2020, MOFA conducted 38 ministerial and vice ministerial briefings to promote and explain to the public the government's policies and meeting outcomes, such as the government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the safety and security of overseas Koreans, and the results of the negotiation on defense-cost sharing between Korea and the US.

Additionally, MOFA held 58 policy background briefings and brown bag seminars to give more details and hold Q&As about key diplomatic issues that drew interest from the media, such as the North Korean nuclear issue, the protection of overseas Korean nationals during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Biden administration's policy toward the Korean Peninsula.

MOFA held ministerial, vice ministerial, as well as daily background briefings to respond to the public concern about the COVID-19 pandemic and to swiftly provide relevant information to the media. MOFA also continued efforts to provide convenience to the public by conducting on-camera and background briefings related to the Korea-China, Korea-Japan and Korea-Viet Nam fast track and other special entry procedures.



Foreign minister's press briefing



Spokesperson's press briefing

MOFA also utilized various means to strengthen its communication with journalists and the public, such as 148 briefings by the spokesperson and the deputy spokesperson, 41 roundtable meetings with journalists, 43 cases of providing support for coverage of major diplomatic events, 237 press interviews and contribution articles, 889 press releases, and 796 press guidance notices.

In addition, MOFA strived to communicate closely with foreign media even in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, actively explaining the Korean government's views and positions on major diplomatic issues to secure broad support for Korea's foreign policy. MOFA effectively shared Korea's foreign policy with foreign press outlets and enhanced the image of Korea through various means, such as 13 foreign press interviews and contribution articles; 105 foreign press briefings by key officials of MOFA including the minister and the vice ministers as well as nine roundtable meetings between them and foreign journalists; and 292 interviews and 109 contribution articles by heads of overseas diplomatic missions of Korea as well as 109 conferences between them and media outlets of their host countries.

Foreign Minister's Interviews with Foreign Press



| | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| BBC <i>Andrew Marr Show</i> (Mar. 15) | France24 <i>The Interview</i> (Apr. 13) | Deutsche Welle <i>Conflict Zone</i> (May 14) | ABC <i>News Live Prime</i> (May 22) | CNN <i>Amanpour</i> (Dec. 17) |
| 2.22M views on YouTube | 170K views on YouTube | 530K views on YouTube | 840K views on YouTube | 150K views on YouTube |

Section 4 Protecting Overseas Korean Nationals and Promoting Their Rights

1 Measures to Protect Overseas Korean Nationals

MOFA has put in place various systems to prevent Korean nationals from being involved in incidents or accidents during their stay in foreign countries and to promptly respond to emergencies. In particular, the enactment of the Act on Consular Assistance of Protecting Overseas Korean Nationals laid the institutional foundation to provide more systemic and concrete consular assistance. In 2020, when overseas incidents and accidents such as the missing of Korean nationals in Annapurna, Nepal and the kidnapping of Korean nationals in the Gulf of Guinea occurred, MOFA made efforts to promptly deal with the situation and provide active consular assistance.

1.1 Establishing Institutional Framework for Enhanced Services for the Protection of Overseas Korean Nationals

(1) Enactment and Implementation of the Act on Consular Assistance of Protecting Overseas Korean Nationals

The Act on Consular Assistance of Protecting Overseas Korean Nationals was

enacted on January 15, 2019. Ahead of its enforcement on January 16, 2021, MOFA worked for two years to enact the subordinate legislation of the act, including enforcement ordinances and enforcement rules.

The enforcement of the new act holds significance in that it enables overseas missions to provide consular assistance in a systematic and integrated manner. It lays the legal groundwork for consular assistance by stipulating detailed matters pertaining to the protection of overseas Korean nationals, which is the government's constitutional obligation and one of its top priorities.

The Act on Consular Assistance of Protecting Overseas Korean Nationals¹⁾ specifies what types of consular assistance are provided under six different categories: criminal procedure, criminal damage, death, minors and patients, disappearances, and emergencies. Overseas Korean nationals can refer to the act to learn at a glance about the range of consular assistance offered by the government in a certain type of situation.

In particular, the Travel Advisory System, emergency financial assistance, the operation of government charter flights, the Rapid Overseas Remittance Service, and other various consular services are provided in the law in detail, allowing for a stable provision of consular assistance.

Based on the new act, MOFA will continue to make every effort to provide improved consular assistance to safeguard the lives of overseas Korean nationals, ensure their physical safety, and protect their property.

(2) Expansion of Workforce for Monitoring and Managing Overseas Crises

With the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, a growing number of new types of incidents, accidents, and consular affairs emerged in 2020, requiring a higher degree of government assistance. In response, MOFA employed four more staff members for

1) Full information on the Consular Assistance Act is available on the Overseas Safe Travel website of MOFA (www.0404.go.kr).

its Crisis Management Division to deal with a variety of crises, incidents, and accidents even at nights and on weekends. In addition, the division introduced a four-shift schedule to replace its three-shift schedule to strengthen its 24-hour monitoring and response system.

(3) Increase in Personnel in Charge of Incidents and Accidents and the Budget for the Protection of Korean Nationals

As part of its efforts to provide better on-site services, MOFA appointed 15 new consular officers in charge of overseas incidents and accidents in 2020 and plans to recruit eight more consular officers in 2021.

For 2021, ₩13.9 billion has been allocated as the budget for the protection of Korean nationals. MOFA plans to provide information on safety overseas more actively, improve its preventive measures and response system against overseas incidents and accidents, strengthen capabilities in offering consular assistance, and enhance the counselling capacity of its Consular Call Center.

1.2 Preventive Measures to Protect Korean Nationals Abroad

(1) Provision of Safety Information

The key to protecting Korean travelers from incidents and accidents abroad is to help them increase their level of safety awareness so that they do not place themselves in danger. Providing travelers with essential information about safe traveling and emergency instructions is one of the most effective measures to minimize incidents and accidents abroad.

In this context, MOFA continued its efforts to provide travelers with essential information related to travel safety through various media channels. First, MOFA uses its travel safety website (www.0404.go.kr) to provide travel advice and safety information about other countries in a timely manner and to introduce safety measures to prevent the most common types of accidents. MOFA also sends text messages to

those who use mobile roaming to provide country-specific safety information as soon as they arrive in foreign countries.

In addition, MOFA launched a new mobile application called Toll-free Consular Call Center and a KakaoTalk help desk service to provide more convenient and contactless service channels. MOFA promoted such new channels via its social media pages including Facebook and Instagram and created a Youtube video on the services.

Furthermore, MOFA provided safety information via television and radio programs such as YTN's *Safe Travel Information*, KBS's *World Radio*, and an article in Kukmin Ilbo.

(2) Travel Advisory System

MOFA introduced a four-step Travel Advisory System in 2004 to categorize countries and regions according to their level of risk and legislated operation guidelines for the Travel Advisory System in March 2020 for its systematic management.

Each of the system's color-coded level indicates a different advisory status. Blue indicates that travelers should exercise precaution, yellow calls for high caution, red recommends cancellation of travel plans, and black prohibits travel. MOFA has also been using a short-term alert system, together with the Travel Advisory System, to issue special recommendation for cancellation.

To ensure the safety of Korean nationals abroad, MOFA adjusts the alert levels of the Travel Advisory System twice a year based on its analysis of the situations of countries and regions and other factors such as potential threats, terrorism, public security conditions, and infectious disease outbreaks and issues on-demand updates whenever changes occur. On March 23, 2020, MOFA issued the special recommendation for cancellation alert to all overseas countries and regions due to the spread of COVID-19. Since then, MOFA has made 20 on-demand updates.

(3) Travel Bans

The Passport Act, which was revised in 2007, states that MOFA may suspend visits to or sojourns in any specific country or region if deemed necessary in order to protect

the lives, physical safety, and property of Korean people against dangerous local situations such as natural disasters, wars, internal conflicts, revolts, and/or terrorism. As of July 2020, travel to six countries — Somalia, Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, and Libya — and some regions in the Philippines including Zamboanga, Sulu Archipelago, Basilan, and Tawi-tawi remain prohibited. Korean nationals who wish to visit or stay in such countries or regions must obtain special permission, and those who fail to do so may be subject to prosecution.

1.3 Accident Response System to Protect Korean Nationals Abroad

(1) Operation of the Crisis Management Division

Established in May 2018, the Crisis Management Division operates in a shift-based system to provide 24/7 response to overseas incidents and accidents. The division enables MOFA to better perform its function as a control tower for initial response to overseas incidents and accidents by providing real-time instructions to overseas missions and prompt consular assistance to Korean nationals, mobilizing all possible means through systematic cooperation with related organizations, and helping to find someone to reach on behalf of victims.

In 2020, the Crisis Management Division took prompt action in response to a number of cases, including the disappearance of Korean nationals in Annapurna, Nepal in January; the eruption of Taal Volcano in the Philippines in January; the sinking of the ship *Lim Discoverer* in March; the kidnapping of a Korean national in Gabonese waters in May; the kidnapping of five Korean nationals in Beninese waters in June; the kidnapping of two Korean nationals in Togolese waters in August.

(2) Consular Call Center

The Consular Call Center acts as a hub of initial response to disasters, diseases, and accidents that happen abroad. It also provides 24/7 counseling services on consular affairs such as passports or consular confirmation, among others. It also offers

other various services in case of emergency, including interpretation, rapid overseas remittance, text messaging to travelers who use mobile roaming services, and safety information notification.

The demand for the services of the Consular Call Center has increased by more than five times compared to 2005 when the call center opened, and the average number of incoming calls over the past four years stands at 250,000 per year. In 2020, the call center received 99,000 incoming calls for inquiries related to COVID-19. It contributed to ensuring safe stay abroad and return to Korea by actively helping those confused by the constantly changing immigration and preventive measures of foreign countries amid the prolonged pandemic situation.

In addition, the Consular Call Center provided upgraded services in 2020. It developed a mobile application through which Korean nationals abroad can reach a toll-free service line with no charges incurred on international calls, and it launched a KakaoTalk help desk to start providing text counseling services to increase accessibility.

(3) Rapid Deployment Team

In order to quickly and effectively respond to overseas crises, MOFA dispatches the Rapid Deployment Team consisting of experts from MOFA headquarters in Seoul and/or from Korea's overseas missions located close to the place where the incident occurred.

In 2020, MOFA dispatched the Rapid Deployment Team a total of 14 times to deal with large-scale overseas incidents and protect Korean people: once in January for the missing Korean people in Mt. Annapurna, Nepal; once in September for the kidnapped Korean people in Togo; and 12 times throughout January to August for the repatriation of overseas Korean nationals and their release from quarantine in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak.

In order to maintain a robust response posture and ensure swift response to incidents and accidents, MOFA conducted three training sessions: a joint training session and safety meeting with Korean communities in Jordan in January, an

emergency call-up training for those to be dispatched as Rapid Deployment Team, and a joint online simulation training session with the Korean consulate general in Fukuoka in December.

(4) Regional Conferences of Consuls

In 2020, MOFA held five rounds of regional conferences for Korean consuls working in the Middle East in January; in Southeast Asia in February; in Central and South America in October; and in North America and Europe in November. The conferences were held virtually due to COVID-19, and they served as an opportunity to strengthen the capabilities of consuls through the sharing of experience and best practices of overseas missions and increasing the officers' understanding of MOFA headquarters' policies and systems for the protection of overseas Koreans.

(5) Consular Assistants

Since March 2007, MOFA has appointed consular assistants for remote areas with no Korean consular offices to take prompt initial action on behalf of consuls when incidents or accidents occur in these areas. The number of consular assistants has grown year by year, and as of December 2020, MOFA has 173 consular assistants working to provide more swift and effective initial response to incidents and accidents around the world.

(6) Rapid Overseas Remittance Service

The Rapid Overseas Remittance Service is provided to Korean travelers in urgent need of cash due to theft, loss, or other unexpected circumstances. MOFA provides this service in cooperation with Nonghyup Bank and Woori Bank. In 2020, the service was used on 257 occasions and a total of ₩286 million was transferred.

(7) Emergency Financial Assistance

Emergency Financial Assistance is monetary aid provided to Korean nationals who

are unable to handle an emergency situation due to financial difficulties or unable to receive financial support from other organizations or family members. In such an urgent crisis situation, MOFA provides aid through overseas missions. In 2020, Emergency Financial Assistance was used in 36 cases.

2 Major Accidents and Incidents in 2020

In 2020, due to the impact of COVID-19, the number of Korean nationals traveling abroad stood at 4.28 million, a 85% drop from 28.71 million in 2019. However, the number of incidents and accidents involving Korean nationals abroad showed a relatively slight decrease of 29% from 22,732 in 2019 to 16,135 in 2020. This means that, among the entire overseas consular affairs, the ratio of those involving Koreans who had been staying abroad sharply increased as there was a growing number of new types of accidents, incidents, and consular affairs in the wake of COVID-19, such as demand for repatriation and immigration support or contracting the virus. On top of such affairs related to COVID-19, a variety of accidents, incidents, and crises occurred throughout the year, making it more difficult to deal with overseas accidents and incidents compare to the pre-pandemic days.

2.1 Major Accidents and Incidents in 2020

(1) Missing of Korean People in Mt. Annapurna, Nepal

On January 17, four out of nine Korean people trekking Mt. Annapurna went missing in an avalanche. MOFA immediately set up a task force in the headquarters and the Korean embassy in Nepal, and activated the emergency response system. It dispatched a Rapid Deployment Team to the location of the accident to search for the missing people in cooperation with the Nepalese authorities. Since the borders were

closed and flight operation was suspended in Nepal due to COVID-19, the Korean embassy worked on the transportation of the bodies of the deceased on May 23 and funeral arrangements and provided assistance to the bereaved families for their safe return to Korea.

(2) Volcanic Eruption of Taal, Philippines

On January 12, at around 3:35 A.M. local time, volcanic activity began at Taal Volcano, 67km south of Manila, Philippines. The Philippine government raised the volcano alert to level four and issued an evacuation order and entry restriction within the 14km radius.

After the volcanic eruption, MOFA established a control tower at the Korean embassy in the Philippines and dispatched consular officers to the scene to check on the damage situation of Korean nationals and provided safety information in real time through the embassy's official website, the Korean community's platform, and social media channels.

Also, MOFA set up a detailed plan for emergencies and arranged a shelter and means of transportation. On January 30, when the volcanic activity stabilized, it carried out relief activities to clean the volcanic ash and help the affected Koreans.

(3) The Sinking of *Lim Discoverer*

At around 11:48 A.M. local time on March 21, a 1,016-ton Korean fishing vessel *Lim Discoverer* sank in the sea of Papua New Guinea.

MOFA immediately instructed the Korean embassy in Papua New Guinea to request rescue operations from the government of Papua New Guinea and promptly contacted related local agencies to share information and ask for cooperation. Thanks to close cooperation among MOFA, the Korean embassy in Papua New Guinea, and the related authorities of Papua New Guinea, all 24 crew members including nine Koreans were rescued by a nearby Filipino vessel. After their successful rescue, MOFA also provided support to those who wanted to stay in the country as well as to those

who wished to return to Korea considering the COVID-19 situation in Papua New Guinea. MOFA brought back the crew members on *Araon*, the ice-breaking research vessel of the Korea Polar Research Institute.

(4) Kidnapping of Koreans in the Gulf of Guinea

From May to August, there were three abduction cases involving Koreans in the Gulf of Guinea. MOFA and its missions in the region immediately set up a task force, held meetings with related agencies, and maintained a close cooperation system. In addition, it regularly communicated with the family members of the kidnapped crews in Korea to update them on the developments. As a result, all eight detained Korean sailors were released, and MOFA provided consular assistance to escort them, check their health condition, and support their return home.

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Abduction of Korean nationals off the coast of Gabon (May) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On May 3, six crew members, including one Korean national, were kidnapped by pirates off the coast of Gabon. • On the evening of June 8 (local time), the 37th day of the abduction, all of them were released unharmed in southern Nigeria. |
| Abduction of Korean nationals off the coast of Benin (June) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On June 24, six crew members aboard the Ghanaian fishing vessel Panofi Frontier, including five Koreans, were kidnapped while fishing in the waters near Benin. • On July 24, at around 9:50 P.M. local time, all of them were released unharmed in southern Nigeria on the 32nd day of the abduction. |
| Abduction of Korean nationals off the coast of Togo (Aug.) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On August 28, two Korean crew members were kidnapped while fishing off the coast of Togo by a group believed to be Nigerian pirates. • At around 8:30 P.M. local time on the 51st day of the abduction, October 16, all were released unharmed. |

3 Strengthening Support for Overseas Koreans

3.1 Strengthening the Global Network of Overseas Koreans

(1) Prime Minister Presiding over a Video Conference for Overseas Koreans

To come up with a comprehensive policy on overseas Koreans and coordinate related policies, Korea established the Prime Ministerial Committee on Policy for Overseas Koreans in 1996. The committee has since held 19 policy committee meetings and 29 working-level committee meetings.

In 2020, instead of holding the annual committee meeting, the prime minister presided over a video conference to listen to the voices of overseas Koreans due to the spreading COVID-19. The video conference was held on December 23 under the theme of “Policy on Overseas Koreans in the COVID-19 era: Voices of Overseas Koreans.” The event provided an opportunity for the government to lift the Korean expats’ spirits amid the pandemic, explain what achievements the government had made and what policy it was planning to pursue for overseas Koreans, and collect various opinions of the participants.

(2) Celebrating All Koreans Day and the Korean Community Leaders Convention

All Koreans Day, one of the country’s statutory commemoration days, was designated as October 5 in 2007 in a bid to raise awareness of the 7.5 million overseas Koreans and enhance their sense of national pride. In 2020, the All Koreans Day ceremony could not be held due to COVID-19. President Moon Jae-in, who has attended the ceremony every year, delivered a congratulatory message via the government’s social media channel to encourage 7.5 million overseas Koreans and celebrate the 14th All Koreans Day.

MOFA and the Overseas Koreans Foundation (OKF) held the 2020 Korean Community Leaders Convention both online and offline, under the slogan “Assembled Overseas Koreans Protected Korea” from December 1 to 3. The Korean Community Leaders Convention provided a venue for meetings and lectures on the development of overseas Korean communities as well as conversation with the government, discussions on recent issues, and sharing of exemplary cases of managing overseas

Korean communities. President Moon Jae-in delivered a written congratulatory message and commended the leaders of Korean communities for contributing to overcoming the crises caused by COVID-19.

3.2 Providing Support for Next-generation Overseas Koreans

(1) Support for Overseas Hangeul Schools

With the pandemic continuing throughout 2020, there were difficulties in holding face-to-face classes. However, MOFA and the OKF provided financial support for 1,580 Hangeul schools worldwide to help next-generation Koreans continue to learn about their native language, history, and culture. In response to the spread of COVID-19, the government developed a variety of new content for online Hangeul school classes and online training courses for instructors.

(2) Strengthening the Network of Young Overseas Koreans

MOFA and the OKF held the Young Business Leaders Forum on December 2-4. The forum was held both online and offline and participated by 152 next-generation Korean business leaders from 33 countries. It featured a seminar for discussions on the role of young business leaders in the post-COVID-19 era.

3.3 Providing Support for Marginalized Overseas Koreans

(1) Support for Overseas Korean Adoptees

For years, MOFA has been working closely with related ministries to help overseas Korean adoptees become active members of society while keeping their Korean roots. In particular, MOFA implemented the Finding Families of Overseas Korean Adoptees service in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Welfare and the Korean National Police Agency in 2020. Through this service, a Korean adoptee who went missing 44 years ago met his family via a video call.

In 2020, the OKF established a human rights division, through which MOFA has continued to embrace various members of overseas Korean communities and strengthen their capabilities by supporting groups of Korean adoptees abroad including helping them acquire a Korean citizenship.

(2) Support for Overseas Korean Adoptees and Marginalized Overseas Koreans amid the COVID-19 Pandemic

In cooperation with the OKF, MOFA provided support for overseas Korean adoptees and marginalized overseas Koreans, who could be easily excluded from the reach of the government's policy amid the spread of COVID-19. MOFA and the OKF provided a total of 370,000 masks to 7,000 adoptive families in 14 countries and ₩730 million worth of food, daily necessities, and quarantine supplies to 162 marginalized overseas Korean communities in 45 countries.

In addition, MOFA strengthened the sense of connection between overseas Koreans and their mother country in the midst of the global health crisis by asking the authorities for permission to send 65,000 masks to vulnerable Koreans in six regions including Spain, Denmark, Uganda, India, Colombia, and Boston, US.

(3) Support for the Enactment and Implementation of the Special Act on the Support for Sakhalin Koreans

On May 26, the Sakhalin Koreans Support Act was enacted in Korea. As the government department in charge of the act, MOFA supported the National Assembly's legislation process and made the enforcement ordinance and the enforcement regulation of the act to ensure a smooth implementation of the law from January 1, 2021. The legislation will help the Korean government provide more systematic support for Sakhalin Koreans and their accompanying family members for their return migration and settlement. In addition, the scope of government support for return migration and settlement is to be expanded to include Sakhalin Koreans and their spouses and one direct descendant and their spouses.

3.4 Successful Overseas Elections for the 21st National Assembly

The 2020 overseas elections for the 21st National Assembly were held under the unprecedented crisis caused by the pandemic. In the run-up to the elections, MOFA actively cooperated with the National Election Commission and related ministries to ensure both the political rights and the safety of overseas Korean nationals.

As part of this effort, MOFA dispatched 20 officials from the National Election Commission in June 2019 to 20 diplomatic missions in major regions where many overseas Korean nationals reside and established the Overseas Election Commission at 176 diplomatic missions. Also, MOFA opened a website on which overseas Korean nationals could submit overseas absentee reports, apply for overseas voting, and file for permanent overseas voters registration at any time. The website was widely promoted.

Due to the spike in COVID-19 infections before the overseas elections period on April 1-6, the National Election Commission decided to suspend overseas elections preparation at some diplomatic missions — 91 missions, 110 polling stations — prioritizing the safety of overseas Korean nationals. It was the first suspension of overseas elections ever since its beginning in 2012, but the decision was inevitable to protect the lives and safety of overseas Korean nationals from the infectious disease.

Meanwhile, those diplomatic missions which could operate polling stations thoroughly followed the quarantine guidelines to provide a safe voting environment, and as a result, there was no case of COVID-19 infection from the elections.

Despite concerns over low voting rate due to the closing of some overseas polling stations, the number of overseas absentee reports and overseas voter applications increased by 11.1%, and the voter turnout based on the number of electors — 85 missions in 62 countries, 84,690 people — was up 6.8% to 48.2%, compared to the overseas elections for the previous National Assembly. This was possible due to the great interest of overseas Korean nationals in the elections, increased convenience thanks to the online services, various promotion activities, and diplomatic missions'

proactive measures to offer a safe voting environment.

The overseas elections for the 21st National Assembly also showed the heightened demand for improvements in the election system to guarantee the voting rights of overseas Korean nationals. MOFA will continue to work closely with the National Election Commission and related ministries to ensure the political rights of overseas Korean nationals and the fairness of elections.

Section 5 Increasing Benefits for Overseas Koreans

1 Visa Waiver Agreements

As of the end of 2020, the number of visa waiver agreements that entered into force in Korea reached 111.

The visa waiver agreement with Indonesia for diplomatic and official passport holders was concluded in 2019 and entered into force in February 2020. Korea signed a new agreement with Equatorial Guinea in August to grant visa waivers to diplomatic and official passports holders.

2 Working Holiday Programs

Starting with its agreement with Australia in 1995, Korea has concluded bilateral agreements or MOUs on working holiday programs with 24 countries and regions as of the end of 2020.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, MOFA held 43 online and offline working holiday

information sessions to continue providing detailed information for future participants. MOFA also appointed those who had participated in working holiday programs as Working Holiday Friends so that they can share their experiences and provide guidance for future participants.

Furthermore, diplomatic missions of Korea conducted support activities by holding meetings with working holiday participants and providing safety information online. In particular, the Korean Embassy in Australia provided customized services for participants through its Working Holiday Consultants channel to support their settlement.

MOFA published and distributed the Working Holiday Guidebook in six languages including Korean so that Korean and foreign participants have access to useful information about working holiday programs.

3 Mutual Recognition of Driver's Licenses

Korea has concluded bilateral agreements or MOUs on the mutual recognition and exchange of driver's licenses with 26 countries and regions as of the end of 2020. The MOU on the mutual recognition and exchange of driver's licenses between Korea and the UAE, which before had been implemented as domestic measures, came into force on January 11. This laid the legal groundwork for the mutual recognition of driver's licenses and increased convenience for the nationals residing in each other's country.

4 Introduction of Advanced e-Passports and Improvements in Policies for Enhanced Services for Korean Nationals

4.1 Introduction of Advanced e-Passports

MOFA has been working to fully introduce new general e-passports that are made of polycarbonate and have advanced security features as well as improved quality and design by December 2021. In 2020, MOFA continued its efforts to upgrade passports by setting the quality standards of the new e-passports, advancing the Passport Information Comprehensive Administration System, and creating a pan-governmental database to provide information on passports and passport holders to related agencies. MOFA started to issue advanced official and diplomatic e-passports first in December 21 for a smooth introduction of the new e-passport issuance system.

4.2 Improvements in Policies to Provide Enhanced Services for Koreans

MOFA proposed an amendment to the Passport Act to exclude those who are aged 25 or above and have not fulfilled military service from the list of people not eligible to be issued with a multiple-use passport. This change will greatly increase convenience for those who had to be issued with a single-use passport every time they traveled abroad.

As the holder's residence registration number is no longer shown on the passport to protect personal information, MOFA came up with several measures to ensure that passports continue to be used for identification. It added new provisions to the Enforcement Decree of the Passport Act to stipulate matters concerning the utilization of the integrated database of passports and passport holders' information and the issuance of certificates necessary for identification of the passport holder. The amendments have taken effect from December 21, 2020.

Meanwhile, as part of the government's innovation efforts, MOFA started to provide online passport services on April 28 through the Government 24 website, on which Korean nationals can make passport loss reports, check their passport information, and have various certificates issued.

In addition, online application for passport reissuance began to be serviced at all domestic and foreign passport offices from December 18. From December 21, six types of proof documents of passport such as the passport information certificate can be issued through unmanned kiosks installed across the country.

In order to ease the workload of officials in passport offices and to increase the convenience of the Korean people, the Korean government initiated a text messaging service on June 10 to send notifications on what stage the applicant's passport is in, from the receipt of application to issuance and collection.

4.3 Passport Offices and the Passport Education and Research Center

MOFA gradually increased the number of passport offices to provide Korean nationals with better access to related services. As of the end of 2020, a total of 250 local government offices including 10 branches are receiving passport applications.

MOFA has been operating the Passport Education and Research Center (PERC) since March 2014. The PERC is staffed by eight specialists who regularly provide systematic training programs on passport laws and regulations for about 2,000 staff members of domestic passport offices and overseas Korean missions. In 2020, the PERC held four passport group training programs for 71 staff members and developed an online training program in consideration of the pandemic situation and in preparation for the post-COVID-19 era. A total of 797 staff members from 245 domestic passport offices completed the online training course.

5 Improving Consular Services

5.1 e-Government for Overseas Koreans

MOFA strives to discover new ways to provide better consular services and expand the scope of its consular services for overseas Koreans.

As a result, MOFA successfully completed the establishment of the Government for Overseas Koreans (G4K) in 2020, finalizing the project that began in 2018 with the intention of protecting and supporting overseas Koreans. G4K is an integrated electronic administrative system connecting domestic administrative agencies with all missions abroad.

The system allows greater convenience for overseas Koreans by providing tailored consular services for them through the Consular Service 24 website and related mobile application services. With the help of this system, MOFA was able to protect the safety of overseas Koreans by expanding its contactless, or non-face-to-face, consular services.

Starting from September 2020, visitors to overseas missions can make a reservation beforehand on the Consular Service 24 website. This reservation system has not only enhanced convenience for overseas Koreans but also helped to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

5.2 Strengthening Consular Tour Services

In 2020, 122 diplomatic missions conducted 526 rounds of consular tours, handling approximately 38,175 cases of various matters including passport issuance, notarization, and conscription consultation. These consular tours also served as opportunities to hold consultative meetings with overseas Koreans and to enhance cooperation with the local police, immigration authorities, and other related agencies.

VIII

2021 DIPLOMATIC
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Section 1 Continued Efforts for Innovation during the COVID-19 Pandemic

In line with the governing philosophy of the Moon Jae-in administration, under which the people and national interest are top diplomatic priorities, MOFA has consistently implemented its innovation tasks listed in the self-innovation plan, MOFA Innovation Roadmap and Second Innovation Plan which was announced on two separate occasions. Despite the prolonged pandemic, MOFA has strived to build a foundation for conducting foreign policy in a more creative and efficient manner.

1 Continuous Implementation of the MOFA Innovation Roadmap and the Second Innovation Plan

Under the pandemic, MOFA has made continuous efforts for organizational innovation. In this regard, MOFA upgraded the administrative framework for protecting overseas Korean nationals, and it established channels of communication with people as well. Followed by the enactment of the Act on Consular Assistance for the Protection of Overseas Korean Nationals in 2019, its enforcement decree was

enacted in 2020 to strengthen the system for protecting overseas Korean nationals. Accordingly, MOFA reorganized the Crisis Management Division and recruited more consular staff in charge of accidents and incidents abroad. Likewise, MOFA opened the second Center for Participatory Diplomacy to facilitate citizen participation in the course of establishing and implementing foreign policy.

MOFA enhanced organizational capabilities to preemptively respond to the changing diplomatic environment. It has also carried out reorganization to proactively adapt to changes in foreign relations and cope with major tasks it faces. The online and offline training systems also have been upgraded. A variety of projects to enhance work efficiency and improve organizational culture have been undertaken. Furthermore, MOFA has provided female officers with favorable opportunities for promotion to senior posts. Also, MOFA published a work manual for newly appointed heads of diplomatic missions and one for officers joined from various ministries, helping them quickly adapt to the new work environment.

2 Creating an Environment for Effective Diplomatic Activities under the COVID-19 Pandemic Situation

MOFA improved digital and online infrastructure for diplomacy in contactless ways, came up with measures to promote work efficiency, and established a response system for infectious diseases in a prolonged COVID-19 pandemic.

In this context, MOFA newly set up and renovated video conference rooms in the headquarters, and it equipped its diplomatic missions abroad with an upgraded and renewed video conference system, which enabled contactless diplomacy during a difficult situation.

At the same time, MOFA launched campaigns to go paperless at offices with the introduction of digital systems such as Cyber Cabinet, a mobile-based work system.

Flexible working hours has also been encouraged for the employees to work more efficiently.

Also, diplomatic missions overhauled infrastructure to prepare for an infectious disease outbreak, renewed a manual for infectious diseases and trained its staff.

Section 2 **Establishing a System for Advanced Diplomacy and Enhancing Diplomatic Capacity**

1 Organizational Restructuring and Human Resources Development for Effective Implementation of the Presidential Agenda and Government Innovation

MOFA restructured its organization and developed its human resources to implement the government's agenda fully and foster governmental innovation. As part of its strategy for diplomatic diversification, MOFA newly established the Africa II and Eurasia II divisions. Moreover, MOFA set up the Korea-ASEAN Financial Cooperation Center under the Korean mission in Jakarta, Indonesia, to strengthen the New Southern Policy, a key national task in the diplomatic field.

In addition, MOFA restructured and expanded its Overseas Koreans and Consular Affairs Office to address the increasing demand for consular services more efficiently. It increased the staff in the Crisis Management Division to swiftly respond and monitor incidents and accidents worldwide, around the clock. It also additionally dispatched officers in charge of accidents and incidents to Korean missions abroad. Furthermore, MOFA opened a consulate in Bali, Indonesia, as the city is visited by many Korean travelers every year.

2 Efficient Management of Human Resources

MOFA has been striving to manage its human resources to effectively respond to increasing diplomatic affairs. In 2020, it strengthened the expertise of diplomats, fairly and justly managed its human resources based on merit and work performance, and increased the number of open positions and personnel exchange opportunities to create an open and transparent public service community.

2.1 Strengthening the Expertise of Foreign Service Officers

MOFA has trained talented diplomat candidates through its training program since the abolition of the Foreign Service Examination in 2013. In the first four years of the training program, the relative evaluation system made it mandatory to cut a certain number of candidatescut. However, on December 30, 2017, MOFA revised the Foreign Service Officer Act, allowing an absolute evaluation system. Under the new system, diplomat candidates are appointed as foreign service officers if they pass the comprehensive course designed by MOFA and meet expected standards. The program for diplomat candidates, well into its seventh year, seeks to nurture competent diplomats. In order to effectively respond to a rapidly changing world and meet the increasing public demand for diplomatic and consular services, this program focuses on improving the candidates' sense of mission as public servants and helping them develop the skills and competencies that will be critical for their future success.

2.2 Promoting Fair and Just Management of Human Resources Based on Merit and Work Performance

MOFA has been appointing those with excellent diplomatic expertise and a strong drive as heads of mission irrespective of their entry route or seniority. In 2020, MOFA effectively harnessed its human resources by appointing capable personnel with

regional specialties as heads of mission. Some of the director-level staff were also appointed as heads of relatively smaller missions. Regional expertise was considered in appointing staff of missions.

In 2020, MOFA provided opportunity for diplomats to enhance their expertise by securing the appointment and promotion routes of regional experts. MOFA also strived for the reasonable assignment of human resources by establishing a solid rotation system and securing the workforce for relatively small-scale embassies with standards that meet regulations and principles.

MOFA promoted female diplomats to senior positions at headquarters and overseas missions in line with the women's empowerment trend.

2.3 Pursuing a Transparent Public Service Sector by Increasing the Number of Open Positions and Personnel Exchanges

MOFA has actively recruited experienced civil workers and promoted personnel exchanges with other ministries to provide talented individuals with expertise and competence with the opportunity to work in the diplomatic field, effectively enhancing the professionalism of the public service community and strengthening collaboration between ministries.

In 2020, MOFA expanded the scope of its personnel exchanges by recruiting experts with regional expertise and language skills from the private sector for positions at overseas missions.

It also promoted personnel exchanges at various levels with diverse and relevant ministries, including the Office for Government Policy Coordination, the Ministry of the Interior and Safety, the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of National Defense, the Ministry of Health and Welfare, the Ministry of Personnel Management, and the Secretariat of the National Unification Advisory Council. In particular, MOFA initiated the deputy director general-level exchanges with the Ministry of Unification to expand inter-ministerial cooperation on Korean Peninsula policies.

Section 3 Improving the Education and Evaluation Systems and Promoting Research Activities

1 Capacity-building Programs for Diplomats and Public Officials

In 2020, MOFA Korea National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA) offered the Program for Diplomat Candidates, which consists of subjects in four major areas: sense of mission; knowledge of areas, and function; communication, networking, and negotiation; and foreign language for diplomats. In addition, renowned scholars and public figures with experience in international affairs including Ban Ki-moon, former Secretary General of the United Nations, were invited to the KNDA to give special lectures, which helped diplomat candidates develop critical competencies required to serve the public.

In 2020, the KNDA organized blended learning that combines class-based education and online education in order to run a safe and effective education in order to keep social distancing during COVID-19. On-the-job training course at diplomatic missions was substituted by another training method consisting of real-time online communication between diplomat candidates and foreign service officers at diplomatic missions. It cultivated the practical ability needed to carry out the task of diplomatic affairs, including the protection of overseas Korean nationals.

The program for diplomat candidates was composed not only of two semesters, but also of various programs in order to develop the practical abilities to meet the increasing expectations of the people. The KNDA organized a four-week field training program at the main office to help diplomat candidates experience on-site diplomatic practices. The KNDA conducted a joint online education with other newly recruited government officials in the National Human Resources Development (HRD) Institute in order to deepen cooperation between ministries as well. The joint education had diplomat candidates and the newly recruited government officials working together to write policy reports, providing them with the opportunity to experience the process of creating a joint result after mediating different opinions of two government departments.

Furthermore, simulation and role-play education for consuls were conducted in Program for Officers for Consular Affairs to provide better consular assistance to the public. This three-week program provided on-the-job training course at diplomatic missions from February 17 to March 6 to improve the understanding of consular affairs. In addition, the KNDA provided an intensive practical education program for newly recruited consuls dedicated to response and crisis management.

On the other hand, the KNDA provided education for those posted to diplomatic missions abroad for the first time in January and July, for newly appointed directors in November, for mid-level managers of missions in January and July, and for heads of mission in March, April, and October based on the career training system for each position and career phase in their public service life cycle. In order to improve leadership skills and diplomatic capabilities according to changing positions, workshops, seminars and one-on-one coaching were conducted for newly appointed directors, mid-level managers of missions and heads of mission, thereby systematically supporting reinforcement of diplomatic competence.

Moreover, the KNDA helped other ministries and government agencies to improve their competency in dealing with international affairs through training programs such as the Global Leadership Program for senior government officials and the International

Negotiation and Conference Program for government and public sector employees. Also, by hosting the Special Lectures on Major International Issues for college and graduate students, the KNDA reinforced the future generation's understanding of Korean foreign policy and diplomatic scene.

Despite the withering educational environment caused by the global pandemic, such as the decrease in face-to-face education, the KNDA introduced real-time virtual education into each education program and operated a hybrid online and offline education service. The KNDA quickly responded to the rapidly changing environment due to the global spread of the infection by closing the education gap for diplomats in over 180 overseas missions through three Digital Workshops and a cyber curriculum.

The KNDA has also reinforced foreign language proficiency education and expanded relevant infrastructure in line with the Korean government's goals to expand diplomatic outreach. In particular, the KNDA provided overseas training to improve the foreign service officers' proficiency in less-commonly-used languages and reinforced the local language program at diplomatic missions. The KNDA also introduced language courses online, adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic era.

In 2020, the KNDA launched the East Asian Diplomacy Program (EADP), which is a specialized global education program for foreign diplomats and public officials. The EADP, under the theme of "Peace and Cooperation in East Asia," addresses not only issues related to the Korean Peninsula but also diplomatic issues of the broader East Asian region. The program is expected to contribute to the strengthening of the international community's support for Korea and to the expansion of the pro-Korean diplomatic network. The KNDA hosted the first EADP Special Lecture Series for the diplomatic corps in Korea from November 18 to 20, in celebration of the launch of the Korea Diplomacy Center. By hosting this series, the KNDA provided an opportunity to share opinions on Korea's key foreign policies and Korea's successful COVID-19 response, thereby contributing to the enhancement of Korea's national image and strengthening of exchanges and cooperation with the diplomatic corps in Korea.

The KNDA also conducted the Diplomatic Competency Development Programs (two

courses, four times in 2020) and Diplomatic Competency Assessments to ensure that Korean diplomatic officers sharpen their expertise and competencies.

2 Strengthening Research Capabilities

The Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security (IFANS) supports the Korean government's diplomatic efforts by producing an in-depth analysis of current and emerging foreign policy issues, providing timely policy suggestions, formulating mid-to-long-term foreign policy strategies, building an extensive network of academies and research institutes at home and abroad, and engaging in public diplomacy activities.

In 2020, IFANS brought the knowledge and analysis of our scholars to a wider audience and offered comprehensive policy recommendations by publishing our research in a variety of formats, such as *IFANS Forecast*, *IFANS Focus*, *Analysis on Global Issues*, and *Policy Reports*. Also, IFANS published a new English report, *IFANS Perspectives*, which contributed to the expansion of public diplomacy targeting overseas opinion leaders, and other reports such as *IFANS Brief*, aiming to translate ideas and research efforts into concrete policy decisions.

IFANS brought together global experts in different research fields to hold various seminars and explored ways to respond to a wide range of global challenges including the COVID-19 pandemic. It published *The Global Landscape After COVID-19* and held the annual IFANS Conference on Global Affairs under the theme of "The World after the Pandemic."

In addition, IFANS made relentless efforts to implement the Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation Platform and carried out various research and outreach programs related to the Korean Peninsula peace process and the ROK-US alliance to support the Korean government's policy implementation and provide policy recommendations.

IFANS organized seminars and international conferences to build a strong network

of eminent scholars and experts from major think tanks around the world and to ensure that Korea's foreign policy has garnered the broad support from the international community. The events arranged by IFANS in 2020 include the KNDA-CSIS Dialogue, KNDA-CIIS-JIIA Trilateral Dialogue, KNDA-MGIMO Dialogue, KNDA-EUISS Dialogue, ROK-ASEAN Think Tank Strategic Dialogue, and 2020 Seoul Academy of International Law.

In 2020, IFANS overhauled its website to make it more accessible and user-friendly. IFANS professors appeared frequently on TV and radio and contributed high-quality articles to national and international publications to promote a better understanding of the Korean government's foreign policy.

International conferences and academic events hosted by KNDA and IFANS in 2020

| Title of Event | Place and Date | Relevant Institution |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2020 Youth Mock Meeting on NPT | Seoul, July 10 | Korea Nuclear Policy Society (KNPS) |
| 2020 Online International Conference on Nuclear Nonproliferation | Webinar, Aug. 4-6 | Korea Institute of Nuclear Nonproliferation and Control (KINAC) KAIST Nonproliferation Education and Research Center (KAIST NEREC) |
| 2020 IFANS Conference on Global Affairs | Webinar, Aug. 31-Sep. 1 | - |
| IFANS-CICIR Dialogue | Webinar, Sept. 28 | China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR) |
| 2nd ROK-ASEAN Think Tank Strategic Dialogue | Seoul, Oct. 6 | ASEAN-ISIS ¹⁾ |

1) Diplomatic Academy of Viet nam (DAV), Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA), Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS Malaysia), Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS), Center for Strategic and Policy Studies (CSPS), Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute), Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS Indonesia), Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (CICP), Institute of Security and International Studies (ISIS Thailand), Stratbase ADR Institute for Strategic and International Studies (ADRI)

| | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2020 Seoul Academy of International Law | Webinar, Oct. 19-30 | - |
| KNDA-KNDU Joint Academic Conference | Seoul, Oct. 26 | Korea National Defense University (KNDU) |
| 1st ROK-IOA Partnership Seminar | Webinar, Oct. 29 | IOA Secretariat |
| KNDA-MGIMO Dialogue | Webinar, Nov. 3 | Moscow State Institute of International Relations University of the MFA of Russia (MGIMO) |
| KNDA-KRD Joint Conference | Seoul, Nov. 5 | Korea Russia Dialogue (KRD) |
| KNDA-EUISS Dialogue | Webinar, Nov. 6 | European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) |
| 13th KNDA-CIIS-JIIA Trilateral Dialogue | Webinar, Nov. 10 | China Institute of International Studies (CIIS), Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA) |
| KNDA-CSIS Dialogue | Webinar, Nov. 10-11 | Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) |
| 29th KNDA-CIIS Dialogue | Webinar, Nov. 12 | China Institute of International Studies (CIIS) |
| 1st KNDA-RSIS Roundtable | Webinar, Nov. 17 | S.Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) |
| International Conference on the ROK-Japan Relations | Seoul, Nov. 23 | Institute of Japanese Studies of Seoul National University |
| 35th KNDA-JIIA Dialogue | Webinar, Nov. 24 | Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA) |
| International Expert Conference on BBNJ | Webinar, Nov. 27 | Seoul International Law Academy, National Marine Biodiversity Institute of Korea |
| KNDA-JFIR-ORF Trilateral Dialogue | Webinar, Dec. 1 | Japan Forum on International Relations (JFIR), Observer Research Foundation (ORF) |
| 2020 Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation Forum | Webinar, Dec. 3-4 | - |
| 5th Network of Trilateral Cooperation Think-Tank Conference | Webinar, Dec. 8 | Japan Forum on International Relations (JFIR), China Foreign Affairs University (CFAU) |

3 Efforts to Strengthen Diplomatic Capacity through Enhanced Performance Evaluation of Mission Heads

In 2020, MOFA revised its guideline for the integrated performance evaluation of mission heads to more systematically and objectively evaluate their performance in eight major work areas — political affairs, economic and trade affairs, consular affairs, public diplomacy, public relations, development cooperation, administration, and overseas job creation — and the outcomes of self-selected priority projects²⁾. Through this, it was possible to improve the performance of the diplomatic missions and contribute to the achievement of the Korean government’s diplomatic goals as building peace on the Korean Peninsula, implementing the New Southern Policy, and successfully responding to the spread of COVID-19.

2) The priority project selected by the head of mission refers to a project in which the head of mission (a) sets an implementation plan to fulfill a task that falls under the jurisdiction of MOFA among the 100 policy tasks and receives evaluation; or (b) autonomously selects a certain task taking into account the priorities and pending issues of the mission for the year and the relationship with the country of sojourn and receives evaluation on the performance.

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