

Open Letter to President Moon Jae-in of Republic of Korea (ROK)

April 24, 2020

H.E. Moon Jae-in
President of the Republic of Korea
Cheongwadae (Blue House)
1 Cheongwadae-ro, Jongno-gu
Seoul, 03048, Republic of Korea

RE: ROK's Commitment to the global fight against the COVID-19 pandemic in vulnerable counties.

Dear President Moon,

We are writing to you on behalf of the undersigned 145 civil society organizations (CSOs) / Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) and 44 individuals from about 50 countries in the Asia-Pacific, Africa, North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East and the Europe region in regards to the Republic of Korea's commitment to the global fight against the COVID-19 pandemic in vulnerable countries.

The petition which started on 17 April continued till 23 April for a week to mobilize global voices of civil society and people all over the world.

First of all, we would like to congratulate on the successful management of the parliamentary election concluded on 15 April 2020 amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is not an understatement to say that the world was impressed and encouraged at the ROK's swift and democratic response to its COVID-19 outbreak. Through your administration's leadership, prioritizing free press, access to information, transparency and openness, medical testing and care for all, which are key democratic values, ROK has become a model in containing the virus without a lockdown or repressing civil liberties. The parliamentary election was another positive sign to prove that the coronavirus cannot stop democracy and human rights.

This leadership model and the prioritizing of people regardless of their background through democratic means has played a key role in creating a sense of solidarity and trust amongst the people, increasing cooperation in mitigating the crisis. The successful management of COVID-19 by the ROK, has proven that there is hope for a slow recovery. The international community has much to learn from the ROK experience and hopes for more cooperation in exchanging best practices.

We also note that you have put emphasis on the importance of international cooperation and made commitment to humanitarian assistance through the Official Development Assistance

(ODA) at the G20 Virtual Summit (26 March 2020) and ASEAN+3 Virtual Summit (14 April 2020) on the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the ROK's efforts to support and assist its global neighbors in the fight against COVID-19, we believe that civil society has the ability to play an important proactive role in delivering necessary aid and services, promoting public awareness and education, monitoring the government's policy and action on the COVID-19, and advocating human rights of the vulnerable and excluded people in society.

In a time of global crisis, public trust and partnership between civil society and government is essential in addressing the socio-economic impact of the pandemic both nationally and internationally in accordance with Core Humanitarian Standards (CHS) and human rights-based approach with the spirit of 'leaving no one behind' for the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In this regard, we would like to urge your government to:

- 1. Continue to play a proactive leadership role internationally in tackling COVID-19 pandemic while respecting human rights and democratic principles.**
- 2. Increase humanitarian assistance through the ODA to help countries in need, especially in the least developed countries and fragile states that are the most vulnerable in overcoming unprecedented global challenges.**
- 3. Provide support – moral, political and financial – to protect civic space and to strengthen the role of civil society in tackling adverse consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- 4. Take concrete actions immediately by providing necessary financial assistance to enable CSOs to operate on the ground to prevent and reduce human suffering in vulnerable countries.**
- 5. Lead a global action on stigmatization, xenophobia, racism against social minorities and vulnerable populations like older persons, persons with disabilities, migrants, internally displaced persons, refugees, and indigenous peoples in the global fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.**

We are aware that your government is still facing challenges in addressing the social and economic impact of the COVID-19. However, it is vital that the international community comes in solidarity and fight the battle simultaneously through international cooperation with the government and people in more vulnerable situation.

The undersigned, civil society organizations and global citizens across the globe, would like to take this opportunity to assure you of our full support and cooperation in the global fight against the COVID-19 with the Republic of Korea's leadership.

Thank you for your consideration.

In solidarity,

A list of Signatories (as of 23 April 2020)

- 147 CSOs/NGOs

- 1 Action for Change (ACHA), Tanzania
- 2 Action For Development (AFD), Cambodia
- 3 Action for Rural Women Empowerment (ARUWE), Tanzania
- 4 Adivasi Navjeevan Gathan Navjyoti Agua (ANGNA), India
- 5 Afghan NGOs Coordination Bureau (ANCB), Afghanistan
- 6 Africa Development Interchange Network (ADIN), Cameroun
- 7 Africa Japan Forum, Japan
- 8 ANTAR Society for Development, Bangladesh
- 9 Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND)
- 10 Argentine Network for International Cooperation – RACI, Argentina
- 11 ARGO, Kazakhstan
- 12 ASEAN Youth Forum
- 13 Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs, Hong Kong
- 14 Asia Democracy Network (ADN)
- 15 Asia Development Alliance (ADA)
- 16 Asia Pacific Solidarity Coalition (APSOC)
- 17 ASIA Youth Network
- 18 AsiaDHRRA, Philippines
- 19 Asian Center for the Progress of Peoples (ACPP), Hong Kong SAR
- 20 Asian Muslim Action Network (AMAN)
- 21 Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL), Bangkok
- 22 Blue Banner, Mongolia
- 23 Blue Diamond Society , Nepal
- 24 Cambodia YMCA
- 25 Camp for Peace Liberia, Liberia
- 26 Campaign for Good Governance, Bangladesh

- 27 CECADE, El Salvador
- 28 Center for Peace Education, Philippines
- 29 Centre for Environmental Justice, Sri Lanka
- 30 Centre for Human Rights and Development (CHRD), Mongolia
- 31 Centre for Social Policy Development, Pakistan
- 32 Citizens' Coalition for Economic Justice (CCEJ), South Korea
- 33 CIVICUS-World Alliance for Citizen Participation, Johannesburg
- 34 Climate Watch Thailand
- 35 CMFR, Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility (DMFR), Philippines.
- 36 COAST Trust, Bangladesh
- 37 Coastal Development Partnership, Bangladesh
- 38 Community Empowerment for Progress Organization (CEPO), South Sudan
- 39 Conference of NGOs in Consultative Status with the UN (CoNGO), New York
- 40 Consortium Humanitarian Agency, Sri Lanka
- 41 Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC), Cambodia
- 42 Cross-Cultural Foundation, Thailand
- 43 Dalit NGO Federation (DNF), Nepal
- 44 Dalit Welfare Organisation(DWO), Nepal
- 45 Derechos Humanos y Medio Ambiente DHUMA, Puno, Perú
- 46 Development for Accountability for Tanzania
- 47 Earth Council Asia Pacific, Phils. Inc.
- 48 Federation of Sexual and Gender Minorities , Nepal
- 49 Feminist League, Kazakhstan
- 50 Ficofawe Women Foundation, Tanzania
- 51 Fuerza Mundial Global. USA, Indigenous, Chicana, Apache
- 52 GCAP-Sénégal/POSCO Agenda 2030, Senegal
- 53 Gerakan peduli disabilitas dan lepra indonesia (GPDLI), indonesia
- 54 Gestos, Brazil

- 55 Global Alliance against Traffic in Women
- 56 Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) Asia
- 57 Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) Global
- 58 Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) Philippines
- 59 Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) Sierra Leone
- 60 Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), New York
- 61 Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflicts (GPPAC)-Southeast Asia
- 62 Good Neighbors Cambodia
- 63 Gray Panthers, USA
- 64 Hawai'i Institute for Human Rights, USA
- 65 Housing and Land Rights Network - Habitat International Coalition, Egypt
- 66 IMPARSIAL, the Indonesian Human Rights Monitor, Indonesia
- 67 INHURED International, Nepal
- 68 Initiative for International Dialogue (IID), Philippines
- 69 Integrity Society of Taiwan
- 70 International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development (INFID), Indonesia
- 71 IOPC (Indian Ocean Peace Council), Mauritius
- 72 Justice and Peace Commission, India
- 73 Kamana Foundation Nepal
- 74 Kazakhstan International bureau for human rights and rule of law, Kazakhstan
- 75 Krityanand UNESCO Club Jamshedpur, India
- 76 Law Life Culture, Bangladesh
- 77 Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency, Bougainville, PNG
- 78 Madaripur Legal Aid Association, Bangladesh
- 79 Maldives Association of Persons with Disabilities, Maldives
- 80 Management and Sustainable Development Institute, Vietnam
- 81 Migrant Forum in Asia, Manila
- 82 Minority Rights Organization, Cambodia

- 83 Movement for Advancing Understanding on Sustainability and Mutually MAUSAM, India
- 84 MY World Mexico
- 85 Nahdlatul Ulama Institution for Disaster Management and Climate Change, Indonesia
- 86 National Campaign for Sustainable Development Nepal
- 87 National Youth Equity Forum (NYEF), India
- 88 Nepal Development Initiative (NEDI), Nepal
- 89 Nepalese Youth for Climate Action, Nepal
- 90 New Myanma Foundation, Myanmar
- 91 NGO Education Partnership (NEP), Cambodia
- 92 NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN)
- 93 North South Initiative, Malaysia
- 94 Pacific Asia Resource Center (PARC), Japan
- 95 Pacific Islands Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (PIANGO), Fiji
- 96 PacificwinPacific,
- 97 Pahel Pakistan
- 98 Pakistan Development Alliance (PDA), Pakistan
- 99 Pakistan NGOs Forum, Pakistan
- 100 Participatory Research Action Network- PRAN, Bangladesh
- 101 Pax Christi Aotearoa-New Zealand
- 102 Pax Christi France
- 103 Pax Christi International
- 104 Pax Christi Philippines
- 105 Pax Christi Scotland, United Kingdom
- 106 Pax Christi UK
- 107 Pax Christi USA
- 108 Peace Hope Pakistan
- 109 People's SAARC

- 110 People Empowerment Foundation, Thailand
- 111 Peoples Development Community (PDC), Bangladesh
- 112 Phare Ponleu Selpak, Cambodia
- 113 Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM)
- 114 Ponlokkhmer (PKH), Cambodia
- 115 Poor and Dalit Upliftment Service Committee, Dolpa, Nepal
- 116 Positive Change in Cambodia, Cambodia
- 117 Pusat KOMAS, Malaysia
- 118 Reacción Climática, Bolivia
- 119 RED MEXICANA DE MUJERES, SC., Mexico
- 120 RENICC - LATINDADD- GCAP, Nicaragua
- 121 Sanayee Development Organization, Afghanistan
- 122 Sarokar Foundation, Nepal
- 123 SDGs National Network Nepal
- 124 Social Watch – Tamilnadu, India
- 125 South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE)
- 126 Southern Africa Human Rights NGO Network, Tanzania
- 127 STOP the War Coalition Philippines
- 128 Strengthening Human Rights & Peace Research Education in ASEAN (SHAPE SEA).
- 129 Taiwan Alliance in International Development, Taiwan
- 130 Tanzania Kwanza Foundation, Tanzania
- 131 Task Force on ASEAN Migrant Workers (TFAMW), Singapore
- 132 The Garden of Hope Foundation, Taiwan
- 133 Think Centre, Singapore
- 134 Third World Institute, Uruguay.
- 135 Triangle Women, Myanmar
- 136 Uddipto Mohila Unnayan Sangstha, Bangladesh
- 137 United Nations Association of Fiji

- 138 Vanuatu Civil Society Platform, Vanuatu
- 139 Voices for Interactive Choices and Empowerment (VOICE), Bangladesh
- 140 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Network (WASH-Net) Sierra Leone
- 141 Western youth Empire, Fiji
- 142 World Federalist Movement – Canada
- 143 World Federalist Movement-Institute for Global Policy, USA
- 144 Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), Sri Lanka
- 145 Youth Development Center, Nepal
- 146 Youth for Environment Education and Development Foundation (YFEED), Nepal
- 147 Youth Partnership for Peace and Development - Sierra Leone

Individual Global Citizens – 44

- 1 Akio Takayanagi, Ferris University/JANIC, Japan
- 2 Alvin Anthony Uy, Earth Council Asia-Pacific, Inc. Philippines
- 3 Anthony Nguyen, San Francisco State University, USA
- 4 Antoine SONDAG, Pax Romana, France
- 5 Antony Arulraj, Human Rights Defender, India
- 6 Bruce Van Voorhis, Retired, USA
- 7 Charlie Clement, Carr Center for Human Rights, Harvard University, USA
- 8 Corazon Valdez-Fabros, International Peace Bureau (IPB), Philippines
- 9 Edmund Wong, Citizen, Hong Kong
- 10 Gail Reyes Galang, Associate Director, Center for Peace Education, Philippines
- 11 Hieu Nguyen, Vietnam
- 12 Hizkhia Bru, Student, USA
- 13 Hum Bhandari, NGO Federation of Nepal (NFN), Nepal
- 14 James Raj, YKPM, Malaysia
- 15 James victor sundarimainthan, R C Catholic priest, India
- 16 Jeevan Baniya, Independent Scholar, Nepal
- 17 Jerald Joseph, Human Rights Activist and Trainer, Malaysia
- 18 Kau, Michael, Taiwan
- 19 Ken Bluestone, Chair, Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People (GAROP)
- 20 Maiko Ichihara, Japan
- 21 Miyoun Jin, South Korea
- 22 Martina Kabisama, Tanzania Human Rights Activits, Tanzania
- 23 Nicolas Sautejeau, Fundación Agenda Ciudadana, Chile
- 24 Noor Jung Shah, Tribhuvan Universtiy, Nepal
- 25 Nuria Costa, Mujeres de Paz Alrededor Dell Mondu, Mexico
- 26 Patrick Chan, Citizen Hong Kong
- 27 Pefi Kingi, PacificwinPacific, Australia-New Zealand

- 28 Rabani, SSE, Afghanistan
- 29 Rajendra Suwal, Nepal Nature,
- 30 Rakhi Barua, Centre for Disability in Development(CDD), Bangladesh
- 31 Ratnamanjari Sharan, India
- 32 Riccardo Moro, GCAP Global Call for Action against Poverty - Global Co-Chair, Italy
- 33 Rilli Lappalainen, Bridge 47, Finland/Global
- 34 Ruki Fernando, Human Rights Activist, Sri Lanka
- 35 Santina Soares, Human rights and gender equality activist, Timor-Leste
- 36 Sithuan Chin, Professor, Cambodia
- 37 Sook Jong Lee, Sungkyunkwan University, South Korea
- 38 Sophal UY, Social Worker Staff, Cambodia
- 39 Sushil Pyakurel, Former Commissioner of National Human Rights Commission and Former Human Rights Advisor to the President of Nepal
- 40 Tak Bahadur Tamang, Nepal
- 41 Terence Osorio, Green Releaf Initiative, Philippines
- 42 Vincent anoharan, Dalits Activist, India
- 43 Waheed Ahmad, Chairman Child Protection Committee of Lahore Bar Association, Pakistan
- 44 Zulaikha Afzali, Afghanistan