



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
REPUBLIC OF KOREA

September 19, 2018

**Talanoa Dialogue of Korea**

**Summary of Sessions on “How Do We Get There?”**

The Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Korea Meteorological Administration co-hosted the Talanoa Dialogue of Korea on 19 September. The event was welcomed by 150 participants from all walks of life including central and local government officials, business leaders, civil society activists and Korean citizens. The participants reviewed Korea’s climate change policies, shared valuable thoughts on how to encourage nationwide participation, and freely expressed their opinions.

Sessions on the important question of “How do we get there?” comprised two parts. The first session focused mainly on mitigation, with an emphasis on sectoral reduction plans to implement the Paris Agreement. The next session explored another important question—that of how to adapt well to climate change—particularly to extreme heat in Korea’s summer. These two sessions provided the participants with an invaluable opportunity to discuss how Korea would implement measures to achieve the two goals of the Paris Agreement: mitigation and adaptation.

**First Session: Sectoral plans to implement the Paris Agreement (Mitigation)**

Speakers from government, business and civil society sectors shared with each other their thoughts on the following topics in this session: major modifications in Korea’s National Greenhouse Gas Reduction Roadmap; the business sector’s efforts to adapt to the post-2020 climate change regime; and suggestions for global climate action.

Along with the advent of the Paris Agreement, the Republic of Korea announced its National Greenhouse Gas Reduction Roadmap in December 2016,

which states a 37% reduction from Korea's BAU emissions. The Korean Government, in order to step up its sectoral reduction target, revised the roadmap in July 2018. Of the 37% reduction target, domestic policy measures will account for 32.5% of the reduction in emissions, while other measures such as "Cooperative Approaches under the Article 6 of the Paris Agreement" and the LULUCF will account for the remainder.

Members of various business sectors are now seeking to establish agencies that will help bridge the possible gap between government policies and business goals. With the research and support of these agencies, companies will be better able to apprise themselves of the outcomes of international climate change negotiations and understand their implications, express their concerns directly to government, and analyze their mitigation outcomes. Enterprises in various business sectors are well aware of the fact that they need to participate in greenhouse gas mitigation.

Civil society also welcomes the recent emphasis on mitigation in Korea, and suggests the following measures for expanding global climate action. The participation of a wider range of stakeholders, robust communication among these participants and constant feedback—with a scientific basis—on the mitigation results are essential. Civil society also suggested that the government strive to increase the public understanding of climate change issues. Scaling up the ambition for each sector is of course important, but Korea should not forget the possible synergy effect when these sectoral efforts are integrated.

During the discussion time that followed, audience members from the young generation actively shared their opinions, showing their deep interest in the topic. They requested support from the government to young entrepreneurs, who are about to create start-ups targeting various opportunities arising from global climate change. Moreover, they also asked the public officials to strengthen access to information on climate change.

## **Second Session: Adapting to extreme heat in Korea's summer (Adaptation)**

This session focused on Korea's increasingly extreme heat waves during summertime. Central and local government officials and researchers from science institutes presented their views on current adaptation policies and possible ways to adapt to one of the most common climate disasters in Korea. These include installing improved infrastructure, analyzing the effects of extreme heat waves by using a big data system, and sharing adaptation efforts by a local government.

As for the national adaptation policy, in December 2015, the Korean Government established the 2<sup>nd</sup> National Climate Change Adaptation Plan (2016-2020). It encompasses five principles: sustainable development, climate resilience for vulnerable people, science-based measures, an integrated approach, and active public participation. With the key changes in the 2<sup>nd</sup> NAP and lessons learned from the 1<sup>st</sup> NAP, the Korean Government has in place a well-coordinated system and counter measures for the promotion of climate change adaptation policy. Furthermore, the Korean Government is also seeking to strengthen policy ties between climate change and air quality issues, so that the extreme heat problem is not exacerbated by worsening global warming and particulate matter problems.

In order to better adapt to extreme heat, the Korean government is installing cool roofs and cool pavements in rooftops and roads. These forms of infrastructure will utilize special white paint that can reflect sunlight back so as to reduce the amount of heat that these roads and roofs absorb. Furthermore, the effects of extreme heat can be analyzed through big data, since the adverse impacts of heat will be uneven, hitting certain social and economic strata of society particularly hard. Using this method will provide policymakers with a possible database for designing heat exposure reduction policies. Local governments are also exerting utmost efforts to adapt to heat waves, and one relevant example relating to local governments was shared among the participants. The City of Daegu in Korea seems to boast a lower death toll from heat waves, when compared to other municipalities. The reasons for this may be the city's well-established emergency care systems and its untiring efforts to further enhance the living environment, always striving to make it a delightful place to live.

At the close of the event, all participants agreed upon the following three reflections. First, in addressing climate change greater participation is imperative. Second, there is a need for a more active approach and determination in implementing specific actions. Third, there is an urgent need to take such actions. Following the holding of the two sessions, the event, with the Talanoa spirit fully thriving in the conference hall, came to a successful conclusion.