

National Statement of Commitment, Republic of Korea
(Draft as of August 11, 2022)

As the host of the World Education Forum 2015, the Republic of Korea has been making continuous domestic and international efforts to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all” from the very beginning stage of SDG4. On the occasion of the 2022 UN Transforming Education Summit, by factoring in the voices of various education stakeholders, including children and adolescents, university students and youth, teachers, parents, civil society, public and private sectors as well as academia, Korea commits to the following:

Promote a comprehensive recovery from the educational crisis caused by COVID-19. In order to recover from the multidimensional losses of children and adolescents caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, we will provide comprehensive support for their holistic growth in the areas of learning, social, emotional and physical development, as well as play. Comprehensive educational recovery should be stimulated not only at the individual student level, but also through a school-wide approach involving all teachers, as well as in cooperation of local communities and families, with schools playing a central role.

Reaffirm the role of education as foundation for an inclusive future in which "no one is left behind."

Korea has introduced free education for both primary and secondary education to strengthen the public nature of education and ensure equal educational opportunities for all students. Furthermore, in order to offer equal educational opportunities at the starting line in life, we support tuition for early childhood education and care for all children regardless of their socioeconomic backgrounds, and operate a national-level common curriculum for quality early childhood education. We will continue our endeavor to strengthen the government's responsibility for education and to realize people's basic right to education.

Ensure lifelong learning opportunities for all to allow them to receive quality education throughout their life cycle.

While lifelong education is becoming a daily routine due to technological advances and increased life expectancy, Korea ensures lifelong learning opportunities for all citizens, including the disadvantaged, with "lifelong education vouchers." In addition, we support universities and junior colleges to build education system for adult learners, and are in the process of reorganizing systems to allow adult learners to have their diverse work and learning experiences translated into academic credits. Going forward, Korea will continue to support all citizens

throughout their life cycle to encourage them to participate in learning all across their life stages, in line with social changes.

Pursue an inclusive and equitable people-centered digital transformation.

In the era of great digital transformation triggered by rapid innovation of new technologies such as AI and SW, Korea is preparing for a transition to digital-based education system in a proficient manner. The primary and secondary school curricula are reorganized to allow all students to acquire required competencies for future digital society, and forward-looking teaching and learning platforms are in the pipeline to respond to a rapidly changing environment. In addition, we continuously support the reinforcement of teachers' edutech competency through teacher-mentoring platforms (e.g. The Knowledge Spring), and lifelong learning distance courses. Korea will continue to undertake supportive measures so that the benefits of digital technologies can be broadly shared among all learners.

Support everyone to adapt to social changes and contribute to creating a sustainable future.

In order to respond to changing times and cultivate talent who will lead future society, Korea is promoting transitions at various levels of education. Through the Green Smart School project, we are building an educational environment to respond to climate change and digital transformation. We also provide climate and environmental education through the operation of carbon neutrality-focused schools and the professional learning groups of teachers aiming to advocate education for sustainable development(ESD). Moreover, in order to strengthen the linkage between schools and workplaces more effectively, we are reinforcing secondary vocational education in the fields of leading-edge technologies and industries, and are establishing a tight-knit network of communication between academic, industrial and research sectors, such as fostering leading universities of industry-academia-research cooperation. Korea will make every effort to provide an education highly relevant to the lives of learners in alignment with the changing times.

The Republic of Korea has been making continuous efforts to strengthen the public nature of education by maintaining and expanding public budget for education even in the COVID-19 pandemic. The Republic of Korea is committed to continuing its whole-of-society effort for transforming education by keep engaging in social dialogue and collecting opinions from various education stakeholders. In addition, we will walk the path of coexistence to achieve SDG4 through active exchanges and cooperation with the international community.