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General Debate 3 (a): Actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development at the global, regional and national levels

3 (b): Population, food security, nutrition and sustainable development

Statement submitted by the Korean Association for Supporting the SDGs for the UN (ASD), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council²

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

¹ E/CN.9/2020/1.

² The present statement is issued without formal editing.



Statement

The rise of population is one of the most challenging issues of our time. Regions including Africa, Southeast Asia, Middle and Southern America, have rising rates of population in the range of 20 years or younger, while countries such as the United States, Korea, Japan and many European countries are experiencing a rapidly ageing society. Estimates show that the African continent itself will exceed the number of two billion in population.

Countries such as India, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Tanzania, United States, Uganda and Indonesia are estimated to be those to contribute most to the rising number of populations between 2017 and 2050, yet eight out of these nine countries are either developing countries or experiencing an extreme gap between the rich and the poor.

Such increase in population has profound impact on food security. With the population is projected to reach nearly 10 billion in 2050, food production will not be able to keep up.

This phenomenon is interlinked to two additional issues. Firstly, the fast-growing population is closely intertwined with food security, which encompasses food supply and the rise of food costs. Secondly, this has a high possibility to cause malnutrition to a large number of children with mothers who face social and economic challenges. It is estimated that over a billion of women and children in many developing countries, are still living with incomes less than \$1.25 per day. Also, women who have jobs are also earning between 10 and 30 per cent less than men. Women and children are the most affected by the soaring food, nutrition and economic income problems caused by rising population. These issues must be resolved through the implementation of the 2030 sustainable developmental goals.

To solve such issues, the role of the private sector, especially multi-national corporations (MNCs) are extremely vital. Corporations have the ability to not only supply quality food products, but also provide jobs and economic supplements, which are the fundamental factors to lead a well-adjusted life.

Lotte Group, a global distributor on groceries and leisure, has been fulfilling the model idea of the implementation of the SDGs. As one of the main partners of Korean Association for Supporting the SDGs for the UN(ASD), Lotte is one of the global brands to adapt the SDGs as the company's main business strategy.

Among three SDGs projects, Caring for Women and Children (Caring Lotte) is one of its main pillars. The company supports this notion through the promotion of women's welfare in the workplace and assist them to become economically independent. Another project, Sweet Home, closely monitors improvements in the social and educational environment. Sweet Home assists those who are left in challenging situations, which cannot be adjusted or freed on their own. One of the company's brands, Lotte Confectionery, donates a portion of its profits to build childcare centres in diverse districts throughout Korea. These centres provide well rounded education and extra-curricular activities free of charge.

In partnership with Save the Children, since 2013, Lotte has annually built Sweet Homes in five regions of Korea. Currently there are six Sweet Homes and more than 180 children enjoy their benefits. The homes provide a safe shelter, education, and a well-balanced diet for children who lack access to such services. Each Sweet Home is customized and built based on the needs of the residents living in the area. This is being scaled up every year, in line with a project that supports cultural and educational support for underprivileged children called 'Sweet Picnic'.

In line with SDGs Goal 2, zero hunger, Lotte is striving to ensure that poor and disadvantaged groups, including infants, have access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food. Another food affiliate, Lotte Chilsung Beverage, is implementing this goal through the Sharing coin bank project and is expanding support for women. In addition, Lotte Chilsung Beverage is also conducting the Comfortable Mom Project and the Rejoice campaign for underprivileged mothers and women suffering from depression.

Lotte provides quality food (groceries) and stable food supply through various food and beverage companies held by the group. The projects can be a significant example for other countries and corporations as well as a model of SDG implementation.
