

## **Coordinated Policy Responses to the Food Crisis**

The Republic of Korea wishes to express its sincere appreciation to FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, and WHO for their collaborative effort in preparing the "State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023" report.

While the report indicates that global hunger has remained relatively stable between 2021 and 2022, we remain concerned about the worsening food crisis in various regions across the world.

The deepening global food supply crisis presents a significant challenge for Korea, a nation heavily reliant on food imports for most crops, except for rice.

In response, the Korean government has been implementing policies aimed at addressing the food crisis. These policies include bolstering food self-sufficiency and enhancing our response to climate change.

We believe it is imperative to focus on urbanization, a major megatrend, which is the central theme of the 2023 Sophie's Report. In this manner, we can build resilience against threats like conflicts and climate change while contributing to the global effort to eradicate hunger and malnutrition.

Urbanization is progressing swiftly worldwide, and it is time to challenge the conventional notion of the rural-urban divide. Instead, we should work toward a sustainable food system from the perspective of a rural-urban continuum.

The Republic of Korea, having undergone rapid industrialization and urbanization in a relatively short time, is faced with the accelerated aging of its rural population and a widening quality-of-life gap between urban and rural areas.

To address this, the Korean government provides subsidies to encourage young farmers to settle in rural areas. We also support diverse distribution routes that bridge urban and rural regions.

In addition, The Republic of Korea launched the K-Ricebelt initiative, an agricultural Official Development Assistance (ODA) project, in July. The project aims to share Korea's experiences in agricultural innovation. Presently, nine countries are participating in the project, including sub-Saharan African nations with high rates of urbanization such as Gambia, Ghana, and Sierra Leone.

This initiative is not merely a funding project but an endeavor to share and promote Korea's experience and expertise in rapidly achieving industrialization and agricultural innovations. It is anticipated that this project will help improve nutritional standards in Africa, particularly among young children.

The Republic of Korea is committed to continued collaboration with a wide range of partners and is eager to make a meaningful contribution to more resilient and sustainable food systems, enhancing food security in the face of rapid economic, social, and environmental changes, including urbanization.

Thank you.