

Implementation of Article X of the Convention by the Republic of Korea

1. The Republic of Korea (ROK) provides the following information concerning the request for background information on the implementation of Article X.

A. Cooperation with the United Nations, the World Health Organization, and the International Atomic Energy Agency

2. The Korea Disease Control Agency (KDCA) cooperates with international organizations to strengthen its capabilities in detecting, evaluating, reporting, and responding to public health threats to prepare for potential public health crises. For example, the KDCA and the World Health Organization's Regional Office for the Western Pacific signed a memorandum of understanding from 2016 to June 2022 regarding a Field Epidemiology Training Program to:

(a) build capacity in event-based surveillance and rapid risk assessment for implementation,

(b) prepare the program's alumni to contribute to public health emergencies, such as increasing surge capacity when public health events occur in the Western Pacific Region; and,

(c) establish a network of fellows in the Western Pacific Region for future collaboration.

3. The ROK supports activities of the Committee on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540. The ROK shared recent developments in the ROK's export control system at the regional Wiesbaden Conference in 2017, 2018, and 2019. In 2018, the ROK hosted the 2nd United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 Industrial Outreach Conference with support from the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany as part of the Wiesbaden Conference for the Asia Pacific region. The conference facilitated information exchange between regulators and industries to find ways to implement UNSCR 1540 (2004) effectively.

4. The ROK made an extra-budgetary contribution to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) of USD 1 million to support the global response to the pandemic in 2020. This contribution supports the IAEA's Zoonotic Diseases Integrated Action initiative to strengthen the preparedness and capabilities of countries to detect, diagnose, and monitor outbreaks of zoonotic diseases.

5. The ROK has accelerated research and development for Covid-19 therapeutics and vaccines, pledging 300 million dollars toward the ACT-A Initiative and 30 million dollars to the Financial Intermediary Fund of the World Bank, among others, thereby expanding its

contributions to building a more robust global health architecture. In addition, the ROK will remarkably increase its contribution to Global Fund, joining forces with our partners in our fight against infectious diseases including AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

B. Global Health Security Agenda

6. The ROK is a permanent member of the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) Steering Group and contributes to GHSA Immunization Action Package. In addition, the ROK will host a GHSA Ministerial Meeting of GHSA in Seoul, November 2022 which will also include a side event on the Biosafety Action Package as to provide opportunities to strengthen and to widen the global laboratory network in the sphere of global health security. Also, the ROK government and the Korea International Cooperation Agency have supported capacity building in infectious diseases and laboratory management through projects such as the Development and Implementation of Activities Contributing to the GHSA in Cambodia (2017-2020, USD 3 million), the GHSA Strengthening Project in Ghana (2018-2021, USD 7.5 million), and the Master's Degree Program in GHSA Capacity Building.

C. Participation in Global Partnership

7. Since 2005, the ROK has participated in the Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction to contribute proactively to the efforts to prevent terrorists or states that sponsor terrorism from acquiring or developing weapons of mass destruction and related materials, equipment, and technology.

E. Global Disease Eradication Fund

8. The ROK established the Global Disease Eradication Fund (GDEF) for treating and preventing infectious diseases in developing countries in collaboration with non-governmental organizations, international organizations, and other international initiatives. One thousand KRW (approximately 0.6 USD) is levied on every international flight ticket departing from the ROK to fund the GDEF. Since 2017, the GDEF has been supporting various projects to strengthen the capacity for responding to infectious diseases, such as the WHO's Strengthening National Laboratory Systems and the Workforce for Surveillance of Emerging Threats Including Antimicrobial Resistance (2017-2022, USD 9.75 million), Building Resilient Health Care Services to Improve Emergency Preparedness (2018-2022, USD 5.84 million), and Promoting Global Health Security through Strengthened Capacities for Outbreak Prevention, Detection, and Response (2019-2023, USD 9.5 million), as well as core programs of other global health organizations, including the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (2020-2022, USD 9 million).

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