

Statement by Minister Counselor Yun Seong-deok

Minister Counselor to the European Union

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Distinguished chairs,

1. It is a great honor to be invited to this event hosted by the Global Partnership for Education. I would like to begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to GPE partners in promoting the quality of education in developing countries. My thanks also go to all the distinguished speakers for their contributions to this meaningful cause.

2. As we all know, education is directly linked to individual potential and national productivity. It presents a substantial opportunity to gain better access to skills, resources, and other critical means to meet daily challenges. This is why supporting quality education is extremely important in achieving the very purpose of development, not least the well-being of individuals and eradication of poverty.

3. In this regard, the Republic of Korea seeks to make an effective contribution to educational development, as evidenced by our support of the Global Education First Initiative launched by the UN Secretary-General in 2012 focusing on accelerating progress of the 'Education for All' and education MDGs. Hosting the 2015 World Education Forum next May is of parallel interest. As the world's biggest education conference, this forum will adopt a new education agenda based on comprehensive assessments of EFA and achievements of education MDGs. We believe the results of the forum will significantly enrich the Post-2015 development agenda.

4. Against this backdrop, the Republic of Korea intends to join GPE as a donor partner and to make a contribution to the fund, subject to confirmation amongst the appropriate mechanisms in our government. We also would like to contribute in promoting agenda for education, if we join GPE.

5. In closing, I would like to express our hope of improving global education through our efforts, ultimately fulfilling the promise of a better tomorrow for children in this ever-evolving development landscape.

Thank you. /END/