

President of the General Assembly, Under Secretary-General Jose Ocampo,
Your Excellencies, Delegates, Representatives, Speakers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to be with you here today and I would like to express my sincere thanks for your efforts and work with the United Nations.

We are gathered here to discuss and share ideas and opinions on “our common value in the information age.” I understand that this event’s agenda is to put an emphasis on the Millennium Declaration, adopted by Heads of State and Governments six years ago. The Declaration advocated a common set of values and principles, including solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature, revival of the spirit of cooperation and shared responsibility as fundamental to international relations in the 21st Century.

I would like to take this opportunity to ask all NGOs to share and join forces to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In addition, I would like the United Nations to further strengthen itself as a force for good under the new leadership of the 8th Secretary General elect, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, who is the former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea. Furthermore, we, all together, must promote global public goods, especially, through Information Communications Technologies (ICT), whose benefits should reach across borders, generations and populations, increasing equity, eradicating disease, enhancing environmental sustainability, and promoting peace and security.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

At this point, I would like to introduce my organization, the Korea Freedom League (KFL), which in 2002 gained a Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. We were established in 1954 as a National Movement Organization to protect free democracy, freedom and human rights on the

Korean peninsula as well as promote volunteerism in local communities. Since its registration at the UN, we have expanded activities to promote social development, gender equality, and medical services around the world.

I understand that the core value of capitalism is the free market system and competition. Due to those unavoidable circumstances, some people are being marginalized from the benefits of capitalism. So, volunteering activities geared towards embracing socially estranged people is both very important and essential for the expansion of a social safety network.

We, the KFL, are a member organization of the Korea Council of Volunteering which is made up of 135 civil societies and NGOs. Through this network, we operate a civic mother volunteer police corps, called “Posuni” in Korean, with 120 thousand members across the country. They mainly do community service, such as caring for lonely seniors or patrolling the community.

In addition, since 2001, we have biannually operated the Global Leader Volunteer Program involving university students. These students are dispatched to developing nations to enhance social development, medical care, education, etc. Last year, we launched the Global Emergency Relief and Rescue Corps with 7,000 young members for the purposes of providing emergency relief in global disaster situations.

In 1994, the United Nations Development Program introduced the concept of human security. However, comprehensive security covering human rights, environment, poverty, health, and gender have taken priority in the world. I think that this is the right direction to go forward in and we, NGOs, have many missions to achieve these goals.

Lastly, I would like to put an emphasis on our mission to achieve the MDGs by working together because global alliances are important for implementing effective and efficient programs. I hope all of our organizations work together and I wish you every success.

Thank you for listening.

KWON, Jung-dal
President, Korea Freedom League