

Statement by the Republic of Korea
on behalf of MIKTA (Mexico, Indonesia, Korea, Turkey, and Australia)
at the High-Level Meeting to Commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations

Mr. President, Secretary-General, Distinguished Delegates,

I find it meaningful to take part in the High-Level Meeting to Commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations, where we will reflect on the crucial journey taken by the UN during the past 75 years and prepare for a new future.

I would like to thank you especially for granting me the opportunity to speak on behalf of MIKTA, which is composed of Mexico, Indonesia, Korea, Turkey and Australia, for the first time at the Head of State level at the United Nations.

The five countries that comprise MIKTA are cross-regional powers that have developed upon the foundation of a ‘multilateral international order’ the UN has cultivated, and have been steadfast in supporting the UN.

Seventy-five years ago, the United Nations was born out of humanity’s common resolve to never repeat the devastation of war.

Since then, it has secured peace and safety in conflict zones around the world by establishing international norms such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

It has also pooled the wisdom of all humanity to address global issues including sustainable development and climate action. Indeed, it has been under the communal umbrella of the United Nations that we have achieved peace and progress.

Nevertheless, there is still much to be done in the face of new challenges. The current COVID-19 pandemic is threatening to undermine the spirit of multilateralism embodied by the UN and the five

MIKTA countries.

The five countries of MIKTA share the common understanding that the key to overcoming COVID-19 is unity, solidarity and cooperation.

As a diverse and cross-regional grouping of powers, we agreed to play a bridging role between developed and developing countries, as well as among regions, and also promote multilateral cooperation.

Indonesia called for solidarity to better respond to the novel coronavirus and took the lead in proposing the first UN General Assembly Resolution on COVID-19, while Mexico drafted the UNGA resolution on enhancing global access to medicines, vaccines and medical equipment.

Australia, working closely with key partners, especially the European Union, secured the adoption of the WHA resolution establishing an impartial, independent and comprehensive evaluation of the experience gained and lessons learned from the WHO-coordinated international health response to COVID-19.

Ambassador Volkan Bozkir from Turkey is demonstrating his leadership to promote global solidarity as the President of the UNGA during this critical time.

The Republic of Korea has also done its part by forming various Friends Groups to strengthen cooperation in healthcare at the UN, WHO and UNESCO.

All of these efforts culminated in the adoption of the Declaration on the Commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the UN today, which represents the yearning and the pledge of 193 Member States to resolve global problems through international solidarity.

The five MIKTA countries welcome its adoption.

With the UN at the core, we will relentlessly strive to tackle global challenges facing humanity, including but not limited to overcoming the COVID-19 crisis, addressing climate change, maintaining international peace and security, and reducing inequalities.

In particular, as a diverse and cross-regional grouping of powers, MIKTA pledges to play a leading role in facilitating recovery in a way that reduces disparity, building back better and realizing an inclusive community that leaves no one behind.