

Korea's Endeavors for Cooperation with Africa

The Republic of Korea (hereinafter referred to as "Korea") is devoted to fostering and deepening its partnership with Africa, centering on seven priority areas: trade and investment, response to global challenges, sustainable infrastructure, vocational training and education, digital transformation and science & technology, mutual understanding and exchanges, and peace and security.

As a catalyst for the implementation of the cooperation with Africa, Korea will continue to expand Official Development Assistance (ODA) up to \$10 billion by 2030, including with the expansion of the Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) Framework Arrangement and grants. Korea also will provide \$14 billion in export financing to Korean companies by 2030 to encourage their activities in Africa, with the aim of expanding trade and investment between Korea and Africa.

Korea's cooperation with Africa in these areas, driven by Korea's unwavering commitment, encompasses the following seven priority areas:

1. Trade and Investment

- Striving to expand trade and investment through tailored policy recommendations and institutional support, currently amounting to \$18.5 billion in trade volume and \$7.5 billion in direct investment;
- Endeavoring to commence the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations with African countries including Tanzania, Kenya, and Morocco, with plans to engage additional African nations;
- Working toward the conclusion of the Trade and Investment Promotion Frameworks (TIPF) with Zimbabwe, Ghana, Benin, Rwanda, Malawi, Mauritania, Sierra Leone, and Zambia, following the conclusion with Angola in April 2024, and with a view to pursuing negotiations with other African nations;

- Expanding bilateral economic agreements, including investment treaties, double taxation avoidance agreements, and social security agreements with more African nations in the future;
- Bolstering the activities of the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) in Africa;
- Encouraging the business activities of Korean companies in Africa and facilitating the entry of new Korean enterprises into the African market through the provision of export finance;
- Endeavoring to extend preferential tariff treatments for African countries transitioning from WTO's Least Developed Country (LDC) status;
- Establishing the Korea-Africa Economic Cooperation Committee via an MOU between the Korea International Trade Association (KITA) and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat to facilitate business-to-business exchanges;
- Sharing Korea's experience and expertise for effective Free Trade Agreement (FTA) implementation through an MOU concluded between the Korea Customs Service with the AfCFTA Secretariat in April 2024;
- Continuing to organize Korea-Africa High-level Trade Facilitation Policy Seminars by Korea Customs Service, the first meeting of which was held in April 2024;
- Expanding customs modernization initiatives for African partners including the implementation of the Business Process Reengineering (BRP) projects of the Korea Customs Service in Angola, Burundi, and Zambia in 2024;
- Pursuit of introduction of rapid Development Experience Exchange Program (DEEP) projects of the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) into African countries to support the development of implementation plans in key sectors in respective African countries, centered on priority economic development areas under the African Union (AU)'s Agenda 2063;
- Enhancing cooperation through the Knowledge Sharing Program (KSP), which advocates essential policies for charting sustainable economic development strategies.

2. **Response to Global Challenges**

Global Supply Chain Stabilization

- Launching Korea-Africa Critical Minerals Dialogue to accelerate cooperative efforts for strengthening the stability of global critical minerals supply chains, facilitating private sector-led critical minerals projects in Africa, and supporting the capacity of African countries for sustainable and clean development of minerals;
- Conclusion of MOUs between the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE) of Korea and its counterparts in Africa including the Ministry of Minerals of Tanzania and the Ministry of Mines of Madagascar
 - to exchange information, expand technology cooperation, foster people-to-people exchanges, and conduct joint exploration of critical minerals;
- Conclusion of MOUs between mining-related institutions such as the Korea Mine Rehabilitation and Mineral Resources Corporation (KOMIR) and their African counterparts on the occasion of the 2024 Korea-Africa Summit, to exchange information and experience and strengthen technical capacity through joint research;
- Endeavoring to conclude MOUs between the Korea Institute of Geoscience and Mineral Resources (KIGAM) of Korea and its African counterparts including the Geological Survey of Tanzania on the occasion of the 2024 Korea-Africa Summit, to facilitate collaboration on geoscientific research, mineral resources mapping, and laboratory activities.

Food Security

- Provision of 62,000 tons of rice that is worth approximately \$52 million, to several African countries in 2024;

- Strengthening cooperation related to rice aid to Africa until 2030 in cooperation with the World Food Programme (WFP);
- Support for African countries in improving agricultural productivity and increasing the income of local farmers through innovative rural community projects of KOICA overseas offices, the Saemaul Undong movement, and various projects for rice cultivation including the K-Ricebelt;
- Support for youth-led rural development by introducing smart agriculture and climate-adaptive farming technologies for the young African generations;
- Strengthening agricultural R&D cooperation, including increasing the number of Korea-Africa Food and Agricultural Cooperation Initiative (KAFACI) member states from the current 23 countries.

Response to Climate Change

- Increase in the number of African countries signing the Framework Agreement for Cooperation on Climate Change;
- Implementation of Korea's domestic procedures to contribute \$7 million to the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage launched at COP28 in 2023;
- Support for the development of green energy infrastructure and smart water supply systems;
- Sharing scientific and innovative technology related to responding to climate change through the United Nations Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) with African countries;
- Expansion of cooperation in the maritime sector including through signing of MOUs across shipping, ports, logistics, aquaculture, the blue economy, and fisheries cooperation with African countries including Kenya, Tanzania, and Seychelles;
- Support for enhancing capacity of seafarers of African countries including Kenya and Tanzania by providing international onboard training programs;

- Support for the development and implementation of a sustainable fisheries resource management system for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in Africa;
- Support for sustainable fisheries in African coastal villages by introducing Korea's fisheries management system and improving the environment in fishery habitats;
- Enhancement of fishery products processing and distribution capacities for women workers in the fisheries sector;
- Conducting of collaborative research for conservation of biodiversity and sustainable utilization of beneficial biological resources;
- Reinforcement of cooperation to prevent desertification, to conserve tropical rainforests, and to improve the quality of life for local residents by strengthening cooperation with and toward
 - United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) for its dryland greening projects and the Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI);
 - Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) to preserve the Congo Basin;
 - Sustainable forest resource management, forest restoration, and agroforestry to increase the incomes of local residents.

Response to Health Crises

- Support for providing basic healthcare services, enhancing preparedness and responses to health crises, and digitalizing medical information in African countries;
- Support for establishing infectious disease information and surveillance systems and infectious disease-related laboratory systems through collaboration between the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA) and the Africa CDC;
- Exploring avenues to support eradication of diseases such as malaria through the utilization of Korea's contributions to the global health partnerships, including the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI);

- Reinforcement of healthcare cooperation through the activities of the Korea Foundation for International Healthcare (KOFIH) overseas offices in African and KOICA overseas offices;
- Increase in Korea's contribution to the Korea-Africa Union (AU) Cooperation Fund from \$1.42 million in 2023 to \$7.5 million in 2024 to facilitate joint responses to global challenges.

3. Sustainable Infrastructure

- Expansion of EDCF Framework Arrangements (F/A) for swift support of large-scale, high-value infrastructure projects and an increase in the number of African countries supported by the EDCF;
- Deepening EDCF cooperation through the activities of representative offices of the Korea Export-Import Bank (KEXIM) in Africa;
- Strengthening G2G cooperation by signing infrastructure-related MOUs including between the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport (MOTIE) of Korea and its counterparts;
- Reinforcement of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) cooperation in various infrastructure sectors including land and transport;
- Strengthening infrastructure cooperation through the activities of the Korea Overseas Infrastructure & Urban Development Corporation (KIND) global office in Kenya;
- Policy recommendations for freight transport in Africa in cooperation with the OECD International Transport Forum (ITF);
- Hosting a Special Session for Africa at the Global Infrastructure Cooperation Conference (GICC) to be held in Seoul in September 2024.

4. Vocational Training and Education

- Increasing the number of African countries eligible for the KOICA Scholarship Program;
- Increasing the number of African undergraduate and graduate students supported by the Global Korea Scholarship (GKS) program;
- Providing greater opportunities for African talents to pursue science, technology, and engineering master's and doctoral degree programs;
- Launching KOICA invitational training program for African diplomats on the occasion of the Korea-Africa Summit;
- Establishing academic cooperation networks and long-term partnerships by boosting bilateral academic exchanges such as holding an international academic forum involving the academia, institutions, universities, and think tanks from both sides;
- Nurturing of Korean experts on Africa to contribute to cultivating a deeper understanding of Africa;
- Expansion of projects to support technical and vocational training for the young generation in various areas based on the industrial demand of African countries such as in the fields of agriculture, fashion and beauty, information and communication technologies (ICTs) and automobile maintenance.

5. Digital Transformation and Science and Technology

- Launch of the “Tech4Africa Initiative” to support the enhancement of digital capabilities of the young African generation, meeting industrial demands and leading to robust technology-based employment and entrepreneurship;
- Support for the establishment of science and technology innovation systems for Africa's medium- to long-term digital transformation;
- Support for the reinforcement of the ICT policy capabilities of African policymakers through sharing Korea's digital transformation experience;
- Support for facilitating the innovation and digitalization of African governments by expanding Digital Government Cooperation Centers (DGCC) to enhance the digital government-related capabilities of African countries through policy research, pilot projects, and improving the capacities of civil servants;

- Expansion of Korea's UNI-PASS system to ensure swift customs clearance, transparency, and trade facilitation in African countries following the introduction of the system to Ghana, Cameroon, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Algeria, and Madagascar;
- Adoption of the One-stop Origin Management System of the Korea Customs Service (KCS) for African countries, including Tanzania, to support the systematic origin management, origin determination for FTA utilization, and exchanges of cross-border origin data;
- Support for establishing statistical infrastructure such as the Africa Information Highway (AIH) on the basis of the MOU signed between Statistics Korea (KOSTAT) and the AfDB in September 2023;
- Strengthening cooperation in the fields of statistics and procurement by expanding the introduction of the Korean Statistical Information Service (KOSIS) system and the Korean Online E-Procurement system (KONEPS) in more African countries.

6. Mutual Understanding and Exchanges

- Establishment of new high-level consultation bodies including the Korea-Africa Foreign Ministers Meeting;
- Drawing on existing high-level consultations including the Korea-Africa Economic Cooperation (KOAFEC) Ministerial Conference, K-Ricebelt Ministerial Meeting, and the Korea-Africa High-level Trade Facilitation Policy Seminar by Korea Customs Service;
- Expanding inter-parliamentary exchanges including mutual visits between parliamentary friendship associations;
- Conducting people-to-people exchanges including invitational training program in the areas of culture, arts, sports, and tourism as well as strengthening cooperation among various cultural institutions;
- Expanding the number of King Sejong Institutes in Africa to help increase the dissemination of the Korean language
- Working toward greater visa exemption agreements with African countries for diplomatic and official passport holders;

- Conclusion of new aviation agreements as well as accelerated ratification and renewal of existing aviation agreements;

7. Peace and Security

- Exploration of new projects to enhance cooperation between Korea and the AU to support AU-led peace initiatives, while increasing Korea's contribution to peace and security activities of the AU from \$1 million in 2023 to \$5 million in 2024;
- Strengthening cooperation with African countries during Korea's 2024-25 term as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC);
- Reinforcement of Korea's United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (UN PKO) activities in African countries, including the continued dispatch of and strengthening activities of the Hanbit Unit as well as building on UN PKO Smart Camp pilot projects to contribute to UN PKO activities;
- Continued dispatch of and augmenting activities of the Cheonghae Unit to contribute to peace and security in Africa;
- Expansion of cooperation with African countries to stabilize the situation in the Gulf of Guinea, supported by continual dispatch of military attaches, provision of invitational training programs, expansion of high-level exchanges, and provision of necessary equipment;
- Strengthening cooperation with African countries to contribute their greater national defense capabilities including through the expansion of commissioned education/training and the pursuit of free transfer of decommissioned military equipment.

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