

2024 Korea Sustainability Assessment Report



**The National Commission on
Sustainable Development**

2024 National Sustainability Assessment Report

– Republic of Korea –

1. Overview and Purpose

1.1. Purpose and Legal Basis

This 2024 National Sustainability Assessment Report is issued pursuant to Article 15 of the Framework Act on Sustainable Development (2022). It aims to evaluate Korea's progress toward sustainable development by measuring how closely national conditions align with the Korean Sustainable Development Goals (K-SDGs) set out in the Fourth Basic Plan for National Sustainable Development (2021-2040). Based on the K-SDG indicators and related data analysis, the report provides an assessment of current prospects for goal achievements, and identifies areas requiring additional policy focus, ultimately guiding decision-making towards sustainable development of the republic of Korea.

1.2 Scope and Methods

(1) K-SDG Framework

Korea's overarching K-SDG framework encompasses 17 goals under four strategic pillars:

- (1) People (Society)
- (2) Prosperity (Economy)
- (3) Environment
- (4) Peace & Partnership

Collectively, these 17 goals contain 119 sub-goals and 236 individual indicators, covering the social, economic, environmental, and partnership dimensions of sustainability.

(2) Indicator Coverage

Of the 236 K-SDG indicators defined in the Fourth Basic Plan, 176 met the requisite data availability standards to be analyzed in this 2024 assessment. Indicators lacking sufficient or consistent statistical data were excluded from the final evaluation, underscoring the ongoing need to expand data collection and improve measurement practices.

(3) Evaluation Metric

Each indicator's recent performance trend is compared against its 2040 target, forming a "Goal Achievement Outlook." This outlook is represented by four weather-themed ratings, each conveying the degree to which current trends support or impede eventual target attainment:

- Sunny (☀️): Strongly on track to meet the 2040 target; sustained efforts likely suffice for goal fulfillment.
- Partly Cloudy (☁️): Partial progress detected; although moving in the right direction, the current rate may be insufficient to achieve the target by 2040 without further interventions.
- Cloudy (☁️): Stagnant or marginal progress; trend data suggest limited improvement, requiring significant policy adjustments.
- Thunderstorm (⚡): Negative or regressive trajectory; indicators are moving away from the target, indicating an urgent need for corrective measures.

The assessment's primary focus is to monitor the trajectory of each indicator over time, rather than merely reporting a single, static metric. By highlighting trends and comparing them to the path necessary for achieving 2040 targets, this approach informs stakeholders — ranging from policymakers, local officials, civil society, and private sector — of the adjustments needed to stay on course for sustainable development.

2. National and International Contexts

2.1. International Contexts

The concept of sustainable development has evolved through a series of major global milestones, beginning with the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992—commonly known as the Rio Earth Summit. At this conference, the international community adopted both the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and Agenda 21, promoting integrated approaches to economic growth, social equity, and environmental protection. This global momentum continued at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in 2002, held in Johannesburg (sometimes referred to as Rio+10), which emphasized the critical importance of implementing these sustainable development principles and further refining national strategies.

In 2012, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD)—often called Rio+20—carried forward this process by focusing on how to achieve a “green economy” within the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication. As one of the key outcomes of Rio+20, participating nations agreed to create a set of universal sustainable development goals (SDGs) that would succeed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) after 2015.

Subsequently, in 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, featuring the 17 Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs), encompassing 169 targets that collectively aim to eradicate poverty, protect the planet, and promote prosperity for all. To facilitate global follow-up and review of progress, the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) convenes annually under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and every four years at the Heads of State and Government level under the UN General Assembly. The HLPF reviews thematic and cross-cutting issues related to the SDGs and examines countries' Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), fostering international collaboration and knowledge-sharing on sustainable development practices.

2.2. Domestic Developments

Following this global consensus, the Republic of Korea embarked on a structured path toward sustainable development in the mid-to-late 1990s. After participating in the 1992 Rio Summit, Korea formulated a national version of Agenda 21 and encouraged local authorities to adopt Local Agenda 21 action plans. In 2000, the government declared a "National Environmental Vision for the New Millennium," bringing sustainable development into the core of national policy discussions. Additionally, a Presidential Commission on Sustainable Development was established to coordinate and streamline sustainability policies across ministries.

Over time, Korea's institutional framework for sustainable development has continued to evolve. A significant milestone was the Framework Act on Sustainable Development, first enacted in 2007, which provided the legal foundation for long-term and integrated national strategies. In 2022, this Framework Act was re-promulgated to reinforce the accountability and leadership of the Presidential Commission on Sustainable Development. Under the revised Act, the Commission's role was elevated, and government-wide responsibilities for achieving economic-social-environmental balance were reaffirmed.

Currently, the Fourth Basic Plan for National Sustainable Development (2021–2040) functions as Korea’s overarching policy blueprint for sustainability. This plan integrates the Korean Sustainable Development Goals (K–SDGs) with specific targets and indicators aligned with global SDGs. The K–SDG framework is structured into four core strategies—(i) People (Social), (ii) Prosperity (Economy), (iii) Environment, and (iv) Peace & Cooperation—covering 17 goals and 119 sub–targets. Through this comprehensive plan, national ministries, local governments, civil society, and the private sector collaborate to ensure sustainable development is pursued in a coordinated and systematic manner.

2.3. Comparative Performance

Recent global SDG indices — particularly the Sustainable Development Report 2024 published by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) — offer a detailed perspective on Korea’s progress relative to other OECD member nations. These data–driven assessments indicate that Korea outperforms or closely matches the OECD average in various domains, yet also faces notable hurdles in specific fields.

Regarding the two SDG goals of SDG–2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG–9 (Industry, Innovation, & Infrastructure) , Korea performs the best among OECD countries:

(1) Hunger, Food Security & Nutrition, and Sustainable Agriculture (SDG 2)

- Key Strengths: Korea appears to benefit from a stable and secure food supply, evidenced by its low rates of malnutrition, children’s physical development, obesity control, nitrogen management in agriculture, and relatively high agricultural productivity. Malnutrition in Korea is the lowest among OECD countries, along with many others. Prevalence of stunting and wasting in children and obesity in adults are also lower than OECD averages. Agricultural productivity and nitrogen management performs slightly better than the averages yet show room for further improvement.

- Outlook: To sustain these gains, continued innovation in sustainable farming methods, coupled with efforts to secure biodiversity within agricultural ecosystems, will be essential.

(2) Resilient Infrastructure, Inclusive & Sustainable Industrialization, & Innovation (SDG 9)

- Key Strengths: Korea allocates a considerable share of its GDP to research and development (R&D), fostering cutting-edge technologies. It spends 4.93% of GDP in R&D, which is more than double of OECD average of 2.08% – ranks second only to Israel's 5.56%. Korea also performs well in its digital connectivity and extensive broadband networks, quality of logistic infrastructure, and road accessibility in rural areas.
- Outlook: By leveraging these research investments and industrial capabilities, Korea can further drive technological breakthroughs – especially in green tech and advanced manufacturing – to maintain competitiveness and support sustainable growth.

Despite these positive achievements, the nation confronts substantive challenges in areas demanding more urgent policy attention:

(1) Ecosystem Conservation below Water & on Land (SDG 14 & SDG 15)

- Challenges: Marine and terrestrial biodiversity indices reveal the need for more robust habitat and species protections. Protected areas are substantially lower for both marine and terrestrial ecosystems. Rate of species extinction(evidenced in the red list index), overfishing, and contamination of sea waters also reveals persistent threats.
- Implications: A more cohesive approach – expanding marine and terrestrial protected areas and conserving biodiversity, along with collaborating with communities relying on use of the ecosystems, and

promoting more sustainable fishing practice – will be critical to safeguarding ecosystems.

(2) Gender Equality (SDG 5)

- Challenges: Although gender equality has been improved over the years in many aspects, major gaps endure in women's length of education, labor force participation, representation in political leadership, and particularly in wage parity. Women's median wage is 31.2% lower than men's – the largest wage gap in OECD.
- Implications: Targeted strategies – ranging from family-friendly labor environment and childcare support to active recruitment of women in corporate boards and public offices – are essential to narrow the gender gap.

(3) Climate Action (SDG 13)

- Challenges: Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and fossil fuel reliance requires improvement, and carbon pricing system appears insufficient. The CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion and cement production amounts to 11.60 tCO₂ /capita, well above the OECD average of 6.83 tCO₂ /capita. The Carbon Pricing Score (CPS) measures whether a country is charging an appropriate price for all energy-related carbon emissions. Korea's CPS of 47.9 is slightly below the OECD average of 51.5, leaving room for improvement.
- Implications: Korea needs to accelerate the transition toward renewable energy, implement carbon pricing or emissions-trading systems more comprehensively and effectively, and invest in climate-resilient infrastructure to meet its mid- and long-term climate objectives.

(4) Water & Sanitation (SDG 6)

- Challenges: Although basic level of drinking water and sanitation access is nearly universal, significant issues persist in sustainable use of freshwater resources. The rate of freshwater withdrawal indicates the level of water stress. In Korea, 85.2% of available freshwater resources are withdrawn and used, much higher than the OECD average of 21.4%.
- Implications: Greater emphasis on sustainable water use, sustainable management of water-related infrastructure, continued improvement of access to basic water services, and stronger institution for integrated water management and inter-regional water governance will help align Korea's performance with leading international norms.

Overall, Korea's sustainable development framework has considerably advanced, thanks to a robust legal architecture and cohesive institutional mechanisms. Yet, to fulfill its ambitious K-SDG targets for 2040, the government must intensify efforts in key areas — most notably environment and ecosystem protection, climate action, and gender equality. At the same time, Korea should continue to harness its strengths in R&D, digital infrastructure, industry, and social development, ensuring balanced and inclusive progress across the socioeconomic and ecological spectrum.

3. K-SDG Indicators Evaluation

3.1 Evaluation Approach

To measure progress toward the Korean Sustainable Development Goals (K-SDGs), each of the 17 goals is accompanied by a set of quantitative and qualitative indicators. In most cases, these indicators are tied to clearly defined 2040 targets established in the Fourth Basic Plan for National Sustainable Development. The evaluation method employed in this assessment is as follows:

(1) Multi-Year Data Collection

- For each indicator, the assessment compiles multiple years of recent data – typically spanning the last five to ten years – to capture observable trends over time.
- Where possible, longer data series are analyzed to ensure greater statistical reliability, although shorter intervals may be used if only limited data is available.

(2) Trend Analysis and Target Comparison

- Once these datasets are assembled, each indicator's current rate of change (e.g. annual growth, decline, or stagnation) is calculated.
- This recent trend is then compared against the pace required to meet the respective 2040 target. If an indicator's actual rate of improvement closely aligns with – or exceeds – the needed trajectory, it is deemed likely to achieve its goal.

(3) Goal Achievement Outlook

- The evaluation results provides each indicator's goal achievement outlook using weather-themed symbols, ranging from “Sunny” for those solidly on track to “Thunderstorm” for indicators moving in the wrong direction.

- This goal achievement outlook highlights the degree to which current trends support (or hinder) long-term sustainability goals, and thereby suggests whether incremental policy adjustments or more urgent measures are necessary.

Through this multi-step evaluation logic — collecting robust data, analyzing trends, and gauging alignment with 2040 targets — the K-SDG Indicator Evaluation offers decision-makers, researchers, and stakeholders a clear roadmap for understanding which areas are on track for sustainable development and which require intensified intervention.

3.2 Main Findings by Strategy

3.2.1 People (Society)

Goal 1 (Poverty & Social Protection)

Goal 1 of the K-SDG focuses on reducing both absolute and relative poverty and strengthening social safety nets for low-income groups. According to the assessment results, out of the 9 indicators under Goal 1, six are likely to reach their 2040 targets if current trends continue (“Sunny”), and two are moving in a positive direction but appear insufficient to meet the targets (“Partly Cloudy”). The remaining one indicator — expenditures and share of emergency welfare assistance for vulnerable groups — was deemed stagnant (“Cloudy”).

Both public social expenditure as a percentage of GDP and welfare benefit budget soared during the COVID-19 pandemic but later showed slight declines or stagnation. Nevertheless, based on the most recent five-year trend, it is projected that the 2040 targets are attainable. Relative poverty rates, which hovered around 18% in the early 2010s and have since declined overall, saw a modest uptick in 2022. However, across the five-year window, the trend remains “Sunny.”

Children and disability-related fatalities from accidents have likewise

continued to improve. Indicators for emergency welfare expenditures for vulnerable groups -- emergency welfare assistance and job-creation budgets -- expanded during COVID-19 but subsequently decreased (e.g., employment subsidies), leading to an overall assessment of stagnation. Even so, they remain higher than pre-pandemic levels. Among the sub-indicators, emergency welfare assistance exceeded the 2040 target of 0.009% of GDP starting in 2022.

The household out-of-pocket share of medical expenses has been declining since 2015, signaling progress. Yet, at its current pace, it still seems unlikely to meet the 25% target by 2040. On the other hand, enrollment rates for employment insurance have recently risen further. Although it initially appeared unlikely to achieve the target at the time of the 2022 sustainability assessment, the 2024 results indicate that the existing trend could lead to target attainment. In contrast, national pension contribution rates had generally been climbing but dipped slightly in 2022, suggesting that -- if current conditions persist -- reaching the 84.2% target by 2040 would be difficult.

Goal 2 (Food Security & Sustainable Agriculture):

Goal 2 of the K-SDG addresses food security and the advancement of sustainable agriculture. While the United Nations' global SDG 2 primarily targets the eradication of hunger, Korea's K-SDG 2 places particular emphasis on ensuring the nation's food security and agricultural sustainability, reflecting Korea-specific conditions. Of the ten indicators set under Goal 2, eight are projected to meet their 2040 targets if recent trends continue, indicating a favorable outlook overall.

In the 2022 assessment, the proportion of lower-income households with sufficient food security was deemed stagnant. However, that figure has now risen sharply to 94.1%, prompting an upgrade to "Sunny" in the 2024 evaluation. Similarly, the number of crop varieties developed to address climate change, initially flagged in 2022 as unlikely to reach the 2040 goal, is now considered

“Sunny” and is on track for 500 varieties by 2040, if current progress is maintained.

By contrast, two indicators—farm household income and the acreage certified for organic farming—have been rated as stagnant. In the case of farm household income, factors such as an aging rural population, depopulation of farming villages, increased agricultural imports, and rising farm operating costs appear to undermine the sustainability of agricultural production. In the course of shifting agricultural policy to better integrate farming, environmental concerns, and food security, the role of eco-friendly agriculture is critical. Emphasizing low-input, natural-circulation organic farming could facilitate a more cohesive evolution of agricultural and environmental policies. Although the K-SDGs aim for a continued increase in the share of certified organic farmland, this indicator—having shown steady growth until 2021—has since fluctuated, resulting in its classification as stagnant.

To preserve genetic diversity, mid- to long-term storage facilities are actively securing animal and plant genetic resources. The consistent rise in the number of these safeguarded genetic materials suggests no major obstacles to meeting the 2040 target. As of 2023, the number of animal genetic resources stood at 409,000 units, already exceeding the 2040 goal of 370,000.

Goal 3 (Health & Well-Being)

Goal 3 of the K-SDG seeks to ensure a healthy and fulfilling life for all. Among the 18 indicators subject to the progress assessment, 10 are deemed on track to meet the 2040 target (“Sunny”), 2 show movement toward the goal but at an insufficient pace to achieve the 2040 threshold (“Partly Cloudy”), 5 remain stagnant (“Cloudy”), and 1 is in a state of deterioration (“Thunderstorm”).

Indicators such as adult smoking rate, alcohol consumption, new tuberculosis cases, infant and child health checkup participation, population-weighted PM2.5 levels, and the proportion of older adults without functional limitations

maintained their “Sunny” rating from the 2022 assessment, continuing to show progress sufficient for 2040 target attainment. As for the concentration of hazardous environmental substances in the human body, no new data were published since the 2022 assessment, so its previously assigned “Sunny” rating stands.

Meanwhile, the diabetes control rate was rated “Sunny” in 2022 but has recently worsened and is now classified as “Cloudy” for the 2024 assessment. It should be noted that the basis for measurement also changed between evaluations (the 2022 assessment used diabetes management levels for patients identified via fasting blood sugar).

The suicide rate remains in fluctuation and is again evaluated as “Cloudy” for the second consecutive assessment.

The only “Thunderstorm” indicator—namely, the chronic disease prevalence in persons with disabilities—pertains to the health status of sensitive/vulnerable populations. With low economic growth and an aging society further threatening the sustainability of socioeconomic structures, it is essential to strengthen health, welfare, and care policies for vulnerable groups. In particular, as the number of older adults with dementia increases, the burden on individuals and families should be shared more widely by society. Although the registration rate of dementia patients at “Dementia Relief Centers” climbed to 53.6% in 2020, it has since fluctuated and remains stagnant.

Finally, maternal mortality and infant mortality—previously rated as “Thunderstorm” and “Cloudy,” respectively—are now showing clear signs of improvement according to data through 2022 and have been upgraded to “Sunny,” indicating they are likely to meet their 2040 targets.

Goal 4 (Quality Education)

Goal 4 of the K-SDGs seeks to ensure quality education for all. Of the 16 indicators for which the goal achievement outlook are designated, 11 were deemed likely to achieve their 2040 targets (“Sunny”), 2 showed improvement but

are unlikely to reach the targets (“Partly Cloudy”), and 3 remained stagnant (“Cloudy”).

Regarding enrollment rate, the PISA scores, early childhood education enrollment, the proportion of public kindergartens and daycare centers, tertiary education completion rate, the number of special education classes, seismic retrofitting rate in schools, the rate of “Wee” Class operation, teacher–student ratios, the percentage of daycare teachers holding specialized degrees, and the placement rate of full–time counseling teachers in primary/secondary schools, all were evaluated as “Sunny,” i.e., capable of meeting their 2040 targets. In the case of early childhood education enrollment, the figure has risen steadily from 56.9% in 2002, surpassing 90% since 2013, reaching 94.3% in 2023.

In contrast, the amount of national scholarships per student, the lifelong learning participation rate, and the rate of participation in vocational training programs showed no clear progress (“Cloudy”). Specifically, the lifelong learning participation rate among adults aged 25–79 gradually increased from 29.8% in 2007 to 41.7% in 2019 (just before the COVID–19 pandemic), then declined to 28.5% in 2022 amid reduced in–person activities, and rebounded to 32.3% in 2023. Yet the five–year trend remains essentially stagnant. Compared to its “Thunderstorm” rating in the 2022 assessment, however, this suggests some recovery.

Meanwhile, the adult literacy rate indicator continues to rise in the share of individuals at level 4 or above, indicating an improving trend. Nonetheless, as in the previous assessment, it remains unlikely to meet the target (“Partly Cloudy”). Likewise, although the ratio of special education students per special education teacher gradually declined until 2021, it has since leveled off, leading to a “Partly Cloudy” rating. Given the ongoing increase in the number of special education students, further robust expansion in the special education teacher workforce will be essential for sustained reductions in the student–teacher ratio—a key K–SDG objective.

Goal 5 (Gender Equality)

Goal 5 of the K-SDGs aims to ensure gender equality. Of the 11 indicators evaluated under this goal, 8 show “Sunny” progress toward achieving their 2040 targets, 1 is “Cloudy” or stalled, and the remaining 2 are regressing (“Thunderstorm”).

Indicators such as the implementation rate of gender impact assessments, men’s share of housework and caregiving time in dual-income households, the proportion of women in the National Assembly and local councils, the representation of women in both the public and private sectors, and the provision of sex education are all trending favorably. If current progress continues, these indicators should be able to meet their 2040 targets.

By contrast, two indicators that are heading in the opposite direction concern the eradication of violence against women (Sub-goal 5-2) and specifically track sexual and digital sexual violence. Recently, the incidence of sexual offenses has risen sharply while the arrest rate has fallen; in 2022, the proportion of unresolved cases reached 11.9%. Moreover, arrest rates for various digital sex crimes are generally declining as well—unresolved cases of obscene-material distribution now stand at 39.0%. More robust measures are therefore needed to address emerging forms of violence against women, including digital sexual violence, ICT-based sexual exploitation, and crimes facilitated by illicit substances.

Finally, the policy-improvement adoption rate based on gender impact assessment increased to 86.6% in 2020, then declined somewhat thereafter, resulting in a “Cloudy” or stagnating assessment. Realizing substantive gender equality in Korean society requires systematically incorporating a gender perspective across all policies, backed by strengthened oversight and coordination functions.

Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities):

Goal 11 of the K-SDGs aims to create inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable

cities and human settlements. Among the 14 indicators assessed for their progress (or “Goal Achievement Outlook”), 8 indicators were found to be “on track” (“Sunny”) for achieving their 2040 targets, 3 indicators were rated as “stagnant” (“Cloudy”), and the remaining 3 indicators showed a negative or deteriorating trend (“Thunderstorm”).

Indicators such as the proportion of households below the minimum housing standard, public rental housing supply, low-floor bus penetration rate, UNESCO World Heritage listings, number of days with high particulate pollution and annual average fine particulate matter concentrations, and urban park area per capita continued to earn “Sunny” ratings, as they are improving sufficiently to meet their 2040 targets. Meanwhile, the housing benefit indicator—previously rated “Cloudy”—has advanced to “Sunny” in this assessment: for the past five years, both the number of recipient households and the total disbursement have continually risen since 2018.

In contrast, public transport and bicycle modal shares, both stagnant in the previous assessment, have now been downgraded to “Thunderstorm” in the current evaluation (incorporating data up to 2021). This shift is partly explained by public transportation’s sharp decline in modal share (27.8% in 2020) due to pandemic-related concerns. It remains to be seen whether this figure will rebound in the post-COVID-19 period. The bicycle modal share, measured roughly every five years, has fallen twice consecutively since 2010.

Additionally, the number of deaths and missing persons caused by social disasters increased significantly, warranting a “Thunderstorm” rating. Along side the impacts of COVID-19, various large-scale incidents such as the Itaewon tragedy also contributed to this negative outcome. To better manage social disasters, it will be essential to strengthen command, coordination, and control for emergencies, enhance the professionalism and response capabilities of disaster management personnel, and raise public risk awareness through improved policies and systems.

Regarding sub-target 11-7, which focuses on expanding and improving access

to urban nature, urban park area per capita has steadily grown in recent years, suggesting it is on track to meet the 2040 goal. However, accessibility to urban nature remains limited. The proportion of residents within a 10-minute walk of a neighborhood park fluctuated slightly between 2018 and 2021 and is ultimately rated “Cloudy” (stagnant).

3.2.2. Prosperity (Economy)

Goal 8 (Decent Work & Economic Growth):

Goal 8 of the K-SDGs, “Expanding Decent Work and Economic Growth,” aims to foster inclusive growth that increases decent employment opportunities. Because most of the relevant indicators are economic in nature, this goal has been significantly impacted by the negative effects of COVID-19. Of the seven indicators evaluated for Goal 8 in this assessment, only one was judged to be on track to meet its 2040 target (“Sunny”), three were deemed to be improving but unlikely to meet their 2040 targets (“Partly Cloudy”), two were rated as stagnant (“Cloudy”), and one showed a deteriorating trend (“Thunderstorm”).

Real GDP growth per capita and the ratio of non-regular to regular workers both improved slightly, moving from “Thunderstorm” in the previous evaluation to “Cloudy” (stagnant) in the current assessment. The employment rate, which dipped slightly in 2020, has increased each year through 2023, with female employment showing a larger rise than male employment. Although the employment rate for persons with disabilities edged up from around 34% in 2021 to the 36% range from 2022, it is still rated as “Cloudy” in terms of its trajectory toward the 2040 target.

The gender pay gap and the industrial fatality rate (accidents per 10,000 workers) remain in the “Partly Cloudy” category, indicating a positive direction of change but insufficient progress for meeting the specified targets. The gender wage gap has gradually narrowed, reaching 70% (women’s wages as a share of men’s) in 2022, but additional policy measures are needed to achieve the 85.5% target by 2030. Meanwhile, the accident-related fatality rate, which measures on-the-job

deaths per 10,000 workers, has been on a steady decline since 2013 but still stands at 0.39 as of 2023, making it unlikely to reach the 0.22 goal by 2030.

Migrant workers employed in small businesses, where working conditions are often poor, remain vulnerable to industrial accidents, human rights violations, sexual offenses, and economic or physical mistreatment, highlighting the need for policy efforts to protect and empower immigrant workers. Under the K-SDG framework, the aim is to maintain a stable employment share for migrant workers; the employment rate for foreign labor has remained at around 63-65% since 2019.

Goal 9 (Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure):

Goal 9 of the K-SDG framework aims to foster industrial growth and innovation while expanding social infrastructure. Among the nine indicators evaluated for Goal 9, six were rated “Sunny,” one received a “Partly Cloudy” rating, and two were deemed “Cloudy.”

The continued improvement in road penetration rates, digital inclusivity for vulnerable groups, the data industry market size, research and development (R&D) spending and researcher counts, and carbon dioxide emissions per unit of value added all indicate that these indicators remain on track to achieve their 2040 targets (“Sunny”), as in the previous assessment.

However, industrial concentration has not maintained a stable downward trend and thus remains stagnant (“Cloudy”), consistent with the prior evaluation. The country’s ranking in the Global Innovation Index (GII) climbed to 5th in 2021 but fell back to 10th in 2023, causing its outlook to drop from “Sunny” to “Cloudy.” Meanwhile, the recycling rate of industrial waste, which had inched up to 84.3% in 2020, has since plateaued, leading its rating to decline from “Sunny” to “Partly Cloudy.”

Goal 10 (Inequality Reduction):

K-SDG Goal 10 strives to eliminate all forms of inequality. Among the nine

indicators evaluated under this goal–achievement outlook, four are on track to meet their targets (“Sunny”), three are improving but still fall short of the required pace (“Partly Cloudy”), and two remain stagnant (“Cloudy”).

The mandatory employment rate for persons with disabilities has retained its previously observed trajectory, signaling a continued likelihood of achieving the 2040 target (“Sunny”). Meanwhile, the rate at which local governments enact ordinances for integrated foreign resident support has shown substantial improvement; if this trend persists, target attainment appears feasible. The income quintile ratio (5th quintile vs. 1st quintile) continues to edge downward, reflecting gradual progress. However, the income disparity ratio and the share of equalized household income held by the bottom 40% of the total population—both previously considered likely to achieve their targets—have experienced a slowdown in improvement. Consequently, their outlook ratings have slipped from “Sunny” to “Partly Cloudy.”

Because persistent income inequality can evolve into wealth inequality, the net asset share of households in the 1st and 2nd income quintiles serves as an indicator of whether inequality is becoming entrenched. Despite a policy goal of continuous reduction, this metric has remained flat instead of showing sustained decreases.

To better assess multicultural acceptance in a Korean societal context, the government developed a multicultural acceptance index and conducts periodic surveys to establish baseline standards and track emerging trends. In tandem, it has structured a social integration program by level and stage, encouraging higher participation among immigrants to facilitate stable settlement in Korean society. However, the adult multicultural acceptance index has remained largely unchanged since 2015, showing no notable improvement over that period.

Goal 12 (Sustainable Production & Consumption):

Goal 12 of the K–SDGs seeks to ensure sustainable production and

consumption. In this assessment, only 5 out of the 15 indicators evaluated were deemed “Sunny” (i.e., on track to meet the target), with 2 rated “Partly Cloudy,” and 4 each falling under “Cloudy” (stagnant) and “Thunderstorm” (moving in the opposite direction). Although this is an improvement compared to the 2022 assessment—where 6 out of 9 indicators were evaluated as “Thunderstorm”—the share of indicators in the “Thunderstorm” category remains relatively high. In particular, the three indicators related to per capita hazardous waste generation, municipal waste recycling rate, and the number of participating companies in green management remained “Thunderstorm,” just as in the previous assessment.

On the other hand, two indicators that were previously “Thunderstorm” but have now improved to “Sunny” are the number of companies publishing sustainability (ESG) reports and the general public’s level of environmental awareness. The publication of sustainability reports has significantly increased, driven by growing interest in ESG management and rising demands from investors for related disclosures.

The recycling rate for facility-generated industrial waste stands at around 84%, sustaining its “Sunny” rating. Moreover, the Basic Plan for Resource Circulation and corresponding implementation plans have been fully established at both the national and the 17 metropolitan government levels, indicating that those targets have already been met.

Indicators related to resource efficiency—namely per capita domestic material consumption and the number of resource items analyzed in the material flow analysis (MFA)—were both evaluated as stagnant (“Cloudy”) in this assessment. The number of accident-prone chemicals subject to regulation also remains unchanged from 97 listed substances. Meanwhile, fossil fuel subsidies as a percentage of GDP hovered around 0.09% through 2020 but surged to 0.43% in 2022 amid the energy crisis triggered by the war in Ukraine.

International negotiations are currently underway for a global agreement on plastics, suggesting that more stringent efforts to reduce and recycle plastics will

likely be required moving forward. Related K–SDG indicators include per capita plastic consumption and plastic waste recycling rate, both of which are trending positively but, at their current pace, remain insufficient to achieve the 2040 targets.

3.2.3. Environment

Goal 6 (Water Management):

Goal 6 of the K–SDGs focuses on “Healthy and Safe Water Management,” encompassing secure drinking water supply, sewer infrastructure enhancement, water quality improvement, protection of aquatic ecosystems, stable water supply and resource efficiency, a safe waterside environment, and overall sound water management. Out of a total of 15 indicators for Goal 6, 6 were rated “Sunny,” 2 “Partly Cloudy,” 5 “Cloudy,” and 2 “Thunderstorm.”

The indicators for water and sewage supply rates in rural and fishing communities maintained their previous “Sunny” ratings. As of 2022, coverage for water supply and sewage systems in these areas rose steadily to 82.8% and 76.6%, respectively. Meanwhile, the water circulation rate is also gradually increasing, making it likely to achieve its 90% target by 2040, thus earning a “Sunny” rating.

The number of sewer management priority areas, designated 38 times in 2022—its highest annual figure—has fluctuated over the last five years; it was therefore evaluated as “Partly Cloudy.” For the satisfaction level with tap water, which was rated “Partly Cloudy” in the previous assessment (due to short-term improvement yet long-term stagnation), new data are still pending from the triennial tap water consumption survey; hence, the prior evaluation result remains unchanged.

Concerning water quality targets, the achievement rates for both river quality (BOD-based) and lakes/reservoirs (TOC-based) have stagnated, dropping from “Sunny” in the previous evaluation to “Cloudy” this time. The number of newly regulated contaminants has also not increased since 2020, leading to a “Cloudy” (stagnant) rating. Local water supply self-sufficiency continues to decline,

indicating a negative “Thunderstorm” trend.

Regarding aquatic ecosystem indicators, the Habitat and Riverside Environment Assessment Index and the Fish Health Assessment Index both earned a “Thunderstorm” rating previously—reflecting a downward trend in the percentage above Grade B (good) up to 2020. However, with a recent slight recovery, they have been revised to “Cloudy” and “Sunny,” respectively. Wetland protection area has expanded incrementally and is thus assessed as “Sunny.”

Goal 7 (Clean Production & Consumption of Energy):

Goal 7 of the K-SDGs aims to foster clean production and consumption of energy. Among the six indicators assessed for progress, five are on track (classified as “Sunny”) to meet their 2040 targets, with the exception of one indicator measuring total energy consumption in the transportation sector.

The number of households receiving energy vouchers rose sharply from 642,000 in 2019 to 1.225 million in 2023, indicating a strengthening of energy welfare services. At its current pace, the 2040 target of two million households appears achievable. The share of new and renewable energy in electricity generation, as well as the share of renewable energy in primary energy consumption, have both been steadily increasing, suggesting that the respective K-SDG 2040 targets of 35% and 17.6% are within reach. Cumulative registrations of eco-friendly vehicles (electric, hydrogen, and hybrid) exceeded two million units in 2023, and the government has recently established and begun pursuing zero-emission vehicle (EV, hydrogen) deployment targets. Furthermore, the indicator for building energy efficiency continues its positive trend.

By contrast, the five-year trend in total energy consumption by the transportation sector shows that, after a brief drop in 2020 at the onset of COVID-19, consumption returned to around 36 million toe and has essentially remained stagnant. Consequently, it is evaluated as “Cloudy.”

Goal 13 (Climate Change & Action)

Goal 13 of the K-SDG relates to measures aimed at addressing climate change and its impacts. It comprises tasks such as strengthening capacities and regulatory frameworks for responding to climate disasters, implementing the national greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets, and transitioning to a low-carbon society. Out of the seven total indicators, three were evaluated based on quantitative trend analysis. Among these three, one was rated as “Sunny” while the remaining two were evaluated as “Partly Cloudy.”

The ratio of implemented disaster-prevention areas among municipal or county planning facilities—namely rivers, retention basins, reservoirs, flood protection facilities, sea dikes, and erosion control structures—has gradually improved each year, reaching 96.42% in 2022. However, it still falls short of the 2040 target of 98.5%, resulting in the same rating as in the previous assessment, “Partly Cloudy.” Because these disaster-prevention facilities help mitigate the risks posed by climate change, they serve as a proxy indicator for assessing a city’s capacity to recover from natural disasters.

Regarding national greenhouse gas emissions, they continued to rise annually until peaking in 2018. Although they declined in 2019, subsequent fluctuations occurred in tandem with the economic impacts and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2022, provisional figures indicate a decrease from the previous year, but ongoing monitoring is necessary to confirm any emerging trend. Based on data up to 2021—excluding provisional 2022 statistics—the outlook rating is “Partly Cloudy.”

Meanwhile, all 62 public agencies required to develop climate change adaptation plans have already formulated and are implementing such measures, leading to a “Sunny” rating for that indicator.

Goal 14 (Conserving Marine Ecosystems)

Goal 14 of the K-SDGs focuses on the conservation of marine ecosystems,

addressing tasks such as protecting marine habitats and marine life, ensuring the sustainable use and management of marine and fisheries resources, bolstering marine science capacity, and securing stable operations for small-scale fishers. Of the nine indicators evaluated for progress under Goal 14, five were rated “Sunny,” one “Partly Cloudy,” two “Cloudy,” and one “Thunderstorm.”

First, indicators related to the creation of maritime forests, domestic maritime science and technology transfers, grant-based international assistance in the marine and fisheries sector, and insurance coverage for fishing vessel crews are all on track to meet their targets; they have retained a “Sunny” rating, consistent with the previous evaluation. The amount of marine debris collected was deemed to have been falling short of its target (“Partly Cloudy”) in the 2022 assessment, but recently increased enough to merit a “Sunny” rating this time.

Meanwhile, the ratio of seawater quality meeting established standards and the share of research and development investment in the marine and fisheries sector were previously evaluated as worsening (“Thunderstorm”) in 2022. However, since then, these indicators have shown some improvement and are now rated as stagnant (“Cloudy”). By contrast, the comparative income of fishing households against urban worker households has continued to decline, leading to a sustained “Thunderstorm” trend.

Goal 15 (Conserving Terrestrial Ecosystems)

Goal 15 of the K-SDG focuses on conserving terrestrial ecosystems, encompassing various tasks such as the preservation and restoration of land and freshwater habitats, the protection of endangered species to safeguard biodiversity, sustainable forest management, management of invasive alien species, and restoring ecological corridors (ecological axes) to maintain robust ecological networks. Of the nine indicators assessed for their trajectory (“Goal Achievement Outlook”), four were rated “Sunny,” two were “Partly Cloudy,” one was “Cloudy,” and two were “Thunderstorm.”

The proportion of protected terrestrial and freshwater areas has now reached 17.45%, exceeding the 17% target set for 2030 in the K–SDG framework—hence rated “Sunny.” However, in light of the international community’s new benchmark of 30%, further efforts are clearly necessary. Regarding the designation of “species of concern” for invasive alien species management, the number has risen sharply each year, hitting 706 species in 2023. At this pace, it appears feasible to reach the 2040 target of 1,500 species. Likewise, the area of forest damage caused by general pests and diseases has declined yearly since 2018, improving its rating to “Sunny.”

On the other hand, the forest area ratio continues to shrink incrementally every year and, as in the previous assessment, was rated again as “Thunderstorm.” Efforts to clamp down on wildlife poaching and illegal trading have seen annual fluctuations, but the most recent figure—129 cases—represents a substantial drop, leading to a “Thunderstorm” rating in this evaluation. For the species protection index and the restored area of forests and urban/residential green spaces, no new data have been reported since the last assessment, so the same ratings remain in place. Finally, data for the mountain green cover index have not been updated by the FAO since 2018, so it was not evaluated in this round.

3.2.4. Peace & Partnerships

Goal 16 (Peace, Justice, & Inclusiveness)

Goal 16 of the K–SDG seeks to advance peace, justice, and inclusion, with specific priorities including the reduction of violence (particularly violence against children), the promotion of the rule of law and access to justice, stronger recovery of illicit assets and the fight against organized crime, measures to combat corruption and bribery, the establishment of effective and accountable governance and institutions, and the assurance of inclusive decision-making.

Among the 13 indicators evaluated for Goal 16, only two were rated “Sunny,” and two were judged “Partly Cloudy.” Seven indicators were found to be “Cloudy,”

meaning stagnant, and the remaining two were evaluated as “Thunderstorm.”

- The detection rate of abused children and the reduction rate of the digital information gap both maintained a “Sunny” rating, the same result as in the previous assessment. Year by year, the digital divide experienced by vulnerable groups has steadily improved. As of 2023, when the general population’s level of digital literacy is indexed at 100, the digital literacy level for disadvantaged groups—including persons with disabilities, low-income households, farming and fishing communities, and the elderly—was rated at 76.9.
- Meanwhile, the amount of concealed criminal assets recovered and the proportion of the public reporting experiences of discrimination both showed slight improvements despite yearly fluctuations, resulting in a “Partly Cloudy” evaluation.

Regarding the crime rate, homicide, robbery, and assault incidents have generally declined; however, sex-related crimes have risen markedly in recent years.

Public trust in government performance, political efficacy among citizens, and the corruption experience index—all of which were rated as improving in the previous assessment—are now deemed stagnant (“Cloudy”). Ongoing monitoring of the public’s trust in government and politics is needed. Note that data collection methods for the corruption experience index were recently revised, so caution is advised when interpreting trends.

Finally, both drug offenses and cybercrime arrest rates have continually worsened, remaining “Thunderstorm” for a second consecutive assessment. As for legal aid performance, although the annual number of cases increased steadily in the 2000s—reaching around 190,000 in 2015—it declined significantly for several years due to in-person consultation constraints caused by COVID-19; in 2023, however, it rose by 6.6% compared to the previous year. While legal aid was rated “Thunderstorm” previously, this year it has improved to “Cloudy.”

Goal 17 (Global Partnerships):

Goal 17 of the K-SDGs aims to strengthen global cooperation by expanding official development assistance (ODA), enhancing development cooperation across multiple dimensions, improving policy coherence for sustainable development, and fostering diverse global and public-private partnerships. Of the three quantitative indicators for which trends were assessed, one was rated “Sunny,” one “Cloudy,” and one “Thunderstorm.”

Since joining the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) in 2009, Korea has continuously sought to increase the volume of its ODA. As of 2022, the country’s ODA-to-GNI ratio stood at 0.17 percent, which has shown both short- and long-term growth, meriting a “Sunny” rating. Nevertheless, this figure remains below both the internationally recommended level of 0.7 percent and the OECD DAC average of 0.32 percent. Meanwhile, Korea’s trade share with developing countries appears stagnant (“Cloudy”), and its investment in those countries has fallen significantly, leading to a “Thunderstorm” rating.

Another K-SDG indicator involves integrating the principle of Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD) into national policies and institutions. Following the promulgation of the 2022 Framework Act on Sustainable Development, both horizontal (inter-sectoral and inter-ministerial) and vertical (national-local and international-domestic) policy coherence principles have been codified in law, with the national Sustainable Development Commission serving as an institutional foundation for implementation. However, the SDGs and national sustainable development goals have not yet been formally linked to the national budgeting process.

3.3 Summary and Overall Assessment

In this 2024 assessment, out of the 236 total K-SDG indicators established under the Fourth Basic Plan for National Sustainable Development, 176

indicators had sufficient longitudinal data to enable the quantitative trend analysis required for goal–achievement evaluation. Below is a summary of the evaluation findings by each of the four strategic areas of the K–SDG framework.

Strategy 1: Society (People)

– Promoting an Inclusive Society where All People Can Live with Dignity

The Social (People) dimension, titled “Promoting an Inclusive Society where All People Can Live with Dignity,” includes the following six goals:

- (Goal 1) Reduce poverty and strengthen the social safety net
- (Goal 2) Enhance food security and sustainable agriculture
- (Goal 3) Ensure healthy and happy lives
- (Goal 4) Provide quality education for all
- (Goal 5) Guarantee gender equality
- (Goal 11) Build sustainable cities and communities

A total of 78 indicators across these 6 goals were evaluated. Of these:

- 51 indicators (65.4%) were rated Sunny,
- 6 indicators (7.7%) were rated Partly Cloudy,
- 15 indicators (19.2%) were rated Cloudy, and
- 6 indicators (7.7%) were rated Thunderstorm.

Among the four strategic areas, the social dimension recorded the highest proportion of Sunny ratings (65.4%). When Partly Cloudy (7.7%) is added, nearly three–quarters (73.1%) of the indicators in this dimension are progressing towards the target directions. Nevertheless, compared to the 2022 assessment, the share of indicators rated Sunny dropped (from 70.1% to 65.4%), while the proportion rated Thunderstorm increased (from 4.3% to 7.7%). Of the 78 social–dimension indicators evaluated, 6 (7.7%) were rated Thunderstorm and 15 (19.2%) were rated Cloudy.

Strategy 2: Economic (Prosperity)

– Enhancing Quality of Life through Innovative Growth

The Economic (Prosperity) dimension, “Enhancing Quality of Life through Innovative Growth,” spans four goals:

- (Goal 8) Expanding decent jobs and promote economic growth
- (Goal 9) Promote industrial growth, innovation, and develop social infrastructure
- (Goal 10) Reduce inequality in all forms
- (Goal 12) Ensure sustainable consumption and production

A total of 40 indicators were evaluated in this economic dimension. The results are:

- 16 indicators (40.0%) rated Sunny,
- 9 indicators (22.5%) rated Partly Cloudy,
- 10 indicators (25.0%) rated Cloudy,
- 5 indicators (12.5%) rated Thunderstorm.

While the economic dimension has relatively low share of Sunny ratings (40.0%) among the four strategies, there is an overall improvement compared to the 2022 assessment. Notably, the share of Thunderstorm indicators decreased sharply (from 33.3% to 12.5%), whereas Cloudy (from 18.2% to 25.0%) and Partly Cloudy (from 6.1% to 22.5%) both rose. These shifts suggest partial recovery from the economic slowdown caused by COVID-19. For instance, the indicator measuring real GDP per capita growth (8-1(1)) improved from Thunderstorm to Cloudy as the economy started to rebound. The number of companies issuing sustainability reports (12-6(1)) jumped from Thunderstorm to Sunny due to the rapid rise of ESG initiatives. Among the 40 economic-dimension indicators assessed, 5 (12.5%) were rated Thunderstorm and 10 (25.0%) were Cloudy.

Strategy 3: Environment

– Ensuring a Clean Environment for Both Present and Future Generations

The Environment dimension, “Ensuring a Clean Environment for Both Present and Future Generations,” covers:

- (Goal 6) Ensure healthy and safe water management
- (Goal 7) Promote eco-friendly production and consumption of energy
- (Goal 13) Respond to climate change
- (Goal 14) Conserve marine ecosystems
- (Goal 15) Conserve terrestrial ecosystems

Within these five goals, 42 indicators underwent evaluation. The findings are:

- 21 indicators (50.0%) rated Sunny,
- 7 indicators (16.7%) rated Partly Cloudy,
- 9 indicators (21.4%) rated Cloudy,
- 5 indicators (11.9%) rated Thunderstorm.

Exactly half (50.0%) of the environmental indicators are rated Sunny, and another 16.7% are Partly Cloudy, implying that two-thirds (66.7%) of environment-related indicators are progressing in a favorable direction. Compared to 2022, the proportion of Thunderstorm dropped (17.1% to 11.9%), while Cloudy rose (12.2% to 21.4%). Of the 42 environment-dimension indicators evaluated, 5 (11.9%) were Thunderstorm and 9 (21.4%) were Cloudy.

Strategy 4: Peace & Partnership

– Strengthening Global Peace and Cooperation

The Peace & Partnership dimension, “ Strengthening Global Peace and Cooperation,” comprises:

- (Goal 16) Promote peace, justice, and inclusion
- (Goal 17) Strengthen Global Partnerships

Among the 16 indicators assessed in these two goals:

- 3 (18.8%) were rated Sunny,
- 2 (12.5%) were rated Partly Cloudy,
- 8 (50.0%) were rated Cloudy,
- 3 (18.8%) were rated Thunderstorm.

Though fewer indicators exist here compared to other dimensions, half (50.0%) of them are Cloudy, indicating the weakest overall performance among the four strategies. Collectively, 68.8% of the peace and partnership indicators (i.e., Cloudy plus Thunderstorm) are not on track to reach their targets. Compared to 2022, Thunderstorm (28.6%→18.8%), Sunny (42.9%→18.8%), and Partly Cloudy (28.6%→12.5%) all declined significantly, while Cloudy rose sharply.

Key Findings and Implications

Examining the results for all 17 K-SDG goals shows that Sunny — the rating indicating a strong likelihood of reaching the 2040 target under current trends — comprises the largest share — roughly half (51.7%) of the total indicators. Next is Partly Cloudy at 13.6%, followed by Cloudy at 23.9% and Thunderstorm at 10.8%.

When compared to the 2022 assessment, the proportion of Sunny indicators decreased modestly (56.8% → 51.7%), and Thunderstorm also declined (16.1% → 10.8%), whereas Cloudy nearly doubled (12.9% → 23.9%). Since only those indicators rated Sunny (51.7%) are deemed likely to meet the 2040 target if current trends persist, about half of the K-SDG indicators seem achievable on their current trajectory. Adding Partly Cloudy (13.6%) lifts that total to 65.3%, implying that roughly two-thirds of the K-SDG indicators are moving in the right direction. Meanwhile, about one-quarter of the indicators (23.9%) are stagnant (Cloudy) and 10.8% are moving away from the target (Thunderstorm). As in the 2022 assessment, it is important to note that many indicators remain under the lingering effects of COVID-19 across the latest five-year data set.

Identifying vulnerabilities in national sustainability and outlining paths for improvement require particular attention to ill-performing indicators of Thunderstorm or Cloudy. A total of 19 indicators were rated Thunderstorm in this evaluation — 6 in the social dimension, 5 in the economic, 5 in the environmental, and 3 in peace &

partnership. Of these, 9 indicators (including the industrial accident rate (8-6-(2)), municipal waste recycling rate (12-5-(1)), local water self-sufficiency rate (6-4-(2)), forest cover (15-1(2)), and cybercrime arrest rate (16-12-(1))) were consecutively rated Thunderstorm in both 2022 and 2024, suggesting a need for heightened concern.

Meanwhile, there are 42 Cloudy indicators in total: 15 in the social dimension, 10 in the economic, 9 in the environmental, and 8 in peace & partnership. Examples include suicide rate (3-2-(1)), budget allocations for emergency welfare assistance to vulnerable groups (1-4-(1)), and the share of non-regular employment (8-2-(2)).

From a comparative perspective across the four strategies:

- Social dimension (Strategy 1) exhibits the highest share of Sunny (65.4%) and the lowest share of Thunderstorm (7.7%), indicating relatively robust progress, even though there was a modest decline since 2022 from 70.1% for Sunny and 4.5% for Thunderstorm.
- Economic dimension (Strategy 2) has relatively low proportion of Sunny (40.0%), but compared to 2022 has shown a marked drop in Thunderstorm (33.3% → 12.5%), implying a recovery from the COVID-19 disruptions.
- Environment dimension (Strategy 3) shows a distribution pattern similar to the overall K-SDG picture.
- Peace & Partnership dimension (Strategy 4), with a note for significantly fewer number of indicators, has half of them rated Cloudy (50.0%) suggesting the weakest performance. More than two-thirds rated as either Cloudy or Thunderstorm (68.8%).

4. In-Depth Evaluation

4.1 Overview of the In-Depth Evaluation

4.1.1. Purpose and Approach

This chapter provides an in-depth analysis (hereinafter referred to as “in-depth evaluation”) of selected key indicators from the K-SDG assessment results presented in Chapter 3. While Chapter 3 provides an overall outlook (“goal achievement outlook”) of 176 K-SDG indicators, here we take a closer look at a small number of indicators deemed the most policy-relevant or urgent for achieving national sustainable development, to draw deeper insights for future directions and tasks.

(1) Considerations for Selecting the Key indicators for Analysis

- Policy Relevance: Indicators that has great importance in the context of achieving national sustainable development as planned. Major challenges that Korean government currently faces are also considered(e.g., climate mitigation, social inequalities, public safety).
- Policy Urgency: Indicators that requires urgent policy repsonses. Those indicators that exhibit either a negative trend (e.g., “Thunderstorm”) or that, despite limited progress, have a major impact on social welfare, environmental sustainability, or economic security.

(2) Evaluation Questions

- How are the indicators moving, and what are the stories behind the trends? (e.g. social and policy contexts, longer time-series, sub-group analysis, international comparison) Why are these indicators lagging or improving insufficiently?
- Which policy interventions or structural factors are most influential in shaping their trends?
- What are the implications for future directions and tasks for national sustainable development? What improvements or innovations needs to be undertaken in the short to medium term (2025 - 2030) and long term (2031 - 2040)?

A total of 11 indicators are selected for in-depth evaluation, based on the significance and urgency behind each. These indicators cut across multiple K-SDG strategic areas (People, Prosperity, Environment, and Peace/Partnership), reflecting the integrated nature of sustainable development issues.

4.1.2. In-Depth Evaluation Structure

The in-depth evaluation is conducted for each of the 11 selected indicators as follows:

- Current Status and Trend: Lays out the most recent data (5 - 10 years) and whether the indicator meets or misses the trend required for the 2040 target.
- Contributing Factors and Challenges: Examines main variables – policy inputs, socio-economic conditions, technology, demographics – that have driven the indicator’s performance.
- Recommendations: Suggests policy directions and measures – regulatory, fiscal, institutional, or multi-stakeholder partnerships – to accelerate progress toward the 2040 K-SDG targets.

4.2. In-Depth Evaluation Results by Indicator (Summary)

Below is the in-depth evaluation of each selected indicator, covering background, trend analysis, policy drivers, challenges, and recommended actions.

(1) Emergency Welfare Expenditure for Vulnerables (K-SDG 1-4(1))

A. Current Status and Trend

- **Indicator Definition:** This indicator sums the budget allocations for (a) the emergency welfare assistance programs for vulnerable groups, plus (b) the public job-creation programs aimed at low-income or at-risk groups.
- **Recent Data (2019-2023):** After rising sharply in 2020-2021 due to COVID-19 economic relief, the budget plateaued and moderately decreased in 2022-2023, at about 1.28% of GDP in 2023.
- **Assessment:** The overall trend in the recent five years is deemed stagnant or “Cloudy,” due to its volatile trend in the period. Still, note that after surge from COVID-19 relief and the ensuing modest decline, the budget share remains higher than before COVID-19.

B. Contributing Factors and Challenges

- **COVID-19 Relief Measures:** One-time or short-term expansions boosted the budget, until post-pandemic, fiscal constraints led to leveling off.
- **Fiscal Strain and Policy Priorities:** Competing budgetary needs, including defense or infrastructure, may constrain social spending growth. Considering the fiscal outlook securing the budget may become even more challenging.
- **Policy Design and Implementation:** Some of the eligibility criteria for emergency welfare assistance appear excessively stringent, and the process is complicated.

- Measurement Issues: One of the two sub-indicators dominates the overall trend, as the job-creation budget grew much larger than emergency welfare. Also, some of the job-creation programs are not intended for welfare purposes (e.g. fostering future industries).

C. Recommendations

- Strengthen financial resources and policy measures to build the resilience of at-risk households in the face of social and economic crises.
- Consider relaxing the eligibility criteria and expanding the coverage for emergency welfare, so that more low-income or at-risk households can benefit without bureaucratic delays.
- Improve the indicator to better represent the welfare efforts for vulnerable at-risk population.

(2) Suicide Rate (K-SDG 3-2(1))

A. Current Status and Trend

- Indicator Definition: The number of suicidal deaths per 100,000 people.
- Recent Data (2018 - 2022): Fluctuating between 25 and 27, well above the OECD average. Though it declined slightly in those five years (25.2 per 100,000 in 2022), that remains among the highest levels in OECD.
- Assessment: The five-year trend is deemed stagnant ("Cloudy"), as the year-to-year fluctuations do not indicate a durable downward trajectory as needed.

B. Contributing Factors and Challenges

- Socio-economic Stress: Suicidal rate is related to many factors as the increase of aged population and single-person households, economic slowdown and polarization, environmental change, large-scale disaster as COVID-19, personal lifestyle, etc.

- Policy Responses and Limitations: Korean government recently formulated a number of policies and plans to address the issue, intensifying interventions for high-risk populations, enhancing control over suicide methods, and implementing nationwide suicide prevention campaign. The plans include ambitious goals of reducing the current rate of 25.2 per 100,000 people to 18.2 by 2027 or 50% within 10 years.
- Mental Healthcare Gaps: Limited community-based mental health services, cultural stigma around seeking help.
- COVID-19 Aftermath: Increased social isolation, economic stress.

C. Recommendations

- Strengthen the policy coordination among the ministries involved, and closely monitor the policy efforts and outcomes.
- Strengthen the local capacities and promote community-based programs embracing local conditions and coherence to national priorities.
- Improve public awareness. Monitor the media that reveal tolerant attitudes on suicide and disseminate clear messages against suicide.

(3) Deaths and Missing Persons due to Social Disasters (K-SDG 11-5(1))

A. Current Status and Trend

- Social Disasters: Mass-casualty accidents like fires, building collapses, explosion, environmental pollution, infectious diseases, or mass-crowd stampedes (excluding natural disasters).
- Recent Data (2018 - 2022): While this indicator tends to naturally fluctuate year-to-year, the COVID-19 led to a surge in deaths in 2022-23. Next to the infectious disease, marine vessels accidents and fires in crowded building follows.
- Assessment: Currently “Thunderstorm,” as it surged in 2021-2022 along with COVID-19 deaths.

B. Contributing Factors and Challenges

- Aging Infrastructure: Old crowded buildings, industrial sites, bridges, transportation, etc. pose threats to public safety.
- Rapid change in disaster landscape, as evidenced in COVID-19 and the mass-crowd incident in Itaewon, poses challenges in agility and adaptability in disaster response.
- Policy Responses and Limitations: Under the Disaster and Safety Management Framework Act(2004), the national government has built disaster management system and institutions, yet collaborative governance across ministries and localities are remaining challenges

C. Recommendations

- Strengthen the policies and institutions to address social disasters, as they are not yet as strong as natural disaster policies.
- Focus on prevention of disasters. Assess potential risk factors and respond proactively. Establish a risk assessment system for social disasters.
- Recognize the socioeconomic impacts of social disaster, to better support the recovery of victims' livelihood.

(4) Non-Regular Employment Ratio (K-SDG 8-2(2))

A. Current Status and Trend

- Indicator Definition: The ratio of non-regular (temporary, contract, dispatch, part-time) to regular workers in total wage workers.
- Recent Data (2019-2023): The ratio of non-regular workers fluctuated between 36 and 39 in the 5 years. It increase in 2021 by more than 2%p in a year, as the economy recovery after COVID-19 led to surge in mainly non-regular jobs. As the regular jobs increased more steeply in 2022-2023, the indicator showed a modes decrease.

- Assessment: Trend is stagnant (“Cloudy,”), as it moved up and down with the economic condition.

B. Contributing Factors and Challenges

- Economic fluctuation related to COVID-19 had great impact in this period.
- Non-regular worker ratio in Korea appears higher than OECD countries, although the criteria varies by nations.
- The quality of non-regular jobs also needs attention. E.g. wage gap, duration, social coverage as employment insurance.
- Gender and Age Disparities: Women and older adults form a large share of non-regular workers.
- Policy efforts were made, including converting the non-regular workers to regular in public domain.

C. Recommendations

- Mitigate the duality in labor market. Reduce the gap between wage and labor conditions of non-regular and regular workers. Mitigate the power disparities between large corporation and small companies.
- Improve the labor conditions for non-regular workers. Strengthen the principle of “equal pay for equal work”, and better protect their legal rights.
- Develop innovative models to improve the “flexicurity”(flexibility & security) of labour market.

(5) Industrial Accident Rate (K-SDG 8-6(2))

A. Current Status and Trend

- Indicator Definition: workplace injuries/fatalities among total workers (those who covered by workplace accident insurance)

- Recent Data (2019 - 2023): continuously increased from 0.58 to 0.66% in the years. The rate is particularly high in construction, manufacturing, mining, and small-sized companies.
- Assessment: “Thunderstorm,” as the accident rate continuously increased. Yet, mitigating factors requires attentions as below.

B. Contributing Factors and Challenges

- Measurement Issues: Recently strengthened policy led to expansion of insurance coverage. As more vulnerable groups of workers are covered by insurance and protected, the indicator came to include those accidents, possibly leading to the higher numbers.
- SME Vulnerability: Smaller worksites have limited resources for safety equipment or training.
- Cultural Norms: Insufficient corporate accountability or “safety-first” culture.

C. Recommendations

- Focus more on high-risk sectors – small- and medium-sized companies, construction industry, etc.
- Better build the workplace safety governance among government, local authorities, and private managers. Support to build the industry-led workplace safety initiatives. Raise the public awareness of workers and managers.

(6) Municipal Waste Recycling Rate (K-SDG 12-5(1))

A. Current Status and Trend

- Indicator Definition: Percentage of household/municipal waste recycled
- Recent Data (2018 - 2022): Steadily dropped from 62.0% to 56.7% in 2021, then modestly recovered to 59.8% in 2022
- Assessment: Trend is degrading (“Thunderstorm”)

B. Contributing Factors and Challenges

- Policy Tools: Pay-as-you-throw system adopted in 1990s contributed to promote recycling and changing the behavior of households. Recent policy direction is expanding to embrace the concept of resource circulation. EPR(expanded producer responsibility) also strengthened business responsibilities to promote recycling.
- Social and Lifestyle change: COVID-19 pandemic and the increase of single-person households increased the delivery food and the packaging wastes. Online shopping also increases the packaging wastes.
- Local Variations: Urban vs. rural differences in recycling infrastructure.

C. Recommendations

- Raise public awareness about proper separation of household waste. Improve the separation criteria to harmonize the effectiveness and convenience.
- Promote sustainable design of products to reduce wastes from design and manufacturing stage.
- Maintain consistency and coherence of policy for fighting disposables, to earn trust of businesses and consumers to comply.
- Focus more on reducing plastic wastes.

(7) Local Water Self-Sufficiency Rate (K-SDG 6-4(2))

A. Current Status and Trend

- Indicator Definition: The percentage of local water demand met by locally sourced water, excluding external inter-basin transfers.
- Recent Data (2018 - 2022): Steadily dropping from 53.9% to 50.8% in 2022.
- Assessment: "Thunderstorm," indicating degradation.

B. Contributing Factors and Challenges

- **Climate Risk:** Drought occurrences hamper stable supplies. Each localities' efforts to secure water source becomes even more important.
- **Conflicts and Local Responsibility:** Construction of new reservoirs or regulation for water source protection area often face opposition of the local community. Also localities competing for limited water sources often experience conflicts around water allocation.
- **Policy response and limitations:** Local governments' duty to promote water self-sufficiency is adopted in the Water Supply and Waterworks Act in 2019. Yet specific targets of each localities are not declared in local water management plans, and the official statistics is not being produced.

C. Recommendations

- Each locality should take responsibility and pay efforts to secure local water source, in recognition of climate risks and self-sufficiency.
- Maintain policy direction of local self-sufficiency coherently, in both national and local level policies and plans. Establish and improve the related statistics.

(8) Greenhouse Gas(GHG) Emissions (K-SDG 13-4(1))

A. Current Status and Trend

- **Recent Data(2017-2021):** Overall, the indicator fluctuated year-to-year in those 5 years. After peaking in 2018 at 725 MtCO₂eq, total GHG emissions declined for two consecutive years with COVID-19 economic downturn, before rising again in 2021 to 677 MtCO₂eq.
- **Assessment:** "Partly Cloudy." Although decreasing trend is observed, it is not sufficient to achieve 2040 target – which is 471MtCO₂eq, which is 33.6% reduction from benchmark of 2017.

B. Contributing Factors and Challenges

- Heavy Fossil Reliance: Coal and natural gas still form a large share of electricity mix.
- Slow Renewables Uptake: Under 6% of primary energy in 2023.
- Industrial Sector: Steel, petrochemicals require advanced technologies to cut process emissions.

C. Recommendations

- Readjust the K-SDG target to recent national plan.
- Implement strong policy mix of regulation and assistance tailored for each sector. E.g. strengthen the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) cap, incentivise for green vehicles and against fossil fuel vehicles, financial assistance for energy efficiency in buildings.
- The government should put stronger drives on renewable energy expansion.

(9) Forest Cover Ratio (K-SDG 15-1(2))

A. Current Status and Trend

- Indicator Definition: Percentage of total national land area covered by forests, measured via National Forest Inventory.
- Recent Data (2018 - 2022): continuously decreased from 62.8% to 62.6%.
- Assessment: degrading (“Thunderstorm.”) Forest cover is steadily decreasing even in longer term, from 65 to 62.6% in 1990–2022.

B. Contributing Factors and Challenges

- Land use conversion: Forests are converted to other uses, such as road, golf course, ski resort, housing, and industrial complexes with an average annual loss of about 7,300 ha.

- Value and Quality of Forest Ecosystem: Other qualities of forests also should be noted – standing volume, biodiversity and ecosystem health etc.

C. Recommendations

- Invest in and streamline the nature restoration projects.
- Develop and refine policy measures for development projects to consider the value of forest ecosystem.
- Encourage the businesses to contribute the ecosystem conservation.
- Integrate biodiversity corridors into forest management to enhance ecological connectivity.

(10) Arrest Rate for Intrusive Cyber-Crime (K-SDG 16-12(1))

A. Current Status and Trend

- Indicator Definition: Percentage of perpetrators arrested for cyber-crime, e.g. hacking, cyber-fraud as phishing, distribution of illegal cyber contents etc
- Recent Trend (2018 - 2022): The arrest rate decreased significantly from 75.0% in 2018 to 62.5% in 2022, despite year-to-year fluctuation.
- Assessment: degradation (“Thunderstorm.”)

B. Contributing Factors and Challenges

- Cross-border Attacks: Criminal organization often based in foreign countries, which complicates investigations.
- Rapid Technological Development: Digital technology behind the crimes rapidly evolves.
- Resource Constraints: Cyber investigation units are understaffed compared to the rapid growth of incidents in the age of digitalization. Social distancing of COVID-19 expanded the volume of cyber activities even larger.

C. Recommendations

- Strengthen international investigative and judicial cooperation and real-time information-sharing.
- Reinforce personnel and technological expertise in cyber-investigation units. Monitor latest crime techniques and respond quickly.
- Strengthen the measures against illegal photos and videos distribution.

(11) ODA as Percentage of GNI (K-SDG 17-1(1))

A. Current Status and Trend

- Indicator Definition: Ratio of official development assistance (ODA) expenditure to gross national income (GNI).
- Recent Data (2018 - 2022): overall increase from 0.14% to 0.18%
- Assessment: “Sunny,” as the upward trend is deemed stable. Despite the increasing trend, it is still much lower than OECD average and UN recommendation of 0.7%.

B. Contributing Factors and Challenges

- Fiscal Strain and Prioritization: Domestic welfare, security, or other sectors are competing with ODA expansions, in the face of constrained fiscal outlook.
- Global Commitments: Korea has pledged alignment with DAC recommendations but lags behind peers.
- Global challenges: As countries facing various challenges in sustainability, climate, conflicts, and economy, financial mobilization and well-designed aid are critical.

C. Recommendations

- Expand the ODA budget to meet the international standard and commitment. Mobilize private funding and diversify the cooperation projects.
- Put strategic efforts on assisting the least developed countries and vulnerable groups of countries in attaining SDG, and fostering their capacities for economic growth, resilience, inclusiveness, and peace.

5. Conclusions and Policy Directions

The national sustainability assessment is conducted every two years in accordance with the law. This 2024 National Sustainability Assessment is the first carried out since the re-promulgation of the Framework Act on Sustainable Development. In accordance with Article 15(2) of that Act, this report evaluates the nation's sustainability based on the Korean Sustainable Development Indicators (K-SDG) established in the Fourth Basic Plan for National Sustainable Development and synthesizes the evaluation results with the findings of in-depth analyses of key indicators, ultimately deriving policy directions and tasks to raise the level of national sustainable development.

Additionally, prior to the full-scale K-SDG-based national sustainability assessment, this report analyzes Korea's standing in the international community by using the methodology and data of SDSN (2024), which examined the implementation status of each country under the UN's global SDGs. According to the analysis, Korea's overall score for implementing the global SDGs is 77.3, somewhat lower than the OECD average of 79.1. When broken down by the 17 goals, Korea shows the highest scores among OECD countries in SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), outpacing the OECD average by a considerable margin. Korea also scores at least 10 points higher than the OECD average on SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and

Production). On the other hand, SDG 15 (Life on Land) and SDG 14 (Life Below Water) register in the low 50s, more than 10 points below the OECD average. Compared to the top-performing OECD countries, the gap exceeds 30 points, clearly indicating that much stronger efforts are needed to protect ecosystems and biodiversity. Meanwhile, SDG 17 (Partnerships), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), and SDG 13 (Climate Action) each score in the 60s, showing that additional commitment is required to fulfill these global goals. In fact, five goals — SDG 15 (Life on Land), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and SDG 14 (Life Below Water) — are each at least 10 points lower than the OECD average, pointing to a need for more robust measures compared to other leading nations.

The evaluation of the K-SDG indicators was conducted in accordance with the “Goal Achievement Outlook” framework that has been applied continuously since the 2020 National Sustainability Assessment. This outlook assesses how well each indicator is progressing toward its 2040 target based on a trend analysis of available statistics, and it should be noted that rather than assessing whether the current level is desirable, this approach focuses on whether the present trajectory is sufficient for future target attainment.

Looking across all 17 K-SDG goals combined, slightly over half (51.7%) of the indicators earned a “Sunny” rating among the four-tier system, suggesting that if current trends hold, those indicators are likely to reach their targets. When the 13.6% of indicators rated “Partly Cloudy” are added to those rated “Sunny,” a total of 65.3% are advancing toward their respective goals. Indicators rated “Cloudy” account for 23.9%, indicating they are not moving closer to their targets, while 10.8% are rated “Thunderstorm,” meaning these indicators are heading in the opposite direction of the stated goals.

Compared to the 2022 assessment, the proportion of “Sunny” decreased (from 56.8% to 51.7%) and that of “Thunderstorm” also declined (from 16.1% to 10.8%), whereas “Cloudy” nearly doubled (from 12.9% to 23.9%). As with the 2022

evaluation, however, it must be noted that many indicators are still under the impact of COVID-19, given that the assessment is based on the most recent five years of data that were available.

Focusing on indicators rated as “Thunderstorm” or “Cloudy” can help identify weaknesses in national sustainability and determine next steps for improvement. Among the 176 indicators evaluated this time, 19 were deemed “Thunderstorm.” Nine of these — such as the industrial accident rate, municipal waste recycling rate, local self-sufficiency of water supply, share of forested area, and cybercrime arrest rate — were rated “Thunderstorm” in both 2022 and 2024. Furthermore, 42 indicators were classed as “Cloudy” (accounting for about one quarter of the total), including the suicide rate, emergency welfare assistance for vulnerable groups, and the proportion of non-regular workers.



















In this assessment, in addition to the quantitative trend analysis of K-SDG indicators, an in-depth qualitative evaluation was performed on key indicators. Since the K-SDG indicator analysis relies heavily on quantitative figures, it can be difficult to gain a deep understanding of the underlying causes, context, and policy background solely from numeric trends. Therefore, by supplementing these metrics with in-depth evaluations of major indicators from each sector, the assessment aims to conduct a more accurate analysis of the observed trends and derive the associated policy implications and future tasks. The 11 indicators selected for in-depth evaluation were chosen based on their evaluation results, policy significance and urgency, and expert opinions, focusing on key areas deemed critical to national sustainable development.


















In the Society (People) domain, three indicators on emergency welfare, suicide rates, and social disaster casualties were analyzed in depth. The recommendations included strengthening social safety nets for vulnerable populations, strengthening ministerial collaboration and policy infrastructure for suicide prevention, and improving prevention of social disasters and broader approach. In the Economy (Prosperity) domain, three indicators were analyzed:

the proportion of non-regular workers, the rate of workplace accidents, and the recycling rate of municipal waste. The recommendations indicate a new approach for future of labor, strengthening safety net for non-regular workers, focusing on vulnerable sectors of workplace accidents, and the expansion of recycling and strengthening of resource circulation systems. In the environmental domain, three indicators were analyzed: local self-sufficiency of water supply, greenhouse gas emissions, and forest cover, which indicate security of water supply, climate action, and ecosystem conservation, respectively. The topics discussed included each localities effort to secure stable water supplies in response to climate risk, strengthening policy measures to reduce greenhouse gases, and conserving and restoring forest cover and biodiversity. In the Peace and Partnership domain, two indicators on Official Development Assistance (ODA) budget and cybercrime were analyzed in depth. The cybercrime response through reinforcing human resources and expertise, proactive monitoring, and international cooperation was discussed, as well as the need for strategic aspect of cooperation alongside the quantitative expansion of ODA.








○ Strategy 1: People(Society) – Promoting an Inclusive Society where All People Can Live with Dignity



Goal	Sub-goal / Target		Indicator	2040 Target	2022 Outlook	2024 Assessment	
						Outlook	Assessed Period
Goal 1: Reduce poverty and strengthen the social safety net	1-1	Reduce the poverty rate to below the OECD average, regardless of gender, age, disability status, or other factors.	(1) The relative poverty rate based on 50% of median disposable income (by gender, age group, and disability status)	11.8			2018-2022
			(2) Welfare benefits (income security) budget and its ratio to GDP	1.5			2017-2021
	1-2	Minimizing the gaps in the social security system and achieve practical protection for the poor and vulnerable groups	(1) Household direct out-of-pocket medical expenditure rate	25			2017-2021
			(2) Employment insurance enrollment rate	99			2018-2022
			(3) National Pension contribution rate	84.2			2018-2022
	1-3	Strengthening the provision of social services to the poor and vulnerable groups	(1) The proportion of public social spending relative to GDP	20			2018-2022
			(2) The ratio of workers in the social welfare service sector	6.5	-		2020-2022
	1-4	Reducing the exposure of the poor and vulnerable groups to economic, social, and environmental shocks and disasters, and strengthen their resilience	(1) Emergency welfare assistance for vulnerable groups – budget and its share ※ Emergency welfare = Emergency welfare assistance + Job-creation	steady increase (0.009%)			2019-2023
			(2) The proportion of fatalities due to accidents among safety-vulnerable groups	steady decrease			2018-2022
	Goal 2: Enhance	2-1	Ensuring stable access to food for	(1) Households with secure food stability	steady expansion		







Goal	Sub-goal / Target		Indicator	2040 Target	2022 Outlook	2024 Assessment	
						Outlook	Assessed Period
food security and sustainable agriculture		vulnerable groups	in the lower-income group				
	2-2	Diversifying income sources for farming households and expand safety nets for management to promote an increase in farm household income	(1) Farm household income	steady expansion			2019-2023
			(2) Crop disaster insurance enrollment rate	steady expansion			2014-2023
	2-3	Establishing a sustainable food production system	(1) The proportion of land area certified for organic farming	steady expansion			2019-2023
			(2) Soil organic matter content in agricultural land	25			2013-2021
			(3) Soil acidity (pH) in cultivated land	6.5			2013-2021
	2-4	Maintaining the genetic diversity of seeds, crops, and livestock, and develop new varieties	(1) The score of plant genetic resources secured in medium- to long-term conservation facilities	290			2019-2023
			(2) The score of animal genetic resources secured in medium- to long-term conservation facilities	370			2019-2023
			(3) The number of varieties developed in response to climate change	500			2019-2023
	2-5	Reducing the price volatility of food crops to ensure food accessibility.	(1) The average stockpile of government reserves of rice	800			2018-2022















Goal	Sub-goal / Target		Indicator	2040 Target	2022 Outlook	2024 Assessment	
						Outlook	Assessed Period
Goal 3: Ensure healthy and happy lives	3-1	Expanding the management of risk factors for chronic diseases and enhance health coverage.	(1) Mortality rate due to cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, and chronic respiratory diseases (ages 30-70)	2.4	-		2015-2019
			(2) Diabetes control rate	38.5			2013-2021
			(3) Adult smoking rate	12.7			2018-2022
			(4) Prevalence of chronic diseases among individuals with disabilities	75	-		2017-2023
	3-2	Promoting mental health and prevent substance abuse	(1) Suicide rate per 100,000 people	steady decrease			2018-2022
			(2) Alcohol consumption per person aged 15 and over	steady decrease			2013-2022
	3-3	Preventing deaths and physical injuries caused by traffic accidents and other types of accidents	(1) Number of traffic accident fatalities per 1,000 people	1.2			2019-2023
	3-4	Striving to prevent and manage infectious diseases	(1) Tuberculosis notification rate of new cases per 100,000 people	steady decrease			2014-2023
			(2) Malaria incidence rate per 100,000 people	Malaria elimination certification	-		2019-2023
	3-5	Protecting and promoting maternal health.	(1) Number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births	6			2018-2022














Goal	Sub-goal / Target		Indicator	2040 Target	2022 Outlook	2024 Assessment	
						Outlook	Assessed Period
	3-6	Protecting and promoting children's health.	(1) Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	1			2019-2023
			(2) Infant and child health checkup participation rate	85			2018-2022
			(3) Child and adolescent obesity prevalence rate	steady decrease			2019-2023
	3-7	Reducing deaths and diseases caused by harmful chemicals, air, water, and soil pollution.	(1) Population-weighted concentration of fine particulate matter (PM2.5)	steady decrease			2015-2022
			(2) Concentration levels of environmental harmful substances in the human body	steady decrease			2012-2020
	3-8	Overcoming low birth rates and prepare for population aging in South Korea	(1) Infant mortality rate	2.1			2018-2022
			(2) OECD Better Life Index	8	-	-	-
			(3) The registration and management rate of dementia patients at Dementia Care Centers	85	-		2018-2022
			(4) The proportion of elderly population without functional limitations	75			2011-2020
	3-9	Expanding public health and medical services to achieve universal health coverage.	(1) The number of public hospital beds per 1,000 people	3.07	-	-	-
Goal 4: Provide quality education for all	4-1	Guaranteeing equal access to high-quality, free primary and secondary education, ensuring that all children, regardless of gender or disability status, can achieve	(1) Enrollment rate	steady increase			2014-2023
			(2) International Assessment of Student Achievement (PISA 2nd to 6th level student ratio))	steady increase in	-		2012-2022

















Goal	Sub-goal / Target		Indicator	2040 Target	2022 Outlook	2024 Assessment	
						Outlook	Assessed Period
		appropriate and effective learning outcomes.	(3) Derivation of National-Level Learning Outcome Indicators	evaluation score steady increase	-	-	-
	4-2	Ensuring access to quality early childhood care and education services for all children to prepare them for primary education.	(1) The proportion of girls and boys under the age of five who are developing normally in terms of physical health, learning, and psycho-social well-being	steady increase	-	-	-
			(2) The enrollment rate in structured early childhood education and care services prior to primary school entry	steady increase	-		2014-2023
			(3) The utilization rate of public kindergartens and childcare centers	steady increase	-		2014-2023
			(4) The proportion of young children experiencing a positive home learning and caregiving environment	-	-	-	-
	4-3	Guaranteeing equal access to quality higher education, including technical education, vocational education, and university education, for all learners, regardless of gender or disability, at an affordable cost	(1) Higher education attainment rate	maintain 49			2018-2022
			(2) Amount of national scholarship received per student	steady increase	-		2017-2021
			(3) The participation rate of adult learners in non-degree programs at higher education institutions	steady increase	-	-	-
	4-4	Substantially increasing the number of adolescents and adults with the	(1) Lifelong learning participation rate	steady expansion			2019-2023
















Goal	Sub-goal / Target		Indicator	2040 Target	2022 Outlook	2024 Assessment	
						Outlook	Assessed Period
		necessary specialized and vocational skills for employment, quality jobs, and entrepreneurial activities in response to digitalization and technological changes	(2) The proportion of individuals with vocational training experience	steady increase			2019–2023
			(3) The level of ICT skills among adolescents and adults	–	–	–	–
	4–5	Eliminating gender inequality in education and ensure that vulnerable groups, such as individuals with disabilities, migrants, and children in vulnerable situations, have equal access to education and vocational training at all levels	(1) Introduction of disaggregated statistics by gender, disability, and vulnerable groups for all indicators	maintain 1.0	–	–	–
	4–6	Ensuring that all adolescents and a majority of adults acquire literacy and numeracy skills.	(1) The proportion of the population within a specific age group that has achieved a certain level of proficiency in functional language and numeracy skills (PIAAC)	(2030) Language proficiency level 2 or higher: 90% Mathematical proficiency level 2 or higher: 84%	–	–	–

Goal	Sub-goal / Target		Indicator	2040 Target	2022 Outlook	2024 Assessment	
						Outlook	Assessed Period
			(2) Adult Literacy Rate	(2030) Level 4 or higher: 90%			2014-2020
4-7	Ensuring that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development through education on sustainable development, sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, respect for cultural diversity, and the contribution of culture to sustainable development.		(1) The extent of mainstreaming of global citizenship education and education for sustainable development (in terms of educational policies, curricula, teacher training, and student assessment)	-	-	-	-
			(2) The proportion of educational policy projects related to global citizenship education and education for sustainable development	-	-	-	-
			(3) The proportion of educational policy initiatives related to global citizenship education and education for sustainable development	-	-	-	-
			(4) The proportion of teachers with experience in global citizenship education and education for sustainable development	-	-	-	-
4-8	Constructing and improving educational facilities considering children, individuals with disabilities, and gender, while		(1) The installation rate of special education classes in general schools.	steady increase			2014-2023
			(2) The rate of seismic reinforcement in schools	100			2019-2023

Goal	Sub-goal / Target		Indicator	2040 Target	2022 Outlook	2024 Assessment	
						Outlook	Assessed Period
		providing a safe, non-violent, inclusive, and effective learning environment.	(3) he installation rate of Wee-class	100			2019-2023
	4-9	Ensuring adequate educational funding at all levels of education for inclusive and quality education.	(1) The ratio of government expenditure on public education to GDP, broken down by educational level	OECD average	-	-	-
	4-10	Ensuring the sufficient recruitment of teachers to provide quality education at all levels of education.	(1) The number of students per teacher	steady decrease			2019-2023
			(2) The proportion of childcare teachers holding an associate degree or higher	steady increase			2015-2021
			(3) The number of special education students per special education teacher	steady decrease			2014-2023
			(4) The ratio of specialized counselors assigned to primary and secondary schools	100			2019-2023
Goal 5: Guarantee gender equality	5-1	Eliminating all forms of discrimination against women and girls	(1) The implementation rate of gender impact assessment policy improvements	73.2			2018-2022
	5-2	Eliminating all forms of violence, including human trafficking and sexual exploitation, against all women and girls in all areas.	(1) The number of reported cases of domestic violence and the response rate	steady increase	-	-	-
			(2) The number of sexual violence incidents and the rate of unapprehended perpetrators	steady reduction			2020-2022

















Goal	Sub-goal / Target		Indicator	2040 Target	2022 Outlook	2024 Assessment	
						Outlook	Assessed Period
			(3) The number of digital sexual violence crimes and the rate of unapprehended perpetrators	steady reduction			2020-2022
	5-3	Acknowledging and valuing unpaid care work and domestic labor	(1) The ratio of unpaid domestic and caregiving labor hours performed by men compared to women in dual-income households.	40			2014-2019
	5-4	Ensuring equal opportunities for the full and effective participation and leadership of women at all decision-making levels in political, economic, and public life.	(1) The proportion of women in parliament and local assemblies	steady increase			2010-2023
			(2) The achievement rate of objectives in the public sector gender representation enhancement plan	100			2019-2023
			(3) The proportion of women in managerial positions in the private sector	steady expansion			2013-2022
	5-5	Ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights	(1) The establishment of institutional systems to ensure the provision of information and education related to sexual and reproductive rights and health.	policy adopted	-	-	-
			(2) The proportion of primary, secondary, and high schools that have conducted sex education	100	-		2014-2018
			(3) The contraceptive use rate	steady increase			2006-2021
















Goal	Sub-goal / Target		Indicator	2040 Target	2022 Outlook	2024 Assessment	
						Outlook	Assessed Period
	5-6	Expanding access to key technologies, particularly information and communication technologies, and train women to enhance women's empowerment.	(1) The smartphone ownership rate by gender	steady increase			2014-2023
			(2) The graduation status of female science and technology graduates from universities	steady expansion	-	-	*
	5-7	Adopting and promoting robust policies and laws for gender equality at all levels and the empowerment of all women and girls	(1) The acceptance rate of policy improvement suggestions based on gender impact assessments	89.1%			2018-2022
Goal 11: Build sustainable cities and communities	11-1	Continuously strengthening efforts to ensure access to affordable housing and basic services	(1) The acceptance rate of policy improvement suggestions based on gender impact assessments	steady decrease			2013-2022
			(2) The number of public rental housing units supplied	steady expansion			2013-2022
			(3) The number of households receiving housing benefits and the amount of financial expenditure	steady expansion			2018-2022
	11-2	Providing a safe and affordable transportation system, with an emphasis on expanding public transportation that considers vulnerable groups such as women, children, individuals with disabilities, and the elderly	(1) The modal share of public transportation	steady expansion			2017-2021
			(2) The distribution rate of low-floor buses	50			2017-2021
			(3) The modal share of bicycles	steady expansion			2010-2021
	11-3	Enhancing the inclusiveness and sustainability of cities, while	(1) The proportion of land area used within urbanized areas	-	-	-	-









Goal	Sub-goal / Target		Indicator	2040 Target	2022 Outlook	2024 Assessment	
						Outlook	Assessed Period
		strengthening participatory and integrated planning and management capabilities for residential areas.	(2) The budget allocation rate for activating citizen participation	-	-	-	-
11-4	Strengthening efforts to protect and preserve world heritage sites.	(1) The number of world heritage sites listed	steady expansion			2018-2023	
		(2) The budget for world heritage site inscription and conservation management	steady expansion			2019-2023	
11-5	Significantly reducing casualties and economic losses caused by disasters, and developing and implementing integrated urban disaster crisis management	(1) The number of deaths and missing persons due to social disasters per 100,000 people	0.1			2018-2022	
		(2) The national recovery budget amount compared to the damage costs caused by natural disasters	maintain a certain ratio	-	-	-	
11-6	Reducing the negative environmental impacts of cities, such as air quality and waste management	(1) The number of days exceeding fine dust standards	steady decrease			2015-2022	
		(2) The annual average concentration of fine particulate matter (PM2.5)	10			2018-2022	
		(3) The amount of household and industrial waste generated	steady decrease			2018-2022	
11-7	Ensuring safe and easy access to public green spaces for all, including women, children, individuals with disabilities, and the elderly.	(1) The amount of urban park space per person	15			2018-2022	
		(2) The proportion of the population with easy access to park facilities.	steady expansion	-		2018-2021	















○ Strategy 2: Prosperity(Economy) – Enhancing Quality of Life through Innovative Growth








Goal	Sub-goal / Target		Indicator	2040 Target	2022 Outlook	2024 Assessment	
						Outlook	Assessed Period
Goal 8: Expanding decent jobs and promote economic growth	8-1	Achieving economic growth that leads to happiness for all.	(1) The real GDP growth rate per capita	steady expansion			2019-2023
	8-2	Strengthening policies to create good quality jobs	(1) Employment rates by population group (gender, age, and disability status)	steady expansion			2014-2023
			(2) The ratio of non-regular workers to regular workers	steady decrease			2019-2023
	8-3	Promoting the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and small business owners	(1) The number of employees in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and small businesses	stable maintenance	-	-	-
			(2) The number of startup companies	stable maintenance	-	-	-
	8-4	Equal pay for equal works	(1) Gender wage gap	(2030) steady increase after 85.5			2019-2023
	8-5	Expanding the protection of rights for vulnerable groups of workers, such as migrant workers and young workers.	(1) The employment rate of migrant workers	stable maintenance			2019-2023
			(2) The employment rate of young workers	steady decrease	-	-	-
8-6	Protecting the rights of all workers and creating a safe and healthy working environment.	(1) The fatal accident mortality rate	steady decrease after 0.22(2030)			2019-2023	

Goal	Sub-goal / Target		Indicator	2040 Target	2022 Outlook	2024 Assessment		
						Outlook	Assessed Period	
			(2) The overall accident rate	steady decrease			2019-2023	
Goal 9: Promote industrial growth, innovation, and develop social infrastructure	9-1	Striving to ensure that the majority of citizens can reliably access information.	(1) Road coverage rate	steady increase			2014-2023	
			(2) The digital literacy level of vulnerable groups compared to the general population	steady increase			2014-2023	
	9-2	Pursueing industrial diversity and securing industrial competitiveness by establishing the foundation for sustainable business activities.	(1) The proportion of small-scale industries with debt or utilizing credit loans	-			-	-
			(2) The market size of the data industry	steady increase			2015-2022	
			(3) Industry concentration	steady decrease			2017-2011	
	9-3	Building technological capabilities and promoting the commercialization of advanced technologies to enhance international competitiveness.	(1) The scores of the 10 indicators in the Innovation Capability section of the WEF Global Competitiveness Report	steady rank improvement				-
			(2) The overall score or innovation output score of the Global Innovation Index (GII)	steady increase			2019-2023	
	9-4	Expanding national research personnel and capital, and contributing to national economic growth through proper planning and execution of research.	(1) Research and development expenditure as a percentage of GDP	steady increase			2013-2022	
			(2) The number of full-time researchers per 1,000 economically active individuals	steady increase			2013-2022	

Goal	Sub-goal / Target		Indicator	2040 Target	2022 Outlook	2024 Assessment	
						Outlook	Assessed Period
	9-5	Pursuing industrialization with high resource efficiency through environmentally friendly industrial activities and technological innovation	(1) Carbon dioxide emissions per unit of value added	steady decrease			2012-2021
			(2) The recycling rate of waste in business emission facilities	steady increase			2013-2022
Goal 10: Reduce inequality in all forms	10-1	Achieving and maintaining a disposable income growth rate for the bottom 40% of the population that is higher than the national average	(1) The ratio of the equalized household income of the bottom 40% of the population to the equalized household income of the entire population	55			2018-2022
			(2) Income disparity ratio	25			2018-2022
	10-2	Expanding social, economic, and political inclusion for all people, regardless of age, gender, disability, status, or other factors	(1) Income quintile ratio	stable maintenance	-		2018-2022
			(2) The share of net assets held by households in the 1st and 2nd income quintiles	steady increase			2019-2023
	10-3	Eliminating discriminatory treatment based on age, gender, or disability and provide equal opportunities.	(1) Employment rate by population group	67% for women steady expansion for disabled			2019-2023
			(2) Mandatory employment rate for persons with disabilities	steady expansion			2014-2023
















Goal	Sub-goal / Target		Indicator	2040 Target	2022 Outlook	2024 Assessment	
						Outlook	Assessed Period
	10-4	Strengthening fiscal policies, wage policies, and social protection policies to achieve a higher level of equality	(1) Labor income share of GDP	57	—		2017-2021
	10-5	Creating an intercultural understanding environment through immigration policies that balance the protection of the rights of both domestic and foreign individuals	(1) Proactive acceptance of international and domestic human rights organizations' recommendations on the protection of migrant rights	maintained at 100 for both domestic and international	—	—	—
			(2) The enactment rate of local government ordinances for the integration of foreign residents	100			2020-2024
			(3) National multicultural acceptance index	80			2015-2021
			(4) The completion rate of immigration/multicultural education for local government employees	100	—	—	—
Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production	12-1	Establishing and implementing an integrated national policy on sustainable consumption and production.	(1) The number of resource circulation master plans and resource circulation implementation plans established	18			2024
			(2) The establishment of the national sustainable production and consumption master plan	establishment	—	—	—
	12-2	Managing all resources sustainably and using them efficiently.	(1) Resource consumption per domestic capita	—	—		2018-2022





Goal	Sub-goal / Target	Indicator	2040 Target	2022 Outlook	2024 Assessment	
					Outlook	Assessed Period
		(2) The number of resources for which material flow analysis(MFA) is established	100	—		2018–2022
12-3	Reducing food loss during production and distribution processes, and minimizing food waste during consumption.	(1) Food loss index	steady decrease	—	—	—
		(2) Food waste generation per capita	210			2016–2021
12-4	Protecting human health and preventing environmental pollution through the eco-friendly management of chemicals and hazardous waste.	(1) The rate of obtaining hazardous information on chemicals	100	—	—	—
		(2) The number of chemicals in relation to accidents	200	—		2019–2023
		(3) Hazardous waste generation per capita	80			2018–2022
12-5	Reducing waste generation through source prevention, reduction, reuse, and recycling of waste.	(1) Recycling rate of municipal solid waste	75			2018–2022
		(2) recycling rate of waste in business emission facilities	90			2018–2022
12-6	Strengthen the management and support for corporate sustainability initiatives.	(1) The number of companies publishing sustainability management reports	400			2018–2022
		(2) The number of companies participating in green management	1000			2018–2022
12-7	Promoting sustainable green consumption through the expansion of green product certification and green purchasing.	(1) The green product purchasing rate in the public sector (local governments)	75%	—	—	—
		(2) The number of green product certifications for household goods	100	—	—	—









Goal	Sub-goal / Target		Indicator	2040 Target	2022 Outlook	2024 Assessment	
						Outlook	Assessed Period
	12-8	Expanding opportunities for environmental education to ensure that all citizens are aware of sustainable development.	(1) The proportion of the population benefiting from environmental education	50	—		2018-2023
			(2) The level of environmental awareness among the general public	75			2018-2023
	12-9	Increasing plastic recycling to ensure a circular flow of plastics and preventing plastic leakage into the environment through the development of eco-friendly materials.	(1) Plastic consumption per capita	98	—		2019-2023
			(2) Recycling rate of plastic waste	100	—		2018-2022
	12-10	Contributing to environmental conservation through the expansion of sustainable tourism.	(1) The number of participants in sustainable tourism	7,000,000 (visitors) 7,000 (tour guides)	—	—	—
	12-11	Gradually phasing out fossil fuel subsidies.	(1) The ratio of fossil fuel subsidies to GDP	0			2018-2022










○ Strategy 3: Environment – Ensuring a Clean Environment for Both Present and Future Generations











Goal	Sub-goal / Target		Indicator	2040 Target	2022 Outlook	2024 Assessment	
						Outlook	Assessed Period
Goal 6: Ensure healthy and safe water management	6-1	Providing safe drinking water equitably for all.	(1) Satisfaction with tap water	steady increase			2013-2021
			(2) The water supply coverage rate in rural and fishing areas	steady increase			2013-2022
	6-2	Providing convenient sewage services to all.	(1) The sewage system coverage rate in rural and fishing areas	90			2018-2022
			(2) The number of locations where sewage system improvement plans have been established in key management areas	200			2019-2023
	6-3	Ensuring water quality improvement by minimizing the influx of water pollutants into water systems.	(1) Water circulation rate by watershed	90	-		2017-2022
			(2) Achievement level of water quality target standards(based on TOC)	70			2018-2022
			(3) The number of newly regulated pollutants	76			2019-2023
	6-4	Using water resources efficiently to ensure the stability of water supply	(1) The leakage rate of the water supply system	8			2018-2022
			(2) The self-sufficiency rate of local water supply systems	steady increase			2018-2022
			(3) The reuse rate of treated wastewater	25.5			2018-2022
	6-5	Restoring the health of aquatic ecosystems and expand biodiversity	(1) Habitat and riparian environment assessment index(HRI)	70			2018-2022
			(2) Fish health assessment index(FAI)	70			2018-2022









Goal	Sub-goal / Target		Indicator	2040 Target	2022 Outlook	2024 Assessment	
						Outlook	Assessed Period
			(3) The increase or decrease in the area of wetlands and wetland protection areas	steady expansion			2013-2022
	6-6	Supporting and strengthening community participation for healthy and safe water management	(1) The operational performance of water-related administrative agency committees	steady expansion	-		2019-2023
			(2) The proportion of the budget allocated for water quality conservation activities	steady expansion			2018-2022
Goal 7: Promote eco-friendly production and consumption of energy	7-1	Ensuring stable and adequate access to energy services.	(1) The number of households receiving energy vouchers	2,000,000 households			2019-2023
	7-2	Increasing the supply of clean energy in the national energy mix	(1) The share of renewable energy in power generation	35			2018-2022
			(2) The share of renewable energy in total primary energy	17.6			2018-2022
	7-3	Saving energy and improving energy efficiency.	(1) National energy efficiency index	To be determined later	-	-	-
			(2) Building energy efficiency index	steady reduction			2019-2023
7-4	Minimizing air pollution caused by energy consumption in the transportation sector.	(1) The number of eco-friendly vehicles	3,000,000 (cumulative) in 2030, stable maintenance thereafter			2019-2023	







Goal	Sub-goal / Target		Indicator	2040 Target	2022 Outlook	2024 Assessment	
						Outlook	Assessed Period
			(2) Total energy consumption in the transportation sector	(2030) 14.4% reduction compared to 2017 (2040) 50% reduction compared to 2030			2018-2022
Goal 13: Respond to climate change	13-1	Reducing the risks expected from climate change and strengthening resilience and adaptation to natural disasters.	(1) The execution rate of disaster prevention facilities	98.5			2018-2022
	13-2	Making efforts to incorporate climate change action plans into local policies and other relevant frameworks.	(1) The proportion of local governments that have established a basic plan for climate change response	steady increase	-	-	-
			(2) The proportion of local governments that have established dedicated climate and energy agencies	100	-	-	-
			(3) The proportion of local governments operating partnerships for monitoring the implementation of adaptation measures	-	-	-	-

Goal	Sub-goal / Target		Indicator	2040 Target	2022 Outlook	2024 Assessment	
						Outlook	Assessed Period
	13-3	Strengthening capabilities in responding to climate change	(1) The proportion of public institutions that have established and implemented adaptation measures.	maintain 100%			2024
			(2) The proportion of schools that have made climate change education mandatory.	maintain 100%	-	-	-
	13-4	Striving to keep the global temperature rise below 2°C compared to pre-industrial levels and further limiting the rise to 1.5°C.	(1) National greenhouse gas emissions(MtCO2e)	(2030) 24.4% reduction compared to 2017 (2040) 33.6% reduction compared to 2017			2017-2022
Goal 14: Conserve marine ecosystems	14-1	Establishing a management system for marine environmental conservation against land and marine pollutants.	(1) The achievement rate of seawater quality standards for each marine area using the Water Quality Index(WQI) for ecological-based assessment	(2030) 90% (2040) steady expansion			2019-2023
			(2) The amount of marine debris collected	steady increase			2014-2023
	14-2	Actively managing the marine	(1) The area of tidal flat restoration	steady	-	-	-

















Goal	Sub-goal / Target		Indicator	2040 Target	2022 Outlook	2024 Assessment	
						Outlook	Assessed Period
		ecosystem and the habitats of fishery resources		expansion			
			(2) The cumulative area of sea forest creation	(2030) 54,000 (2040) steady expansion			2019-2023
14-3	Minimizing the impacts of ocean acidification through enhanced scientific and technological cooperation.	(1) Maintaining the appropriate range of average pH concentration in the open ocean (8.0-8.2)	pH 8.1		-	-	
14-4	Sustainably managing fishery resources and avoid overfishing.	(1) The allocation ratio of Total Allowable Catch(TAC)	steady expansion	-	-	-	
14-5	Expanding the area of marine protected areas for the systematic conservation and wise use of marine ecosystems.	(1) The area of designated marine protected areas	(2030) 4,300			2019-2023	
14-6	Securing economic benefits through the sustainable use of marine resources	(1) Income from fishing households compared to urban workers' household income	steady expansion			2019-2023	
14-7	Enhancing marine science research capabilities and expanding the transfer of marine science and	(1) The proportion of marine and fisheries research and development investment compared to the government research	5			2019-2023	








Goal	Sub-goal / Target		Indicator	2040 Target	2022 Outlook	2024 Assessment	
						Outlook	Assessed Period
		technology	and development budget				
			(2) The number of domestic marine and fisheries science and technology transfers	200			2018-2022
			(3) The scale of the government's grant aid in the field of marine and fisheries within ODA	steady expansion			2019-2023
	14-8	Supporting the stable fishing activities of small-scale and marginal fishermen.	(1) The insurance enrollment rate for crew members of domestic fishing vessels with a size of 3 to 4 tons	steady expansion			2016-2023
	14-9	Strengthening the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and marine resources by incorporating international laws on marine and marine resource conservation and sustainable use into domestic law.	(1) The progress rate of domestic legislation for the domestic adoption of relevant agreements	100	-	-	-
Goal 15: Conserve terrestrial ecosystems	15-1	Promoting conservation and restoration activities to enhance ecosystem diversity in terrestrial and inland freshwater areas.	(1) The proportion of areas designated as protected zones for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity	stable maintenance after 17% in 2030			2024
			(2) The proportion of forested area to the total land area	steady expansion			2018-2022
	15-2	Strengthening sustainable forest	(1) Expansion of national forest	stable	-	-	-







Goal	Sub-goal / Target		Indicator	2040 Target	2022 Outlook	2024 Assessment	
						Outlook	Assessed Period
		management by halting deforestation and restoring degraded forests.	management indicators	management			
	15-3	Restoring lands degraded by drought, flooding, and development.	(1) The proportion of degraded land to the total land area	steady decrease	-	-	-
	15-4	Preventing biodiversity loss and protect endangered species.	(1) Endangered plant and animal species	500	-		2017-2022
			(2) Restoration rate of key endangered species	100	-	-	-
			(3) Mountainous area green cover index	maintain at 99		-	-
			(4) Species protection index	100			2016-2020
			(5) The ratio of installed and operational stations to the number of stations required for the nationwide wildlife integrated monitoring system (in thousands)	maintain 100%	-	-	-
	15-5	Eliminating the capture and illegal trade of protected plant and animal species.	(1) Record of wildlife poaching and illegal trade enforcement	steady expansion			2018-2022
			(2) The ratio of contact points with established management systems to high-risk contact points between wildlife, livestock, and humans that require management systems	100%	-	-	-
	15-6	Taking measures to prevent the introduction of invasive alien	(1) The number of target species for invasive species management	1,500			2019-2023

Goal	Sub-goal / Target		Indicator	2040 Target	2022 Outlook	2024 Assessment	
						Outlook	Assessed Period
		species and reduce their impact on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems.	(2) The annual forest damage area caused by forest pests and diseases	steady decrease			2013-2022
15-7		Restoring ecological corridors disrupted by human activities such as development projects and maintain and manage ecological networks.	(1) Area of forest restoration, including the Baekdudaegan	3,000			2017-2021
			(2) Urban/Residential area restoration	steady expansion			2017-2021

○ Strategy 4: Peace/Partnership – Strengthening Global Peace and Cooperation

Goal	Sub-goal / Target		Indicator	2040 Target	2022 Outlook	2024 Assessment	
						Outlook	Assessed Period
Goal 16: Promote peace, justice, and inclusion	16-1	Significantly reducing all forms of violence and the mortality rate caused by violence	(1) Crime rate(murder, robbery, violence, sexual offenses).	steady decrease			2018-2022
			(2) Experience of school violence victimization	steady decrease			2018-2022
	16-2	Ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence and torture against children.	(1) The detection rate of children who are victims of abuse	steady increase			2018-2022
			(2) The number of missing children not found	steady decrease	—	—	—
	16-3	Promoting the rule of law at both domestic and international levels, and ensuring that everyone is equally protected by the judicial system.	(1) The increase or decrease rate of the number of legal aid cases	steady increase			2019-2023
	16-4	Reducing illegal money and arms trafficking, strengthening the recovery and return of illegally obtained assets, and combating all forms of organized crime.	(1) The average amount of criminally concealed assets recovered and preserved	steady increase			2013-2022
			(2) The number of drug-related crimes	steady decrease			2018-2022
	16-5	Reducing corruption and bribery.	(1) Corruption experience index	steady decrease			2019-2023
	16-6	Establishing and implementing effective and accountable government policies and systems	(1) The level of public trust in the performance of government agencies	steady increase			2019-2023

Goal	Sub-goal / Target		Indicator	2040 Target	2022 Outlook	2024 Assessment	
						Outlook	Assessed Period
	16-7	Ensuring inclusive decision-making with high levels of citizen participation from all sectors of society	(1) The level of political efficacy among citizens	steady increase			2019-2023
	16-8	Granting legal identity to all individuals, including birth registration	(1) Existence of a universal birth registration system	policy adopted	-	-	-
	16-9	Ensuring public access to information in accordance with domestic laws and international agreements, and protecting fundamental freedoms	(1) The number of information disclosure requests and disclosures	steady increase	-		2018-2022
			(2) The proportion of individuals who have experienced violations of fundamental freedoms	To be determined later	-	-	-
	16-10	Strengthening international cooperation to enhance the capabilities of public institutions in developing countries to combat violence, terrorism, and crime	(1) The proportion of ODA allocated to strengthening the capacities of national institutions in developing countries for violence prevention and countering terrorism and crime	steady increase	-	-	-
	16-11	Establishing and implement laws and policies to eliminate discrimination	(1) Existence and implementation of individual and comprehensive anti-discrimination laws	policy adopted	-	-	-
			(2) The proportion of individuals who have experienced discrimination	steady decrease			2019-2023
	16-12	Protecting and promote digital human rights.	(1) The arrest rate relative to the occurrence of cybercrimes	steady increase			2018-2022

Goal	Sub-goal / Target		Indicator	2040 Target	2022 Outlook	2024 Assessment	
						Outlook	Assessed Period
			(2) The reduction rate of the digital information gap	steady increase			2014–2023
Goal 17: Strengthen global partnerships	17-1	Expanding ODA and diversify development financing sources.	(1) ODA/GNI ratio (%)	steady increase			2013–2022
	17-2	Promoting the multilateral trading system and supporting the increase of trade and investment in developing countries.	(1) The proportion of trade with developing countries	steady increase	–		2018–2023
			(2) The scale of investment in developing countries	steady increase	–		2018–2023
	17-3	Supporting the strengthening of science and technology innovation systems in developing countries.	(1) The number of ODA strategies and policies that include support for science and technology innovation in developing countries	steady increase	–	–	–
	17-4	Promoting strategic development cooperation.	(1) The proportion of ODA projects linked to major foreign policies on e.g. the New South and the New North countries	steady increase	–	–	–
	17-5	Strengthening policy consistency for sustainable development.	(1) Establishment the institutional framework for strengthening policy consistency, including the strategic and legislative clarification of the PCSD principles, the alignment of SDG targets with the national budget, and the creation of policy coordination bodies for SDG implementation	increase	–	–	–

Goal	Sub-goal / Target		Indicator	2040 Target	2022 Outlook	2024 Assessment	
						Outlook	Assessed Period
			(2) The proportion of improved K-SDGs indicators compared to the previous year	increase	-	-	-
	17-6	Strengthening various global partnerships for the sustainable development of developing countries.	(1) The operation of multilateral international cooperation forums and the number of multilateral cooperation dialogues	steady increase	-	-	-
	17-7	Encouraging and facilitate effective partnerships between the public sector, public-private sector, and civil society.	(1) The number of participating institutions in public-private consultative bodies for SDG implementation and the frequency of regular meetings	steady increase	-	-	-
			(2) The proportion of ODA funding from public-private partnerships	steady increase	-	-	-