In response to social risks imposed by COVID-19 pandemic and socio-economic structure changes, the Korean government has been improving social safety nets such as income・care・employment programs to ensure no one is exposed to social-safety net holes.

First, in order to tackle poverty and social polarization via establishment of income safety net, the Republic of Korea has been conducting abolishment of the family obligation rule in the Basic Livelihood Security Program’s livelihood benefits (Oct. 2021~), expansion of Emergency aid and support (Jul. 2022~), Child allowance expansion (Sep. 2018~), Basic・Disability pension benefits raise (Sep. 2018~), job creation for the elderly, Korean Sickness benefit pilot program (2022~), and etc.

Second, in order to improve care for children, older persons and disabled people, the Republic of Korea has implemented National responsibility system for dementia (Sep. 2017~), expansion of national・public childcare centers, abolishment of the Disability grading system (Jul. 2019~), and etc.
Recently, as part of efforts to response to COVID-19 pandemic, the Republic of Korea has carried out various support measures to help people affected by COVID-19 crisis and ease public concern about livelihood. They include customized support such as damage compensation for self-employed and small business owners and Emergency livelihood stabilization support for low income–vulnerable people, and universal support such as emergency relief grants for the public.

The Korean government is planning to make efforts to bolster social safety nets for vulnerable people via expanding the Basic Livelihood Security Program and introduction of Sickness benefit, and meet various welfare demands through securing social service market and introduction of personal budgets for people with disabilities. Furthermore, the government will continue to be interested in agenda discussed at UN ESCAP CSocD and policy direction of each member country, and participate in related discussions. Thank you.