



## BRIEF REPORT

# Summing up the Global Health Security Agenda 2015 High Level Meeting in Seoul

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### KEYWORDS:

GHSA,  
infectious diseases,  
multi-sectoral response

### Abstract

The Second Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) 2015 High Level Meeting was successfully held in September 7 to 9 in Seoul, the Republic of Korea (ROK). Delegations from 46 countries including 26 ministerial level officials and 9 international organizations participated in the meeting. ROK, one of the 10 steering group countries of GHSA, shared the importance of multi-sectoral response through the experiences of Able Response Exercise, and MERS outbreak countermeasure with international communities. ROK promised to input 10 billion USD to strengthen the capacities to respond infectious diseases in developing countries. Seoul Declaration, the first collaborative efforts on health security, was announced at the end of the meeting. Seoul Declaration holds GHSA vision promising international collaboration and commitment.

## 1. Introduction

The Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) is an effort between nations, international organizations, and civil society to accelerate progress toward a world safe and secure from infectious disease threats whether naturally occurring, deliberate, or accidental, and to promote global health security as a national and international priority.

On February 13, 2014, 29 nations, the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) committed to the collective goals of the GHSA, thereby successfully launching the effort. The G7 endorsed the GHSA in June 2014, and Finland and Indonesia hosted commitment development meetings in May and August 2014, respectively.

On September 26, 2014, the United States' President Obama hosted the First GHSA High Level Meeting at the White House in Washington, DC. By January 2015, 44 nations and eight international organizations have decided to share the vision of health security under the name of GHSA as shown below:

### • Participating Nations as of January 2015 (44 nations):

Australia, Azerbaijan, Canada, Chile, China, Denmark, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Liberia, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Spain,

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Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Vietnam, Yemen

### • **International Organizations**

World Health Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, World Organization for Animal Health, INTERPOL, African Union, European Union, ECOWAS, World Bank Group

## 2. Second GHSA High Level Meeting in Seoul

At the 1<sup>st</sup> GHSA High Level Meeting in Washington, DC, it was decided that the Republic of Korea would host the 2<sup>nd</sup> GHSA High Level Meeting, which was held on September 7 to 9, 2015 in Seoul.

A total of 50 nations along with major international organizations and non-state actors participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> GHSA High Level Meeting.

### 2.1. Ministerial Level Meeting

Korea proudly has hosted and welcomed the honorable two Ministers from relevant Ministries, such as the Ministry of Health, Foreign Affairs, Defense, Development, Agriculture, Interior, and National Security. It is crucial for high level officials from different Ministries to gather in one place in order to share the need for health security and reflect health security in each country's policy direction as a top priority.

The Ministerial level Meeting was held in the morning of September 9. On the occasion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ministerial Meeting, the participating countries will issue a "Seoul Declaration of the GHSA" that will identify the collective vision, effective organization, and future direction of the GHSA.

### 2.2. Steering Group Meeting

The Steering Group, chaired by Finland in 2015, is a group of nations responsible for overseeing the implementation of the GHSA commitments and Action Package activities as well as organizing the logistics of the GHSA. There will be 10 nations participating in this group in collaboration with 8 international organizations as advisors (three are permanent and five are cooperative) to facilitate activities and discussions.

- **10 Participating Nations:** Canada, Chile, Finland, India, Indonesia, Italy, Kenya, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Republic of Korea, the United States.
- **8 Advisors:** (3 Permanent Advisors) World Health Organization (WHO), Food & Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), (5 Cooperative

Advisors) Interpol, African Union, European Union, ECOWAS, World Bank Group.

The Steering Group meeting was held in the morning of September 8. Up to four officials, including two senior level officials, from the Steering Group member countries are welcome to attend the meeting. Observation of non-Steering Group countries with the maximum of 2 persons, based on prior registration, is highly encouraged to enhance transparency and productivity of the meeting.

### 2.3. Action Package Meeting

The GHSA provides concrete action plans for 1) prevention of avoidable epidemics, 2) early detection of threats, and 3) rapid and effective response against infectious disease outbreaks. The Action Packages are designed to accelerate progress toward these goals by facilitating regional and global collaboration toward specific GHSA objectives and targets. The Action Package Meeting was held in the afternoon of September 8 attended by all participating nations according to the following themes:

#### • **11 Action Packages of the GHSA:**

- **Prevent:** ① Antimicrobial Resistance, ② Zoonotic Disease, ③ Biosafety and Biosecurity, ④ Immunization
- **Detect:** ① Real-Time Surveillance, ② Reporting, ③ National Laboratory System, ④ Workforce Development
- **Respond:** ① Emergency Operations Centers, ② Multi-sectoral Rapid Response, ③ Medical Countermeasures and Personnel Deployment

### 2.4. Side Event A: GHSA Forum 'Partnership with Non-Governmental Stakeholders'

On the occasion of the Second GHSA High Level Meeting, non-governmental stakeholders convened a whole-day conference on September 7 - bringing together civil society organizations, foundations, and government representatives - to discuss strategies to promote cooperation between governmental and non-governmental actors on sharing the vision of global health security.

### 2.5. Side Event B: Observation Visit to the 'Able Response Exercise'

Able Response is an annual ROK-U.S. joint exercise designed to improve both countries' ability to prepare

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