

2018 ECOSOC High-Level Segment Open Call for Written Statement

Declaration of Right to the City

Republic of Korea
April 23, 2018

In agreement with our declaration, "Right to the City," by celebrating [the 20th anniversary of founding the Urban Reform Center of the Citizens' Coalition for Economic Justice \(CCEJ\) on September 20, 2017](#)—this statement was contributed by members, directors and staffs of the CCEJ, as a NGO in the Special Consultative Status with Economic and Social Council, (ECOSOC) for the purpose of guiding the theme, ["From global to local: supporting sustainable and resilient societies in urban and rural communities," on the ECOSOC High-Level Segment of 2018 session](#) as below.

■ PREAMBLE

*Citizens' Coalition for Economic Justice**

We have performed a citizens' movement for the land and property reform since 1989 and the urban reform since 1997, founded on the agendas: cultural cities; safety and pleasant environments; communitarianism and humanist communities—leading to Korean society, sustainable and resilient.[†]

However, recall a history of the PEOPLE'S CALAMITY REPUBLIC OF KOREA for the last two-decade years of 1994-2015, seeing whereas [the collapse of the Sungsoo Bridge \(1994\)](#) and [the Sampoong Department Store \(1995\)](#); whereas [the fire disaster of the Daegu Subway \(2003\)](#); ... with anxiety, whereas [the maritime disaster of the Sewol Ferry](#) DE the never-to-be-oblivious DIE on A.D. XVI KAL. MAI. MMXIV—AD DIEM, recordantor verae historia (*the Human Right Council's report: [A/HRC/32/36/Add.2](#)); *quamvis (sic) mundus vult decipi, ergo decipiatur.* (to the day—recollect real history in our future; though (*sic*) "the world wants to be deceived, so let it be deceived.")

[†] The CCEJ, a Korean NGO, be based on a principle of PUBLIC GOOD and NONPROFIT and NONPARTISAN.

■ AGENDA

Hence, take note of [the New Urban Agenda](#), “Quito Declaration: Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements for All,” at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, (Habitat III) and acknowledge these new concepts, both “Inclusive City” and “Right to the City”—bearing in mind as a legacy of both “Sustainable City” and “Housing Right”—a novelty that is the paradigm shift to enlighten the world towards “CITY FOR ALL,” in agreement with the Our Shared Vision of paragraphs 11-13 on the resolution [A/RES/71/256](#) of the United Nations General Assembly on December 23, 2016.*

And, strongly support the public concept of land and property and urban ownerships with this vision, and clarify missions and action plans as the following declaration:

■ DECLARATION

1. *Advocate* Spatial Justice to ensure Right to the City that:
 - (a) Shares to everybody, taking ownership, neither specific individual nor enterprise exclusively, thereby expanding the public right and developing accessibility to urban open spaces for all;
 - (b) Expands urban open spaces, such as a public square and a neighborhood park, by widely implementing the policy of [Privately Owned Public Open Space](#), an incentive policy that is to notify every stakeholder could participate in public-private partnerships (PPPs) openly; that is to develop the space with the condition that every participant owns and uses this space but must share green spaces, as a part of the whole space, in exchange for Floor Space Index highly; thereby, that is to revitalize the PPPs briskly;
 - (c) Improves a legal framework to evenly share the benefits of urban infrastructure for all classes, in particular, the lower-income class without discrimination.

2. *Advocate* urban reforms to achieve Inclusive City that:
 - (a) Arranges urban planning, administrative and financial, a development programme that is implemented not only to provide decent jobs or livelihoods for disadvantaged groups but also to protect microbusiness owners, thereby to promote shared growth in regional

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economy;

- (b) Guarantees the human rights to housing, urban space and facility without prejudice based on nationality, sex, age, religion and economic status in the institutional framework;
- (c) Highly improves welfare facilities in the frameworks, legal and institutional and without infringement, to ameliorate the human rights of children, women, disabilities, the elderly and infirm;

3. **Advocate** urban reforms for Environmentally Sustainable and Resilient City that:

- (a) Improves disaster prevention facilities against calamities from climate change;
- (b) Adopts sustainable energy policies on eco-friendly transportation, smart technology and urban structure;
- (c) Conserves historical and cultural and environmental resources, including biodiversity.

4. **Emphasize** citizen participation in advocacy planning for urban reforms: the urban planning should be designed together with leading the governance frameworks, subnational and national, by the government we urge—to be citizen-centered.

Are performing this declaration based on empiricism and criticism with alternatives and antidotes.

“CITY FOR ALL”—we should be highly obliged it.

■ ENDNOTE

* We, as the Korea's first fully-fledged NGO, have performed a citizens' movement for Economic Justice, Political & Legal Justice, Korean Reunification, International Peace & Security, Consumer Rights & Protection, Urban Reform and Housing Stability, struggling against the history of property speculation since 1989. This statement, 3rd ed., is revised by Hochul Jung. (hcjung@ccej.or.kr)

■ If you need more information, please visit us: <http://ccej.or.kr/eng/who-we-are/about-us/>;

■ Our Achievements (RLA, 2003): <http://www.rightlivelihoodaward.org/laureates/citizens-coalition-for-economic-justice-ccej/>

^f Our activities, *e.g.*, are to regulate speculation in the housing market (1989-Now); to campaign against sprawl development in the green belt area (1997-2002); to perform safety inspection for the mixed-use facilities (1999-2007); to keep a balance of land development, subnational and national, (*i.e.*), rural and urban (2001-2007) to promote a public benefit in return for reconstruction, redevelopment and urban regeneration (2004-Now); to claim a civil right to urban open space (2011, 2017-Now); to control gentrification to protect microbusiness in the commercial area. (2016-Now)