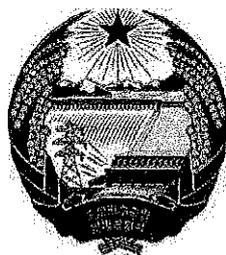


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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**MR. KIM JAE HON**

**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEMOCRATIC  
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO UNESCAP**

At the 72<sup>nd</sup> Session of  
the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific  
(Ministerial Segment, 17-19 May 2016, Bangkok)

Mr. Chair,

Madam Shamshad Akhtar, Executive Secretary of ESCAP,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), I would like to congratulate you on your assumption of the important task as the Chair of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Commission session. I am truly confident that under your able leadership, the session will be led to a successful conclusion.

Let me also express our heartfelt gratitude to Madam Shamshad Akhtar and her team in the secretariat on their hard work for productive outcomes of this session.

Mr. Chair,

Let me point out to some crucial issues for sustainable development.

First, I would like to highlight and appreciate the instrumental role of ESCAP as the Asia-Pacific Center of Excellence for policy advice and technical support to all its member States, which made it possible to achieve many of the MDGs, despite the difficulties and challenges encountered over the past fifteen years.

As the first intergovernmental gathering for the region after the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has been adopted, this session is very important to all of us, as it provides a platform to deliberate the ways and means to implement the 2030 Agenda and SDGs, drawing upon our experiences and lessons from our endeavour to achieve MDGs.

In this regards, my delegation would like to express its high appreciation to Madam Shamshad Akhtar and her team for their active leading roles in implementing the 2030 agenda for sustainable development at the regional level in close collaboration with the ESCAP member states.

My delegation is pleased to note that the theme topic of the current session "Science, technology and innovation for sustainable development" is well-timely given the significance of STI in attaining sustainable development. In this regard, a

better balanced approach is required to the three pillars of sustainable development, i.e. economic, social and environmental, while placing at the forefront the role of STI, when it comes to prioritizing the SDGs and targets in conformity with our specific realities.

As the home for nearly two-thirds of the world's population and with abundant natural resources, the Asia-Pacific region has a huge potential for development. However, this potential has not been fully utilized due to the unstable situation prevailing in the region.

Military buildups for taking over natural wealth and resources of other nations are still persistent, and some use constantly power and double standards or even interfere in others' internal affairs to solve the problems only in their own interests and in their arbitrary ways.

It is clear that this severely undermines the sovereign rights of independent States to self-determination, existence and development, and poses negative impacts on economic growth and shared prosperity of the region.

Only when peace, security and stability are firmly realized can we speak about sustainable development in this region.

On this note, I would like to bring to your attention a quote from the preamble of the "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". It says: *"There can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development"*.

Second, a greater attention must be paid to the development of STI for effective and smooth implementation of SDGs.

STI constitutes a backbone for economic growth and sustainable development.

However, our common efforts for economic growth and STI development are being hampered by the sanctions, blockades and application of double standards imposed by specific forces.

To promote a shared development and prosperity of the peoples, we must end all forms of unfair treatments, sanctions and double standards on developing nations, that impede their equal development.

Third, we must strengthen our regional cooperation and promote exchange of STIs among ESCAP member States.

In this regard, a better connectivity should be realized of the roads, railways and other infrastructures among nations of the region as a precondition to facilitate their economic development.

South-South Cooperation must be strengthened as an enabler of exchange of STI at lower costs, and bilateral and multilateral forms of cooperation should be promoted in the fields of trade and investment.

The protectionism that remains as a barrier to a free trading and investment system must be eliminated so that goods and services among nations are traded in an equal and fair manner and to open the way to free investments for the sake of common prosperity of the region.

Mr. Chair,

The DPRK Government is making every effort to mainstream the 2030 Agenda and SDGs in its development strategies aimed at building a powerful nation, with an understanding that the new Agenda and SDGs are fully in line with its own policy directions.

Today, DPRK has good prospects for achieving the SDGs.

At the recently held 7th Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea, the respected leader Comrade KIM JONG UN has put forward the five-year Strategy for the development of the state economic development from 2016 to 2020. This strategy aims to develop rapidly the national economy over the coming years, by concentrating investments on laying down strong foundations of key sectors of the economy so that the economy as a whole revitalizes in a systematic and resilient manner. In particular, an increase of investment by the State on research for STI is

being implemented, which will drive development in all sectors related to the well-being of the population, and using our own technology and local resources.

The DPRK Government is paying an increased attention to the food security for its people. It pursues an agricultural policy to more than double the food production from now over the next ten to fifteen years through the introduction of scientific farming methods and the realization of high-level mechanization of the rural economy.

To provide higher living standards to its people, the Government has started several construction projects, one of which is called the “Ryomyong Street” of Pyongyang that will accommodate several thousands of households designed in an energy-saving and environment-friendly mode. These apartments are now being built as a construction model for the 21st century and for free distribution to our scientists, researchers and other groups of people.

As a State Party to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, the DPRK Government has put in place legal, policy and institutional measures at the national and sub-national levels to protect the environment.

We have been implementing a High-Efficiency Lighting Programme to reduce the level of greenhouse gas emission by 37.4% by 2020 as compared with the level in 1990 and we launched a nationwide reforestation campaign to plant trees on 1.67 million hectares of mountains in the next 10 years.

The DPRK Government is committed to strengthening cooperation with other member States of ESCAP in the context of global efforts to achieve SDGs.

Thank you for your attention.