

Draft

Session 5 “Making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable: regional priorities and opportunities”

Statement of Dr. Jong Soo Yoon, Head of Office, UNOSD, to be delivered at Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development 2016

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Thank you chair.

Since this is my first time to attend APFSD meeting, I would like to introduce my office and to add a few words on this particular topic.

The United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD), which is located in Incheon, Korea was established in 2012, based on the agreement between the UN and the Korean government.

The UNOSD serves as the technical arm of UNDESA in New York Headquarters, and holds a global mandate, wherein the overarching objective of UNOSD is to strengthen the capacity of Member States to undertake integrated sustainability transitions, through improved knowledge management such as activities of knowledge sharing, capacity development, and programme advisory with UNOSD clients.

For the theme of this session, I would like to highlight a couple of on-going activities of the UNOSD.

One of our flagship activities is the Sustainable Development Transition Forum, in short, SDTF. The 3rd SDTF was held in November last year, in Incheon in which about 160 international experts attended.

Through this Forum, we were able to make progress toward the planning and implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national level, and adopted the Incheon communique.

The 4th SDTF is planned to convene in upcoming November in Incheon again. UNOSD hopes that these annual meetings can also make contributions to the regional discussion for the successful implementation of the SDGs and I also invite you to actively participate in this Forum.

Next, the UNOSD also holds forums related to cities, particularly enhancing the capacities of local authorities in achieving SDG 11 on cities.

In 2013, UNOSD hosted the Symposium on Sustainable Cities in Incheon, Korea, and we are co-organizing International Mayors Forum to be held in early July 2016 in Chengdu, China.

It is opportune that the meeting will be held in Chengdu City, which is a city that has experienced natural disasters and that has relevant experiences to share in terms of re-construction and disaster mitigation.

I invite the Mayors of Asian and Pacific Cities and local authorities to also join in the upcoming Chengdu International Mayors Forum. Please refer to the UNOSD website (www.unosd.org) for further details.

In addition to these activities, I also welcome you to UNOSD's various events, such as regional workshops on SIDs and one-week executive training course on SD transition for policy makers.

In the interest of time I only named a few of our many projects, but I believe UNOSD's activities are closely linked with the leading role of UNESCAP in regional context in terms of the 2030 agenda for SD

Therefore, I look forward to continuous collaboration with UNESCAP and the participants present here today.