Speech by Head of the DPRK Delegation
(74th Session of UNESCAP)

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished heads of delegations,

On behalf of the Delegation of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), I extend warm congratulations on your election as the chairman of this session and hope that the session will be successful under your seasoned chairmanship. I also appreciate the efforts made by Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Executive Secretary of UNESCAP and the Secretariat for the successful opening of the session. The 73rd session of the UNESCAP held last year adopted the regional road map for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and identified the priorities for it. At the 5th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development held in March this year, the regional countries have expressed their willingness to make a close cooperation to build a resilient and sustainable society that left no one behind by overcoming the challenges faced in achieving the SDGs.

Mr. Chairman

There has been a significant progress last year in the UNESCAP activities for implementing the priority objectives reflected in regional road map. However I cannot but mention that there are still few challenges in SDGs implementation by member states.

My delegation appreciates the ESCAP’s timely response for selecting this session’s theme topic “Inequality in the Era of the 2030 Agenda” and providing opportunities for its solution and would like to make a statement on our principled viewpoint on it. First, a peaceful environment should be established for the sustainable development in Asia-Pacific region.

Asia and the Pacific region have huge human resources and inexhaustible natural resources, but not fully exerting its potential to the maximum due to the unstable situation prevailing in the region.

We take a note to the opening remarks by Dr. Shamshad Akhtar at both Senior and Ministerial level segments, in which she welcomed the progress towards the peace development on the Korean peninsula with an emphasis that sustained peace is a prerequisite of sustainable development.

The situation on the Korean peninsula is moving forward to peace and reconciliation thanks to the proactive step and sincere efforts by Comrade Kim Jong Un, Chairman of State Affairs Commission of the DPRK and now the whole world is viewing the north-south summit as a great event that ensuring peace and security not only in the Korean peninsula but also in northeast Asia and other parts of the world with a great impact on the world political trend.

The DPRK Government will continuously extend all efforts to secure peace and stability in the region by coping with challenges and various unprecedented and inhumane sanctions imposed on the country by specific countries, with strong self-reliance will and spirit to build the socialist powerful nation at any cost. As long as all kinds of sanctions against the trend of today when every nation is making efforts for regional and international cooperation, no one can expect any progress in SDGs implementation and the ideal of the mankind to build a peaceful and prosperous world cannot be realized.

Second, due attention should be given to take reliable measures to get rid of all
inequalities hindering the smooth implementation of SDGs.
For the last decades, Asia and the Pacific region has recorded a rapid economic growth but it provided benefits to only one tenth of population in the region and the gap between the rich and the poor still remains unreduced.
It is a pity to note that transfer of technology is hindered by a handful of countries in the region who monopolize the development of science and technology and do not share the results with developing countries. This creates a huge difference between the developed and developing countries in the region.
In coordinating economic cooperation and integration of Asia and the Pacific region, ESCAP should give priorities to the economic cooperation and exchanges among the member states and encourage south-south cooperation in the area of science and technology.
The coordinated efforts should also be made to eliminate protectionism still rampant in the area of trade and investment, establish an international economic order in an equitable and fair manner and create an environment for investment conducive to SDGs achievement by the developing countries.

Mr. Chairman
Today, the entire Korean people are waging a vigorous struggle to consolidate the independence and Juche-character of the economy and improve people's living standard under the wise leadership of the Comrade Kim Jong Un, Chairman of the State Affairs Commission of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.
Comrade Kim Jong Un at the historic 7th congress of the Workers’ Party of Korea which took place on May 2016, has set forward the 5-year Strategy of National Economic Development 2016-2020 aiming at revitalizing all fields of national economy and ensuring its sustainable development.
And recently in April at the plenary meeting of the party, the Party’s strategic line to concentrate all efforts on socialist economic construction based on the spirit of self-reliance has been adopted.
Its immediate goal is to realize the new strategic line by keeping production going at full capacity at all industrial establishments and reap a rich harvest in agriculture during the period of carrying out five-year strategy for National Economic Development whilst a long-term goal is to put the national economy on Juche, modern, IT and scientific basis and provide all the people with affluent and highly civilized life. .
The DPRK Government is striving to increase its national investment in the scientific and technological sector and transform the economic structure into science and technology oriented economy to meet the requirement of an era of knowledge economy by defining the scientific and technological development as the breakthrough for implementing the 5-year Strategy.
The DPRK Government is also taking measures to localize the raw materials and equipment for the national economic development, transform the national economy into energy-saving economy and expand the scope of the use renewable energy by increasing electricity production by wind-power, biomass and solar energy.
The DPRK Government is also introducing the scientific agricultural methods with the comprehensive mechanization of the agriculture and pushing forward the forestation and forest conservation all together by establishing modern tree-planting bases across the country.
Amid of the most difficult challenges, the DPRK Government continues to provide the universal free medical care and 12-year compulsory and free education.
As the 5-year Strategy of National Economic Development and the new strategic line of
channeling all efforts on the economic construction cover all sectors from the economic field to the public health, education, environment, city management and so on, all measures by our Government for its achievement conform to the efforts of ESCAP and the member states for SDGs implementation and will further contribute to the efforts of mankind for building a new world, peaceful and prosperous.

Thank you.