

Statement of Mr. Ri Nam Song, Permanent Representative of the
DPRK to UNESCAP at the 8th session of the Asia-Pacific Forum on
Sustainable Development

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies and distinguished Delegate and Ladies and Gentlemen.

For the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the government of DPRK set up the National SDGs Implementation Task Force (NITF), involving representatives from relevant line ministries and agencies. The Vice Premier and Chairman of the State Planning Commission was appointed as the Chair and the Deputy Director of the Central Bureau of Statistics as the Vice Chair. Technical Committee (TC) consisting of statisticians from the Central Bureau of Statistics was formed under the NITF.

The NITF is responsible for localizing the global SDGs, targets and indicators in line with the national development goals and sectoral plans and for coordinating the implementation at all levels. The TC compiles and evaluates data by each goal and indicator through national statistics system and surveys and reports on the implementation to the NITF on a regular basis.

The NITF finalized the country specific SDGs and indicators for the implementation of 2030 Agenda in March 2019, on the basis of the goals to build a powerful socialist state as well as the new strategic line of concentrating all efforts on the economic construction.

It is emphasized in the national SDGs to further consolidate the foundations of the self-supporting national economy, upholding the line of prioritizing science and education, and to provide people with more affluent and cultured life through directing primary efforts to energy, agriculture, water, sanitation and hygiene and environment and enforcing the people-oriented policies to the full.

The national SDGs, the successor of the national Millennium Development Goals, were established, taking into account off-track MDGs, successes and lessons learned in the progress to achieve national development goals and sectoral plans. They will be further updated in

conformity with the country context through national surveys and evaluations of international practices.

The DPRK Government will submit its first Voluntary National Review Report for the implementation of SDGs to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in July 2021.

At present, the originally planned national seminars were canceled in the context of strengthened state emergency anti-epidemic measures to cope with protracted global health crisis. Instead, the NITF has been organizing sector-wise video conferences for a wide exchange of views among officials from relevant line ministries and agencies to finalize the VNR report.

The report will highlight successes and lessons learned as well as challenges and way forward for the implementation of each goal.

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our appreciation to the UNESCAP Secretariat for its full support provided to the DPRK for nationalization of SDGs and targets, strengthening of statistical capacity and preparation of VNR.

My thanks also goes to the member states for their frank exchange of views with our experts during the workshops organized by ESCAP.

Thank you.