

**8<sup>TH</sup> ASIA-PACIFIC FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**SESSION 3, LINKING NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL DIMENSIONS OF THE  
2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**DATE: 25 MARCH 2021, 11:00 AM**

**Country Statement by DDG Yun Hyunsoo**

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to wish you all good morning and good afternoon.

Thank you, Madam Chair, for allowing me to speak about the response of the Republic of Korea to climate change and air pollution, including our efforts to strengthen regional cooperation for tackling air pollution in Asia and the Pacific.

Like other leading countries in climate action, the Republic of Korea announced its goal to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 last year. This year, we are developing greenhouse gas emission reduction pathways and scenarios to achieve our long-term goal, and the outcomes will be an important input for our future climate action.

It is evident that mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions leads to less pollution in the air. Phasing out coal use, especially coal-based power generation, and increasing the deployment of electric vehicles result in less air pollutants as well as less greenhouse gas emissions. It has a synergistic effect on both purposes, very much like killing two birds with one stone. That is why the

Korean government is working on lowering CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and air pollution at the same time.

For example, the Winter Season Air Pollution Control System has been implemented every year from December to March since 2019. It is a set of control measures for reducing both air pollutants and greenhouse gases such as restricting the operation of high-emitting vehicles, selectively suspending coal-fired power stations, and preventing illegal incinerations of agricultural waste in the rural area.

However, such policies have a limited effect if they are carried out by a single country. Given the transboundary nature of air pollution, regional and global cooperation and collaboration is imperative. Therefore, the Republic of Korea is seeking to strengthen cooperation with its neighbors, Asia-Pacific countries, and globally.

For instance, we have launched the Pan-Asia Partnership for Geospatial Air Pollution Information program to share the data received from the Korean satellite GEO-KOMPSAT-2B on climate change and air quality with 13 Asian countries. It will allow us to develop air pollution policies based on scientific data and information.

The Korean government is also actively participating in the North-East Asia Clean Air Partnership program under the North-East Asian Subregional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC). The program has started in full gear this year with other participants China, Japan, Russia, and Mongolia. This partnership will help member countries improve policy measures based on science and technology.

It is also imperative that we raise public awareness on these issues and promote actions to improve the environment on a global and regional level. The Korean government has been celebrating the “International Day of Clean Air for blue skies” together with ESCAP and UNEP, and we look forward and commit ourselves to working continuously for this area with other countries and relevant international organization.

In conclusion, the Issue-Based Coalition on Climate Change Mitigation and Air Pollution, co-chaired by ESCAP and the UN Environment Programme, is a very important regional platform for UN agencies to engage with all stakeholders and work together on climate change and air pollution issues. We hope the IBC would expand and enhance such cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region moving forward.