

Country Statement

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79th UN ESCAP Commission

May 15, 2023

Madam Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to extend my congratulations to you for taking the chairmanship. It's a pleasure and honor to have Madam chair. Let me also extend my gratitude to all the UNESCAP staff members for organizing this meaningful event.

As this year's theme study report clearly depicts, nowhere is in the urgent need for enhanced climate ambition and action more evidently than in the Asia-Pacific region. Last year, countries in this region encountered climate-induced disasters, including heatwaves, droughts, typhoons, floods and wildfires on an

unparalleled scale. Such extreme, unpredictable weather events and natural hazards in the region have brought about tragic loss of life. They have displaced communities, damaged people's health and pushed millions into poverty.

Over the past 60 years, temperatures in Asia and the Pacific have increased faster than the global average. The region accounted for more than half of global greenhouse gas emissions in 2020. The existential threat presented by climate change is no longer some kind of intangible future possibility, it is tangibly felt in all our daily lives. The scientific evidence clearly demonstrates that there is a call for immediate scaling-up of climate action, and that this needs to be done to an unprecedented extent.

IPCC's latest report has emphasized the need for urgent climate action, highlighting that actions taken in the next decade will have consequences not only for the present and but also for thousands of years to come. With this sense of

urgency and need for prompt action, I take this chance to reaffirm that Korea, as a global pivotal state, is firmly committed to further enhancing its national action and collaboration with ESCAP and its member states.

At the national level,

The Republic of Korea has set out its 2050 carbon neutrality goal and the 2030 NDC committing to cut 40% of emission by 2030 and has continued to make efforts with unwavering determination to achieve these climate goals. Last April, my government finalized the first 'Basic Plan for Carbon Neutrality and Green Growth' outlining annual reduction objectives and sector-specific targets. The Korean government will engage in full efforts to implement this plan, and we are determined to achieve our goals and to boost the transition towards a green economy.

At the sub-regional level,

The Republic of Korea is actively promoting sub-regional cooperation, with a particular emphasis on Northeast Asia. Korea has been firmly supporting the North-East Asian Sub-Regional Programme for Environmental Cooperation (NEASPEC) since its establishment in 1993. NEASPEC has played a significant role in facilitating knowledge sharing and capacity building for developing low carbon cities in the sub-region, with its platform launched in 2015 called 'North East Asia Low Carbon Cities Platform(NEA-LCCP)' as a basis. The Korean government will continue to play a valuable part in enhancing the low carbon cities network in the sub-region - knowledge sharing and capacity building have a big part to play in this. Against this backdrop, we have organized two side events with our Northeast Asian partners and the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS); 'Connecting Local, National and Regional Strategies to Achieve Carbon Neutrality in Asia and the Pacific' and the 'Launch of the Green Power Corridor Framework Project' which are to be held here at ESCAP on Tuesday and Friday respectively. I very much hope to welcome you all at these

events.

At the regional level,

We have been closely working with ESCAP member states as we call for stronger inclusivity on our path towards carbon neutrality. With a view to helping the low-carbon green transition of developing countries in the region, we will increase our volume of green ODA beyond the OECD DAC average by 2025. Furthermore, the Republic of Korea will host the '2023 Korea-Pacific Islands Summit' in Seoul on May 29-30. This truly momentous event will be the first summit ever between Korea and Pacific Island countries. I am confident that the summit will provide a valuable opportunity for Korea to strengthen and foster the ties of cooperation on climate change with Pacific Islands which are facing a threat to their very survival on the front line of the climate crisis. The Republic of Korea will indeed wholeheartedly support Pacific Island Countries in their efforts to preserve national sovereignty and protect the rights and

heritage of their citizen through its contribution to Rising Nations Initiative.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The evidence is clear, the window of opportunity is closing. It is time for action. And it is only through the actions we take today that we can guarantee a livable future for us all. A viable future for the generations to come. ESCAP's leadership is vital for stronger regional cooperation. As ESCAP's main driving force, the Republic of Korea will indeed seek to further enhance and nurture a regional platform and partnership with ESCAP, its members and non-state stakeholders, including private sector, to facilitate policy dialogue, technical cooperation, and technology and knowledge transfer with a particular focus on energy, transport and industry. look forward to us uniting in our sense of shared purpose to address climate change and achieve our common goals. We owe this to our peoples. Thank you. /END/