Honorable Chair,

Distinguished Delegates,

1. It is with my great pleasure to address the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+25 Review on behalf of the government of the Republic of Korea.

2. Since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in the 4th World Conference on Women, held in Beijing, China in 1995, continuous efforts have been made to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women.

3. The government of the Republic of Korea incorporated gender perspectives into overall government policies and promoted gender mainstreaming.

4. A year after the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Plan for Action, the Framework Act on Women's Development was formulated in Korea as a legal basis aimed at promoting gender equality. It was revised to the Framework Act on Gender Equality in 2014.
5. The gender impact analysis and assessment was introduced in 2004 and enacted in 2011, making it mandatory to conduct the assessment for all laws and regulations as well as central and local governments’ plans and projects. As a result, some 2,600 policy improvements were made last year alone.

6. In 2006, gender-responsive budgeting was introduced to ensure national financial resources can be evenly distributed both for women and men. The gender budget became mandatory for central government agencies in 2010 and local government bodies in 2013. As a result, the amount of gender budget reached to KRW 25.4 trillion (about USD 21.6 billion) in 2019.

7. In addition, the Gender Equality Policy Officers were placed in eight key ministries in May this year to enhance coordination and cooperation for women’s policy among them.

8. To enhance women’s representation and decision-making power, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family charted out a five-year road map through pan-governmental efforts to enhance women’s representation in the public sector in November 2017.
9. In 2018, government committees surpassed the goal of 40% in just one year. The percentage of women senior officials in the central government also increased from 14.8% in 2017 to 19.5% in 2019.

10. The government is also extending the efforts to the private sector.

11. Korea’s total fertility rate stands at 0.98. This is a pressing issue that calls for immediate and concrete action. The Korean government is planning to add 500 public childcare centers every year so that they can make up 40% of all childcare centers in the country by 2021.

12. For the past two years, stronger childcare support has been provided to single-parent families and other vulnerable families.

13. In 2018 Sexual violence, was one of the most discussed issues in Korea.

14. The Korean government took measures to eradicate sexual harassment and sexual violence. The Pan-Government Monitoring Team for the Eradication of Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence has been in operation.
15. As a result, related laws and regulations were amended, leading to harsher punishment on perpetrators of sexual violence and greater support for victims.

16. New forms of online sex crimes have emerged, raising concerns in the online community.
   In response, the Comprehensive Measures against Digital Sex Crimes was introduced in September 2017. This move is meaningful in that it is the first joint-government effort by 14 ministries and agencies to fight online sex crimes.

17. In April 2018, the Digital Sex Crime Victim Support Center was launched to provide victims with one-stop services, including counseling, content deletion, investigation support, and legal and medical assistance.

18. Drawing on its experience and knowhow, the Korean government has carried out ODA projects designed to support victims of gender-based violence and empower women. It is also contributing funds to UN Women for humanitarian ODA programs intended to provide education and healthcare for
women and support women with disabilities in conflict areas.

19. Prior to this event, on November 25th to 26th, the ROK-ASEAN Commemorative Summit was held in Busan Korea, under the slogan of “Partnership for Peace, Prosperity for People,” drawing up a blueprint for co-prosperity for the next 30 years.

20. To this end, the Korean government will remain committed to joining global efforts and sharing its experiences and best practices.

Thank you.